

Gorey Educate Together National School

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Gorey
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Principal: Raymond Swan Deputy Principal: Imelda Wright Assistant Principal: Andrew Murray

23rd April 2012

Dear Parents, Guardians & Carers,

In recent years, as a society, we have become very aware of the problem of child abuse.

Each one of us has a duty to protect children, and *Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children* (2011) notes that teachers, who are the main care givers to children outside the family, are particularly well placed to observe and monitor children for signs of abuse.

In response to this, the Department of Education and Skills published *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools* (2011) in relation to child protection and welfare. These procedures promote the safety and welfare of all children and are to be welcomed.

The Board of Management of Gorey Educate Together has adopted these procedures as school policy. Consequently, if school staff suspect or are alerted to possible child abuse (neglect, emotional, physical and/or sexual abuse) they are obliged to refer this matter to Children and Family Service of the HSE. The HSE will then assess the situation and provide support for the child concerned. In our school the Designated Liaison Person for dealing with Child Protection is Raymond Swan, Principal. The deputy Designated Liaison Person is Imelda Wright, Deputy Principal.

Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children may be accessed on the website of the Department of Children and Youth Affairs (www.dcyia.ie).

Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools can be read on the Department of Education website (www.education.ie).

Parents are also very welcome to look through the policy and procedures here at the school, (copy in PTA library.)

Yours sincerely,

Karen Loughran
Chairperson, Board of Management