



After-School Sporting Activities Policy and Procedures

Rationale

There is a strong tradition of sporting activities at Scoil Náisiúnta Mhuire, Rathpeacon. We have a fantastic staff who are committed to coaching our girls and boys in hurling, camogie, football, soccer, basketball and other sports both during and after school. Teachers and adults interacting with children in school sport must do so with integrity and respect for the child. All adult actions in sport should be guided by what is best for the child. This policy was devised to ensure that all those involved are clear on school procedures and policies in this regard.

Child Protection

All approved after school activities whether on the school site or off site at Rathpeacon G.A.A. Pitch, Whitechurch Sports Complex, Na Piarsaigh's GAA Centre, St. Mary's AFC etc. will take place in accordance with the requirements of the Children First Act 2015, Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children 2017, the Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools 2017 and the school's Child Safeguarding Statement.

It is of the utmost importance that all persons involved in after school activities act in accordance with agreed policies and procedures in order to protect all parties involved.

Relevant Policies

- School Child Safeguarding Statement
- Code of Behaviour
- Acceptable Use of ICT Policy
- Anti Bullying Policy
- Administration of First Aid
- Administration of Medication
- Health and Safety



Atmosphere and Ethos

Children's sport must be conducted in a safe, positive and encouraging atmosphere. A child-centred ethos helps to ensure that competition and specialisation are kept in their appropriate place. Too often competitive demands are placed on children too early, and results in excessive levels of pressure on them, with the consequence of high levels of dropout from sport. Our teachers have an overall responsibility to take the steps necessary to ensure that positive and healthy experiences in sport are provided for the pupils in their care.

General Guidelines

1. The school's Code of Behaviour applies in all after-school activities.
2. Activities will take place at approved venues agreed with the Principal and Board of Management.
3. Activities will only be run by registered primary teacher(s) who is/are employed by the school.
4. Children taking part in after-school activities need to remain on the school grounds or sports venue under supervision until collected.
5. Parents/guardians of children attending after-school activities must ensure their contact details are up to date.
6. In order to ensure equality of access for all children to after-school activities, any child that has a designated Special Needs Assistant during school hours will require the same level of support for any after-school activities. This support must be provided by the parent/guardian of the child or another agreed and designated adult.
7. All adults supporting, including parents of the child, must be Garda Vetted by the school well in advance of the activities beginning. Please contact the school for Garda Vetting Forms.
8. If an activity is cancelled, parents/guardians will be notified by the school and must make necessary arrangements for collection of their child.

Responsibilities of Teachers who provide the After School Training/Coaching

- To organise and coordinate the activity.
- To organise contact details for parents/guardians of pupils attending the activity.
- To ensure that they have those details with them at the activity in the event that a parent/guardian needs to be contacted e.g. if a child not collected after the activity or in the case of an emergency.
- To have access to a mobile phone.
- To be the overall point of contact between the parents/guardians.
- To arrange that parents are notified if an activity is cancelled so that they can arrange for their child to be collected.

- To make every effort to be at the activity venue in time to receive and take responsibility for the children attending.
- **IMPORTANT:** If a teacher is not present when children arrive, it is the responsibility of the person who transported the child to the venue to supervise the child in their care until the supervising teachers arrive. (See *Role of Parents* below)
- Take a roll call at the start of the activity.
- To teach children that honest endeavour is as important as winning, and do all they can to encourage good sportsmanship and set a good example by applauding good play on both sides.
- To encourage mutual respect for team-mates and opponents.
- To be a role model for children, and maintain the highest standards of conduct when interacting with children, parents, officials and organisers.
- Ensure that the Code of Behaviour is applied for the entire duration for the activity.
- To be always mindful of pupil safety, both individually and collectively, in sports participation. If a teacher excludes a pupil from a particular sports activity, for good safety reasons, it is not to be regarded as being contrary to the school ethos of integration and inclusion.
- In the event of disruptive behaviour, take the following steps:
 1. In the first instance give the child a verbal warning (i.e. a reminder of the rule he/she has broken).
 2. If there is a second instance of misbehaviour, instruct the child to stand out from the activity (but still within sight for supervision) for an age appropriate number of minutes.
 3. If there is a third or serious instance of misbehaviour, call the child's parents for immediate collection and inform the Principal at the earliest opportunity.
- Ensure that children who need to go to the toilet ask permission and report back when returning. Pupils should not be allowed to go to the toilet area alone.
- Contact the parents/guardians immediately if the child leaves the activity without permission.
- Contact the parents/guardians if the child is unwell during the activity.
- Ensure that children leave the premises safely at the end of the activity.
- Remain present until the last child is collected.
- Lock the school or activity venue and ensure that all required security is in place.

The Role of Parents

- To arrange transport for their child to the venue for after school activities off site.
- To wait with their child at the venue until supervising teachers arrive.
- To be available to be contacted by the teachers who are co-ordinating the activity.
- To ensure that their contact details are up to date in the school office so that they can be contacted during the after-school activity should the need arise.
- To only allow their child to attend activities that they are interested in attending. After-school activities should be fun for all the children involved. It is therefore important that the children themselves want to be there.
- To show respect and appreciation for the teachers and coaches involved in their child's sporting activities.

- Where a child consistently shows that they are not interested in the activity, or are being disruptive, parents will be advised. Parents may be asked that their child take a break from the activity, or no longer attend. The teachers who co-ordinate the after-school activity will normally make this contact. The school principal will be advised of any serious or ongoing disruptions and will support any actions required.
- To arrange that their child is collected on time at the end of the activity.
- To notify the teacher in charge in writing if the child is allowed to walk home or leave by themselves when the activity is over. This information will be kept on file.

Guidelines for Children

- Go directly from your classroom to your activity.
- If you are going to activities off the school site e.g. to Whitechurch Sports Complex or Rathpeacon GAA Pitch, please go directly to where your parents have arranged to have you collected and brought there.
- You are expected to follow the Code of Behaviour at all times.
- Show respect to other players and leaders
- Play fairly at all times following and obeying the rules of the game
- If you behave in a disruptive way, the teacher in charge may give you a verbal warning, or ask you to sit out of the activity, or they may tell your parents.
- If your behaviour continues to be disruptive, you may be asked to take a break or leave the activity for good.
- You are not allowed to leave the venue during the activity unless to go to the toilet.
- You are not allowed to go to the toilet without the permission of the supervising teacher. You must also report back to that teacher on your return from the toilet.
- You must wait inside the school gates, or at the location of the activity to be collected unless you have written permission to make your own way home.

Guidelines on use of Photographic and Filming Equipment at Competitions and Practice Sessions

Amateur photographers/film/video operators wishing to record an event or practice session should seek the permission of the event organiser and the teacher of practice session and the Principal of the school.

During competitions or practice sessions, children must not be photographed or filmed without their permission and the express permission of one of their parents or person acting for the parent. A record should be kept of any permission granted.

Professional photographers/film/video operators wishing to record an event or practice session should seek accreditation with the event organiser by producing their professional identification for the details to be recorded. A record should be kept of accreditations.

Anyone concerned about any photography taking place at events or training sessions can contact the teacher/organiser/Principal, and ask them to deal with the matter.

Ratification

This Policy and Procedures on After School Activities was ratified by the Board of Management at its meeting on 5th of March 2018. It will be further reviewed after there has been a material change in any matter to which this document refers.

Signed: Frank Maguire
Chairperson of Board of Management
Date: 05-03-18

Signed: Susanna O'Neill
Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management
Date: 05/03/18