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Education & Training
Boards Ireland
*Bord Oideachais &
Oiliúna Éireann*

Broadmeadow Community

National School,

Rathbeale Road,

Swords,

Co. Dublin

<https://broadmeadowcns.ie>

broadmeadowcns@ddletb.ie

Roll Number: 20529J

LONE WORKER POLICY

BROADMEADOW COMMUNITY

NATIONAL SCHOOL



2022/2023

Principal: Miss J. Robinson

The Principal of Miss Jennifer Robinson is responsible for the implementation of this Lone Worker Policy.

Summary

This school recognises that there may be an increased risk to the health and safety of its employees whilst working alone. This policy sets out our approach in both identifying these risks and adequately managing them. Any questions regarding its operation should be addressed to the Principal.

Definition of Lone Working

For the purposes of this policy, a lone worker is an individual who spends some or all of their working hours working alone. This may occur - (1) during normal working hours at an isolated location within the normal workplace, (2) when working outside normal business hours. These are deemed to be between 07.30 and 16.00, Monday to Friday.

Legality

The Safety, Health and Welfare at Work Act, 2005 aims to make Broadmeadow Community National School a safe and healthy environment for all. The Act covers all persons at the school and it requires, in so far as is reasonably practicable, that the Board of Management will protect the safety, health and welfare of everyone who works at the school. The Board will provide and maintain, in so far as is reasonably practicable, a safe place of work and safe systems, and will provide the staff and ancillary employees with information and training to ensure their health and safety. Specifically, the Board has produced a written Safety Statement outlined in this policy which specifies the manner in which the safety and health of staff, children and ancillary staff will be secured.

Risk Assessment

Our risk assessments will cover all work currently undertaken alone (or proposed to be), where the risk may be increased by the work activity itself, or by the lack of on-hand support should something go wrong. Once all job roles involving lone working have been identified, the following factors will be considered:

- Risk of violence – all jobs involving an element of lone working will be assessed for a risk of verbal threats, or violence. The priority will be those involving face-to-face dealings with members of the public and/or cash handling.
- Plant and equipment – plant and equipment used by lone workers will be assessed to ensure that it is suitable for use by one person.
- Work at height – working at height will not be undertaken when working alone.
- Chemicals – any existing, or planned use of chemicals will be considered with regards to their suitability for use by those working alone.
- The worker – the medical fitness of workers working alone will be assessed

- Access and egress – some lone working may require access to locations which are difficult to access or exit. Assessments will consider whether these tasks are suitable to be carried out by one person.
- Safety and alarm if lone worker gets into difficulty.

Control Measures

In order to manage the risks identified, we have introduced the following control measures:

Risk of violence

- Staff are required to lock themselves in the building when working alone.
- Staff must not arrange to meetings with parents or members of the public when lone working.
- All meetings must be arranged during school occupancy times or when there is more than one member of staff on site for the duration of the meeting.
- Staff are required not to handle cash when lone working.
- Late meetings must finish promptly and not leave one member of staff alone on the site.
- Staff must not approach, or let into the buildings, unauthorised persons when lone working.
- All staff are required to give 24 hours' notice to the Principal before lone working, either after hours or through holiday periods. The school will be locked during these periods.
- Staff attending alarm activations will only attend with police support or in pairs. An outside check of the premises must be carried out, to ascertain if entry has been gained, before entering the school. If there is sign of an entry police support MUST be gained before entering the school.
- Whilst low staff, an alarm fob must be purchased for loan workers.

Communication:

Staff are advised to:

- Avoid lone working wherever possible by arranging to work in pairs or as a group.
- Carry a mobile phone at all times when lone working.
- School will purchase walking phone system.
- Let someone know you are coming into work, how long you expect to be and when you are leaving.
- Comply with fire evacuation procedures and attend fire assembly points, ensuring that you are cleared to leave the site in the event of an incident.

First Aid

For those working on our premises, first aid kits can be found in the staffroom and all occupied classrooms.

Emergency procedures

In the event that a lone worker falls ill, or into difficulties, they are to use their mobile phone/school phone to contact the Principal or the emergency services. IN the event of low staff or Principal working alone, the key fob alarm system will be activated for support in the event of difficulty or an emergency. This must be carried at all times when lone working.

Access and egress

Staff are required to consider the weather conditions before coming into and while at work.

Unacceptable Working Alone

The following activities are not to be carried out by lone workers under any circumstances:

- Working at height
- Manual Handling of heavy or bulky items
- Transport of injured persons

Training

Lone workers will be trained in safe working practices. This will apply to employees and other workers where applicable, such as agency staff and contractors.

Lone Worker Duties

All lone workers are expected to cooperate fully with instructions given by the Principal. They are also expected to follow the school's safe systems of work and any associated procedures. Failure to do so may be a disciplinary offence.

Ratified on 13.12.22

Signed Jennifer Robinson(Principal)

Signed Ann Graves (BOM Chairperson)