



Policy on Manual Handling of Pupils

Introduction:

Ballybay Central National School is a vertical co-educational primary school. From time to time children can pose as a flight risk or as a danger to themselves or others.

Rationale:

The school management recognises the occasional need for teachers or SNAs to lift, move or handle children in the interest of Health and Safety. This can be particularly the case in relation to Junior Infant pupils, typically at the beginning of the year, or pupils in our special classes.

The following are examples of incidents when the principal, teachers or SNAs may need to intervene physically (intervention will be at a minimum and only used as a necessity for the health, welfare and safety of pupils and staff)

- A child runs towards an exit with the intention of leaving the school
- A child is a physical threat to another child or themselves
- A child is a physical threat to a member of staff
- A child climbs / jumps on an item of furniture and is at risk of injuring himself or another child or a staff member
- A child goes to ground and is a disruptive force in the classroom or the playground
- A child gets stranded on a piece of equipment in the playground, in the classroom, school hall or at a school event and needs assistance to descend
- A child is having difficulty transitioning from one area to another e.g. from the classroom to the PE hall.

In all cases the principal, teacher or SNA must show the utmost care and attempt to protect both him/herself, the specific pupil and any other pupils potentially affected.

Whole school staff training is being rolled out to support staff members in dealing these situations.

Ratification/Review/Implementation:

This policy was ratified by the Board of Management at a meeting on 2-10-24 and implemented immediately.

A copy of this policy will be made available to all school personnel and also to parents on request from the school office. It will be reviewed in 2-10-2026.

Signed *J. Mc. ...* Date 2-10-24

Chairperson of the Board of Management.