

**Gorey Central School,  
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Principal: Mrs. Horan  
Chairperson, B.O.M.: Canon MJJ Hayden**

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Dear Parents/Guardians,

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*, the National Guidelines for the Protection and Welfare of Children noted 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 & Science published Guidelines and Procedures for all schools in relation to child protection and welfare. These guidelines promote the safety and welfare of all children and are to be welcomed.

The Board of Management of Gorey Central School has adopted these guidelines as school policy. Consequently, if school staff suspect or are alerted to possible child abuse they are obliged to refer this matter to the Health Service Executive (HSE). The HSE will then assess the situation and provide support for the child concerned. Please note: Child Abuse is defined as Neglect, Emotional abuse, Physical abuse and Sexual abuse.

*Children First*, the National Guidelines for the Protection of Children may be accessed on the website of the Department of Health and Children ([www.dohc.ie](http://www.dohc.ie)). The Department of Education & Skills Child Protection Guidelines can be read on the Department's website ([www.education.ie](http://www.education.ie)).

Parents/Guardians are also welcome to look through the guidelines here at the school.

Yours sincerely,

Board of Management  
Gorey Central School.