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Health and Safety Statement

The Board of Management brings to the attention of its staff the following arrangements for safeguarding the safety, health and welfare of those employed and working in the school.

This policy requires the co-operation of all employees. It shall be reviewed annually or more frequently if necessary, in the light of experience, changes in legal requirements and operational changes. All records of accidents and ill-health will be monitored in order to ensure that any safety measures required can be put in place to minimise the recurrence of such accidents and ill-health.

The Board of Management of **St. Comán's Wood P.S.** wishes to ensure that as far as is reasonably practical:

- ◆ The design, provision and maintenance of all places in the school shall be safe and without risk to health.
- ◆ There shall be safe access to and from places of work.
- ◆ Work systems shall be planned, organised, performed and maintained so as to be safe.
- ◆ A *Maintenance Chat Group* is used to report areas needing attention and/or repair.
- ◆ Plans for emergencies shall be complied with and revised as necessary.
- ◆ This statement will be continually revised by the Board of Management as necessity arises, and shall be re-examined by the Board on at least an annual basis.
- ◆ Employees shall be consulted on matters of health and safety.
- ◆ Provisions shall be made for the employees to have a safety representative. On the Senior Abbey site the Safety Rep is Nicola Gately and on the Junior Convent Site, Caitríona Duignan.

The Board of Management of **St. Comán's Wood P.S.** recognises that its statutory obligations under legislation extends to employees, students, to any person legitimately conducting school business, and to the public.

The Board of Management of **St. Comán's Wood P.S.** undertakes to ensure that the provisions of the safety, Health and welfare at Work Act 1989 are adhered to:

Duties of Employees

It is the duty of every employee while at work:

- (a) To take reasonable care for his/her own safety, health and welfare, and that of any person who may be affected by his/her acts or omissions while at work.
- (b) To co-operate with his/her employer and any other person to such extent as will enable his/her employer or the other person to comply with any of the relevant statutory provisions.
- (c) To use in such a manner as to provide the protection intended, any suitable appliance, convenience, equipment or thing provided (whether for his/her lone use or for use by him/her in common with others) for securing his/her safety, health or welfare at work.
- (d) To report to the Board of Management without unreasonable delay, any defects in equipment, place or work, or system of work, which might endanger safety, health or welfare of which he/she becomes aware. SPOT IT, SORT IT, CAN'T SORT IT, REPORT IT.

No person will intentionally or recklessly interfere with or misuse any appliance, protective clothing, convenience or other means or thing provided in pursuance or any of the relevant statutory provisions or otherwise, for securing safety, health or welfare or persons arising out of work activities.

Employees using available facilities and equipment provided should ensure that work practices are performed in the safest manner possible (see section 9 of safety, health and welfare at Work Act 1989).

Consultation and Information

It is the policy of the Board of Management of **St. Comán's Wood P.S.** to consult with staff in preparation and completion of hazard control forms, to make staff aware that the safety statement is available on the school website and to convey any additional information or instructions regarding health, safety and welfare at work to all staff as it becomes available.

Hazards

Hazards shall be divided into two categories. Those which can be rectified will be dealt with as a matter of urgency. Those that cannot will be organised for repair/ replacement at a later date. All hazards shall be eliminated in so far as resources and circumstances allow. The *Google Drive Chat Group* is used by staff to report hazards.

Fire

It is the policy of the Board of Management of **St. Comán's Wood P.S.** that:

- (i) The Board of Management will ensure that an adequate supply of fire extinguishers, suitable for the type of fires likely to occur in each area, is available, identified and regularly serviced by authorised and qualified persons. Each fire extinguisher shall have instructions for its use.
- (ii) The relevant post holder on both sites will ensure that fire drills shall take place at least once a term.
- (iii) Fire alarms shall be clearly marked. (Responsibility of Post holder)
- (iv) Signs shall be clearly visible to ensure that visitors are aware of exit doors and routes.(Post holder)
- (v) All doors, corridors, and entries shall be kept clear of obstruction and shall be able to be opened at all times from within the building. Each teacher who has an exit in her classroom must ensure it is kept clear. P.E. hall and main door – Principal will see they are free of obstruction.
- (vi) Assembly points are clearly marked outside the school.

Exit signs shall be clearly marked.
- (vii) Post holder shall be responsible for fire drills and evacuation procedures.
- (viii) All recommendations made by a Fire Officer in addition to these provisions shall be implemented.

The following hazards (in so much as can be identified) are considered by the Board of Management to be a source of potential danger and are brought to the attention of all concerned.

1. Interaction between vehicles and pupils coming to and from school in the car park.
2. Wet corridors
3. Climbing frames
4. Jungle gym
5. Trailing leads
6. Computers
7. Guillotine
8. Projectors
9. Fuse Board
10. Electric kettles
11. Boiler house

12. Ladders
13. Stairs
14. Protruding units and fittings
15. External store to be kept locked
16. Lawnmower
17. Garden stores
18. Icy surfaces on a cold day
19. Mats in hall

To minimise these dangers the following safety/ protective measures must be adhered to:

- (a) All contractors will be made aware by the principal/ Board of Management that the Health and Safety Statement can be downloaded from the school website. A copy of the Health and Safety statement is posted near the main entrance doors on both the Junior and Senior sites.
- (b) The notice Spot it, Sort it, Can't sort it, Report it, is displayed at relevant points.
- (c) Care must be taken when using ladders.
- (d) Pupils do not use glass bottles. Broken glass is removed immediately on discovery
- (e) The cleaners check that floors are clean, even, non-slip and splinter-proof and report it to the principal if concerned.
- (f) P.E post holders will check that PE equipment is stacked securely and positioned so as not to cause a hazard. They will check that all PE and other mats are in good condition.
- (g) At the end of the year staff inspect furniture, floors, apparatus, equipment and fittings in their classrooms and report any damage/repair required via the Google Drive Chat group.
- (h) The caretaker checks that there are no uneven/broken/cracked paving slabs. The caretakers check that roofs, guttering, drain pipes etc as far as can be seen are sound and well maintained.
- (i) Caretakers check that manholes are safe.
- (j) Caretakers and staff check ongoing that all play areas are kept clean and free from glass before use.
- (k) Caretakers check that outside lighting works and is sufficient.
- (l) The caretakers and cleaners check that all builder's materials, caretakers' maintenance equipment, external stores etc are stored securely.
- (m) The cleaners check that refuse is removed from the building each day and is carefully stored outside. The caretakers put the bins out in time for collection by [Barna Waste](#).

Constant Hazards

Kitchen equipment, Electrical appliances.

It is the policy of the Board of Management of **St. Comán's Wood P.S.** that, kitchen equipment and electrical appliances are to be used only by competent and authorised persons. Such appliances and equipment will be subject to regular maintenance checks.

Electrical Appliances

Before using any appliance the user should check that:

- ◆ All safety guards which are a normal part of the appliance are in working order
- ◆ Power supply cables/leads are intact and free of cuts or abrasions.
- ◆ Suitable undamaged fused plug tops are used and fitted with the correct fuse.

Chemicals

It is the policy of the Board of Management of **St Comán's Wood P.S.** that all chemicals, photocopier toner, detergents etc be stored in clearly identifiable containers bearing instructions and precautions for their use and shall be kept in a safe area and not accessible to children.

Drugs And Medication

It is the policy of the Board of Management of **St. Comán's Wood P.S.** that all drugs, medications, etc be kept in a safe place out of the reach of children.

Welfare

To ensure the continued welfare of the staff and children, toilet and cloakroom areas are provided. A Staffroom separate from the work area is provided, where tea and lunch breaks may be taken. Staff must cooperate in maintaining a high standard of hygiene in this area.

A high standard of hygiene must be achieved at all times. Adequate facilities for waste disposal are available. An adequate supply of hot and cold water, towels and soap and sanitary disposal facilities

are available. If any staff member notices a shortage of toiletries they inform the caretaker responsible for toiletries and report it on the *Google Drive Chat group* used for monitoring toiletries.

Members of staff are reminded that:

- (a) A person who is under medical supervision or on prescribed medication and who has been certified fit for work, should notify the school of any known side effect or temporary physical disabilities which could hinder their work performance and which may be a danger to either themselves or their fellow workers.
- (b) Staff and students are not allowed to attend the premises or carry out duties whilst under the influence of illicit drugs or alcohol. Any person found breaking this rule will be liable to disciplinary action.

Polished Floors

It is the policy of the Board of Management of **St. Comán's Wood P.S.** that every attempt will be made to avoid the creation of slippery surfaces. The washing of floors shall be conducted, as far as is possible, after school hours to eliminate as far as possible, the danger of slipping. Where floors are wet, warning signs regarding wet floors shall be used. Attention is drawn to the possibility of outside floors and surfaces being affected by frost in cold weather, and staff and pupils shall be told to use handrails when going up or down stairs.

Smoking

It is the policy of the Board of Management of **St. Comán's Wood P.S.** that the school shall be a non-smoking area to avoid hazard to staff and pupils of passive smoking.

Broken Glass

The Board of Management shall minimise the danger arising from broken glass. Staff are asked to report broken glass to the Principal so that it may be immediately removed and report it on the *Google Drive Chat group* set up for this purpose.

Infectious Diseases

It is the policy of the Board of Management of **St. Comán's Wood P.S.** that all infectious diseases shall be notified and steps taken to ensure the safety of staff and students against all such diseases. The Board of Management will endeavour to minimise the risk by adherence to sound principles of cleanliness, hygiene and disinfection and have provided disposable gloves for use in all First Aid applications, cleaning tasks, etc. Toilets and washrooms shall be provided at all times with an adequate supply of water, soap, towels and a facility for the safe disposal of waste.

First Aid

It is the policy of the Board of Management of St. Comán's Wood Primary School that a member of staff shall be trained to provide First Aid to staff and pupils.

All staff are made aware of

- arrangements for giving first aid,
 - location of first aid boxes,
 - Procedure of calling ambulances etc....,
 - telephone numbers of local Doctor, Gardaí, Hospital.
- (1) Incidents of a more serious nature whether to employees or to students or to members of the public must be reported immediately to management. This is necessary to ensure that the proper medical attention is given where required. An Accident Report File is to be maintained for the recording of all accidents and incidents. This file is in the staff room on both sites.
 - (2) When an employee is out for 3 sick days or more as a result of an accident which took place at work, this will be reported by the principal/DP to the Health and Safety Authority on-line at www.hsa.ie

Post holders will see that there will be maintained in the school a properly equipped First Aid Box available to staff at all times containing:

- sticking plasters
- Tape
- Cotton Bandage
- Cream for First Aid treatment of Burns
- Antiseptic Wipes
- Scissors
- First Aid Chart

Disposable gloves must be used at all times in administering First Aid

Access To School

In as much as is compatible with the practical layout of the school premises, anyone entering the school premises shall be required to identify themselves to the Principal or the Secretary as relevant before gaining admittance to the school. Any contractor must make direct contact with the Principal or secretary or nominated agent, before initiating any work on the premises and shall have his/her attention drawn to the copy of the safety statement at the main entrance of the school and shall agree to its provisions before starting any work.

While work is in progress, any noise shall be avoided wherever possible during school hours and shall at all times be reduced to the minimum necessary. The contractor and his workmen shall not create any hazard, permanent or temporary, without informing the principal or his nominated agent and shall mark such hazard with warning signs or other suitable protection.

Procedures for access to the school by HSE/ Túsla staff/students on work experience/placement and external persons/coaches visiting the school

1. **Prioritising child safety.** Any staff who will be interacting with the children without staff supervision (HSE/Túsla staff) will be asked for documentation to show they are Garda vetted. Coaches/ external persons who do not have this documentation **must always be supervised** by a designated, vetted member of school staff (a teacher or SNA) while interacting with pupils. They should never be left alone with students.
2. **Identification and Records:** Every external person shall be asked to verify their identity and sign the "Visitors' Book". This book is a secure record of the date of the visit, the time the person entered the building and the time they left.
3. **School Policies:** Visitors will be made aware of the Child Safeguarding Statement and Health and Safety Policies on display in the school entrance areas and told that these policies must be adhered to while they are on the school premises.

Collecting Children

- (1) All parents/guardians/carers in the interest of safety must obey all signs upon entering the school grounds. Parents must sign their children 'in and out' in the "Track and Trace Pupil Sign-in/Sign-Out Book" on collection *from* and return *to* the school. The time the child was collected/returned, the name of the adult signing them in/out and the reason for the collection must be recorded.
- (2) Cars are advised to drive slowly on entering school grounds and car park .
- (3) Those parking outside the school grounds are advised to accompany children to and from the school premises.

Revision of This Safety Statement

This statement shall be regularly revised by the Board Of Management of **St, Comán's Wood P.S.** in accordance with experience and the requirements of the Health and Safety Act and the Health and Safety Authority.

Signed on behalf of the Board of Management:

Chairman:Marie Doorly  30th May, 2024	Principal:Úna Feeley  30th May, 2024
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