

Midleton College



Child Protection Policy

Midleton College undertakes to promote the welfare, health and full development of its pupils.

It undertakes to protect the personal integrity, safety and well-being of each pupil in compliance with the provisions of the Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools (2011) and Children First - National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children (2011).

This policy is based on four beliefs we as a school community share:

1. Children must be protected from abuse and neglect.
2. The welfare and protection of children is of paramount importance.
3. Everyone has a responsibility for the welfare and protection of children.
4. School personnel are especially well placed to observe changes in behaviour, failure to develop, or outward signs of abuse or neglect.

In the specific context of Midleton College being a Boarding School, members of staff carry a significant responsibility as they are invariably placed in the role of *in loco parentis* in interacting with pupils and are therefore required to ensure that DES Guidelines are adhered to at all times and in all activities.

The Board of Management recognises that child protection and welfare considerations permeate all aspects of school life and must be reflected in all of the school's policies, practices and activities. Accordingly, in accordance with the requirements of the Department of Education and Skills' Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools, the Board of Management of Midleton College has agreed the following child protection policy:

1. The Board of Management has adopted and will implement fully and without modification the Department's Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools as part of this overall child protection policy.
2. The Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools is also brought to the attention of non-teaching staff yearly.
3. All relevant legislation with respect to Garda Vetting is fully implemented in all aspects of the school.
4. **The Designated Liaison Person (DLP) is**

Dr Edward Gash, Principal

5. **The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is Mr Kevin Stanley, Deputy Principal**

6. In its policies, practices and activities, Middleton College will adhere to the following principles of best practice in child protection and welfare:

The school will

- recognise that the protection and welfare of children is of paramount importance, regardless of all other considerations;
- fully co-operate with the relevant statutory authorities in relation to child protection and welfare matters
- adopt safe practices to minimise the possibility of harm or accidents happening to children and protect workers from the necessity to take unnecessary risks that may leave themselves open to accusations of abuse or neglect;
- develop a practice of openness with parents and encourage parental involvement in the education of their children; and
- fully respect confidentiality requirements in dealing with child protection matters.

The school will also adhere to the above principles in relation to any adult pupil with a special vulnerability.

7. Further school policies, practices and activities that are particularly relevant to child protection include: Code of Behaviour, Anti-bullying Policy, Acceptable Use Policy, CCTV Policy, Data Protection Policy, Policy of Inclusion of Students, Trips & Tours Policy and Ethos Statement. The Board ensures that the necessary policies, protocols or practices as appropriate are in place in respect of each of the above listed items.
8. This policy has been made available to school personnel, the PTA, the Student Council and is readily accessible to parents on request and through the school website. A copy of this policy will be made available to the Department and the patron if requested.
9. This policy will be reviewed by the Board of Management once in every school year – feedback is sought from the teaching body, PTA and the student council.

This policy was adopted by the Board of Management on 27th February 2017.

Signed: Ken W J
Chairperson of Board of Management

Signed: Edward A.
Principal

Date: 27th February 2017

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Date of next review: September 2017