



**Derryooper National School Policies**

**Roll Number: 17547R**

**Patron: Most Rev. Michael Duignan, Bishop of Clonfert**

**Chairperson: Fr. Kieran O'Rourke P.P.**

**Phone: 0860483344**

**Principal: Padraig Lohan**

---

## **Critical Incident Management Policy**

### **1. Introduction**

Derryooper National School aims to provide a safe and supportive environment for all members of the school community. A **Critical Incident** is defined as any event or sequence of events that overwhelms the normal coping mechanisms of the school, such as a sudden death, serious accident, fire, natural disaster, or other traumatic event.

### **2. Aims of this Policy**

- To ensure an **effective response** to any critical incident.
- To **support students, staff, and parents** in coping with trauma.
- To minimise disruption to teaching and learning while **prioritising well-being**.
- To provide a **structured approach to crisis management**.

### **3. Critical Incident Response Team (CIRT)**

A **Critical Incident Response Team (CIRT)** will be established and will include:

- **Principal** (Team Coordinator)
- **Deputy Principal**
- **Designated Liaison Person (DLP) for Child Protection**
- **Chairperson of the Board of Management**
- **School Counsellor/External Support Services as required**

### **4. Steps in Responding to a Critical Incident**

#### **Immediate Response**

- Ensure **safety and well-being** of all students and staff.

- Contact **emergency services** if required (999/112).
- Activate the **Critical Incident Response Team**.
- Gather accurate information and **assess the situation**.
- Inform staff and **assign responsibilities**.
- Contact **parents/guardians** where necessary.

### **Communication Plan**

- Inform **staff, parents, and students** in a sensitive and appropriate manner.
- Designate a **media spokesperson** if required.
- Coordinate with **external support agencies** (NEPS, HSE, TUSLA, Gardaí).

### **Follow-Up Actions**

- Provide **counselling and emotional support**.
- Monitor students and staff for signs of distress.
- Organise **debriefing sessions** and allow time for reflection.
- Review the effectiveness of the response and **update procedures as needed**.

## **5. Long-Term Recovery & Support**

- Continue to monitor and support affected members of the school community.
- Identify students or staff who may need **ongoing psychological support**.
- Hold a **review meeting** to discuss lessons learned and improvements needed.
- Commemorate events appropriately and sensitively.

## **6. Policy Review & Approval**

This policy will be **reviewed annually** to ensure it remains relevant and effective.

**Signed:**

**Chairperson, Board of Management:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Principal, Derryoover National School:**



**Date:**

*19 February 2025*

---