

BCS HEALTH AND SAFETY POLICY STATEMENT

(Reviewed September 12th 2023)

We in the Blackwater Community School are committed to the health and safety of all our staff, pupils and guests and consider it to be an essential responsibility of management. We adopt the Safety, Health and Welfare Act 2005 and the COVID-19 response plan for safe reopening of post primary schools 2020.

Our core beliefs are that:

1. Our school population is our most valuable asset.
2. Through our system of thorough assessment of the risks we will reduce the identified risks to as low as is reasonably practical.
3. Compliance with health and safety legislation is only the minimum standard towards effectively managing health and safety in our school.

Through the establishment of a safety committee and identification of employee safety representatives, we will consult with our employees on measures for promoting safety and health at work. We require that management at all levels provide a positive example in their attitudes to safe working, and maintain constant and continuing interest in safety and health, in particular by ensuring that the appropriate safety standards are correctly understood for all activities.

In line with Government health advice regarding COVID-19, we will facilitate the resumption of school based teaching and learning and the return to the workplace of staff. The return of the school population must be done safely and in strict adherence to the public health advice and any guidance issued by the Department of Education.

We will make available professional advice and support to develop schemes of training to assist management with their delegated responsibilities in this area. All employees have a duty to carry out their work with due regard for the health and safety of themselves and others and to observe the health and safety requirements relevant to their activities. They must also co-operate with their safety officer to enable them to carry out their duties and responsibilities under this policy effectively.

All employees are required to document and report to their safety officer any hazards or incidents, which could have resulted in an injury. Where an accident resulting in injury has occurred it must be reported and recorded. This will then be investigated with the objective of preventing a reoccurrence. Following appropriate risk analysis we ensure that the recommendations are acted upon.

A copy of this statement, and any reviewed statements, will be made available for consultation for all school staff and Board of Management. It will be reviewed on a regular basis and supplemented, as appropriate, to meet existing and future legislation and good practice. Adopted by

BOM: Date: 12/9/23 (Reviewed and Updated)

Signed: _____