

Bunscoil an Iúir

Ní neart go cur le chéile.



**Polasaí Sláinte agus Slandála na
bPáiste**

Pupil

Health and Safety Policy

Reviewed: November 2016

Ratified: 22/02/17

Safety is an essential element of childcare. Parents rely on carers to make sure that their children are safe while they are being cared for. It is Bunscoil an Iúir's policy to provide a safe and secure environment for the children in its care, to protect them from danger, infection and abuse and to educate children to keep themselves safe and healthy.

In particular Bunscoil an Iúir has a responsibility to:

- Implement legal requirements for health and safety in a childcare setting
- Consider ways of dealing with accidents, injuries and emergencies
- Take into account the fact that different children have different needs with regard to safety - e.g. infants, children with special needs, etc.

AIMS

- maintain a safe environment for the children in one's care
- identify hazards in the environment, both inside and out
- protect children from hazards
- understand the importance of keeping records essential for the safety of children
- consult with parents and other main carers on safety matters
- understand our responsibility with regard to protecting children from infectious disease
- provide children, parents and other adults with a positive role model with regard to safety
- codify the health and safety procedures used by Bunscoil an Iúir
- appoint suitable staff to carry out these procedures
- offer ongoing staff training in health and safety matters
- review these procedures at least annually

Maintaining the Safety of Children

- To ensure the safety of children at all times the level of supervision must always be in line with statutory requirements. Children should be supervised on the stairs asking them to wait outside the classroom door for the member of staff to accompany them.
- Teachers/Supervisors must ensure the safety of children in a calm and relaxed way and avoid being overprotective.
- It is important to ensure that children understand the need for safety rules and supervision as soon as they are old enough to do so. Children should be encouraged to take some responsibility for their own safety. They should be asked to become more aware of items that may cause a hazard e.g pens, pencils, water, etc. on the floor that could cause a slipping hazard.
- Agreed policies and procedures for the collection of children should be adhered to so that they are not handed over without authorisation.

Maintaining a Safe Environment for the Children

- The environment in which children are looked after **MUST** be kept safe, healthy and hygienic at all times.
- Safety equipment and materials are essential when looking after young children. They should always be used according to the manufacturer's recommendations and guidelines.
- Equipment, furniture and materials should be regularly checked for safety, removed from the Bunscoil if thought to be dangerous and reported to the appropriate person.
- All dangerous substances should be stored securely out of reach of the children and in safe containers.
- Disposal of waste should be safe and hygienic.
- Potential hazards should be identified and dealt with as quickly as possible.
- Emergency doors should be unobstructed and outside doors and gates should be kept fastened.

- **Animals should be managed in a hygienic way so that children are kept healthy and safe, taking account of any regulations about the keeping of animals.**