



*Gaelscoil Choráin,  
Sráid na Trá,  
Eochail,  
Co. Chorcaí*

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Dear Parents/Guardians/Carers,

In recent years, as a society, we have become very aware of the problem of child abuse through neglect, emotional, physical or sexual 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 Gaelscoil Choráin has adopted these procedures as school policy. Consequently, if school staff suspect or are alerted to possible abuse (neglect, emotional, physical and/or sexual abuse) they are obliged to refer this matter to Children and Family Services 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 Caitríona Ní Riada. The Deputy Designated Liaison Person is Eoin Ó Siochrú.

*Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children* be accessed on the website of the Department of Children and Youth Affairs ([www.dcyu.ie](http://www.dcyu.ie)) and the Department of Education and Skills *Child Protection for Primary and Post-Primary Schools* can be read on the Department's website ([www.education.ie](http://www.education.ie)). Parents/Guardians are also welcome to look through the procedures and Child Protection Policy on our school website.

Is Mise le Meas,

Caitríona Ní Riada  
(Príomh-Oide)