

Health & Safety Statement

Scoil Náisiunta Cill Richill
Kilrickle N.S.
Roll No: 16293H



Health & Safety Statement

The Board of Management of Kilrickle NS 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.

The implementation of any health & safety measures and related policy development requires the co-operation of all employees. It also requires that pupils adhere to the school's Code of Behaviour. In this way, the health, safety and well-being of both staff and pupils can be prioritised.

A safety audit shall be carried out annually by the Board of Management Safety Officers and a report made to staff. 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 Kilrickle NS 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.
- ◆ Where there is a risk, that there is mitigation to reduce the risk
- ◆ There shall be safe access to and from places of work.
- ◆ Plant and Machinery may be operated safely in so far as is possible.
- ◆ Work systems shall be planned, organised, performed and maintained so as to be safe and without risk to health.

- ◆ Staff shall be instructed and supervised in so far as is reasonably possible so as to ensure the health and safety at work of its employees.
- ◆ Protective equipment eg. goggles, clothing or equivalent shall be provided as is necessary to ensure the safety and health at work of its employees.
- ◆ 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 election by the employees of a safety representative.

The Board of Management of Kilrickle NS recognises that its statutory obligations under legislation extend to employees, students, to any person legitimately conducting school business, and to the public.

The Board of Management of Kilrickle NS 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 and familiarise themselves with the content of this policy.
- (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 manner so as to provide the protection intended, any suitable appliance, protective clothing, 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 plant, equipment, place or work, or system of work, which might endanger safety, health or welfare of which he/she becomes aware.

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 other wise, 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 **Kilrickle NS** to consult with staff in preparation and completion of hazard control forms, to make available a copy of the safety statement to all present and future staff, and to convey any additional information or instructions regarding health,

safety and welfare at work to all staff as it becomes available. Health, safety and welfare at work will be considered in any future staff training and development plans.

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 clearly indicated and appropriate procedures listed beside them. All hazards shall be eliminated in so far as resources and circumstances allow.

Infectious Diseases

It is the policy of the Board of Management of **Kilrickle NS** 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 a sound principle 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, paper towels and a facility for the safe disposal of waste.

Fire

It is the policy of the Board of Management of **Kilrickle NS** 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. Fire Extinguishers were last audited in March and in July 2020, and will be monitored regularly.
- (ii) The Deputy Principal will ensure that fire drills shall take place at least once a year.
- (iii) Fire alarms shall be clearly marked. (Responsibility of Board of Management Safety Officer).
- (iv) Signs shall be clearly visible to ensure that visitors are aware of exit doors and routes. (Staff Safety Officer)
- (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. The principal ensure that the main door is free of obstruction.
- (vi) Assembly areas, walkways, exit signs shall be clearly marked.
- (vii) All electrical equipment shall be left unplugged when unattended for lengthy periods and when the building is empty. Teachers are responsible for their own classroom. The secretary/Principal, as appropriate, is responsible for the office. Staff room is every teacher's responsibility. Cleaner to check when cleaning.
- (viii) Deputy Principal shall be responsible for fire drills and evacuation procedures.

(ix) 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. Wet corridors
2. Trailing leads
3. Guillotin
4. Fuse Board
5. Electric kettles
6. Boiler house
7. Ladders
8. Protruding units and fittings
9. Icy surfaces on a cold day
10. Windows opening out
11. Knives / Cutlery

To minimise these dangers the following safety/ protective measures must be adhered to (see duties of employee pages 1-2 of this document):

- (a) Staff to ensure that at end of school day, their windows are closed (including toilet windows), all electrical equipment (kettle, laminator, etc.) is powered off fully, all technology (teacher/pupil desk tops/laptops) have been powered off fully, classroom door and fire doors are closed on their exit.
- (b) Access to and operation of plant/equipment is restricted to qualified members of the staff, whose job function is that of running, maintaining, cleaning and monitoring particular items of plant in the course of their normal duties. Copies of this Safety Statement will be sent to all contractors prior to contract by the Principal/Board of Management. Any other contractors entering the school must be shown a copy of the schools Safety Statement and shall adhere to its provisions.
- (c) In addition all such plant and machinery is to be used in strict accordance with the manufactures instructions and recommendations.
- (d) Where applicable Board of Management will ensure that members of the staff will have been instructed in the correct use of plant, machinery and equipment.
- (e) All machinery and electrical equipment are fitted with adequate safeguards.
- (f) Precautionary notices, in respect of safety matters are displayed at relevant points.
- (g) Ladders must be used with another person's assistance and securely stored.
- (h) Avoid use of glass bottles where possible by pupils. Remove broken glass immediately on discovery
- (i) Board of Management will check that floors are clean, even, non-slip and splinter-proof and mopped as required.

- (j) Principal will check that PE equipment is stacked securely and in position so as not to cause a hazard.
 - (k) Check that all mats are in good condition.
 - (l) An annual routine for inspecting furniture, floors, apparatus, equipment and fittings will be carried out by the Board of Management Safety Officer and Staff Safety Representative.
 - (m) Check that wooden furniture, benches etc. are free from splinters and generally sound.
 - (n) Check that cloak hooks are in good condition
 - (o) Will check that roofs, guttering, drain pipes etc as far as can be seen are sound and well maintained. Board of Management Safety Officer.
 - (p) Board of Management check that manholes are safe.
 - (q) Check that all play areas, especially sand pits, are kept clean and free from glass before use.
 - (r) Check that outside lighting works and is sufficient.
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- (s) Check that all builder's materials, caretakers' maintenance equipment, external stores etc are stored securely. Principal and Board of Management Safety Officer.
 - (t) Check that refuse is removed from building each day and is carefully stored outside. Caretaker.
 - (u) Children are advised of trailing leads as trip hazards.
 - (v) Guillotine is kept out of children's reach.
 - (w) Fuse board is kept locked.
 - (x) School Gate is securely closed.
 - (y) Children are kept inside when the yard is icy.
 - (z) Windows are fitted with safety catches when opening at lower levels.

Constant Hazards

Machinery, Kitchen equipment, Electrical appliances.

It is the policy of the Board of Management of **Kilrickle NS** that machinery, 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

Arrangements will be made for all appliances to be checked on a regular basis at least annually by a competent person (i.e.) maintenance person, the supplier or his agent. 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 in tact and free of cuts or abrasions.
- ◆ Unplug leads of appliances when not in use.
- ◆ Suitable undamaged fused plug tops are used and fitted with the correct fuse.
- ◆ Follow official guidelines issued by the Health and Safety Authority.

Chemicals

It is the policy of the Board of Management of **Kilrickle NS** 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 locked area, and protection provided to be used when handling them. (Secretary/Cleaner/Principal where appropriate).

Drugs and Medication

It is the policy of the Board of Management of **Kilrickle NS** that all drugs, medications, etc be kept in a secure cabinet at a height which is inaccessible to children, and used only by trained and authorised personnel.

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 co-operate 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 must be available. An adequate supply of hot and cold water, towels and soap and sanitary disposal facilities must be available.

Members of staff and students are reminded:

- (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. The school will arrange or assign appropriate tasks for the person to carry out in the Interim.
- (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.

Highly Polished Floors

It is the policy of the Board of Management of **Kilrickle NS** 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. Step edges shall be fitted with clearly marked edges of a non-slip nature wherever practical.

Smoking

It is the policy of the Board of Management of **Kilrickle NS** 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. Staffs are asked to report broken glass to the Principal so that it

may be immediately removed.

First Aid

It is the policy of the Board of Management of **Kilrickle NS** that a member of staff shall be trained to provide First Aid to staff and pupils.. A large First Aid box is secured to a school wall. Portable First Aid Boxes can be located in the storage room.

(1) Notices are posted in office detailing:

- arrangements for giving first aid,
- location of first aid boxes,
- procedure of calling ambulances etc.....,
- telephone numbers of local Doctor, Gardaí, and Hospital.

(2) All incidents, no matter how trivial and whether to employees or to students or to members of the public must be reported immediately to the person responsible for the hazard identified in the Statement or in the event that the accident/incident occurs in any other place to which that paragraph dealing with hazards does not relate to the Safety Officer. This is necessary to monitor the progress of safety standards and 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 by the Safety Officer.

Deputy Principal 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
- Anti-histamine for Stings, etc.
- Tape
- Disinfectant (e.g.) Savlon
- Antiseptic cream
- Cotton Bandage
- Cream for First Aid treatment of Burns
- Antiseptic Wipes
- Scissors
- First Aid Chart
- Specific medication prescribed for particular children which is approved and signed off by parents and child's doctor in the administration of medicines policy documents

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

Arrival and Drop Off at School

All parents are to operate a clockwise one way system around the hall for dropping off and picking up children. i.e. enter at the school side of the hall and exit on the graveyard side.

- **Park in a way that does not obstruct the flow of traffic around the hall.**
- **Leave space free near the hall gas tank for cars to swing around the corner.**
- **We ask that sight lines up and down the road be left clear for everyone.**
- **Do not park at the front gate of the school and please leave teachers car park spaces clear in the morning. Revision of This Safety Statement**

This statement shall be regularly revised by the Board of Management of **Kilrickle NS** 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:

Chairperson: *Paul Rogers*

Principal: *Colm Gibbon*

Date: 18.05.2022

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Policy statement in accordance with the Safety, Health and Welfare at Work Act 1989

Prepared by representatives of the Board of Management, in consultation with parents and teachers in accordance with the safety, Health and Welfare Act at Work Act 1989