

# ST JOHN'S GAC



## INFORMATION FOR PARENTS & JUVENILE PLAYERS



*Mol an óige agus tiocfaidh sí*

*Praise youth and it will blossom*

2019

It takes a village to raise a child – African proverb

The purpose of this information pack is to provide everyone with information on the policies and practices of St John's Drumnaquoile GAC so that parents and guardians may give informed consent to their children's involvement at the club and that children can avail of the opportunities provided to the fullest.

St John's GAC aim to promote the participation of children in our club by creating a culture of safety, fun and fairplay. We recognise that all children have the right to be safe and that this fundamental principle takes precedence over all other considerations.

The young people who come to St John's will be regarded as children first and competitors second.

For the purpose of this policy we define children as any person under the age of 18 years. This policy applies to all those involved in St John's GAC; coaches, administrators, officials, volunteers, parents and young people.

## FAIR PLAY

All children's sport should be conducted in an atmosphere of fair play. Ireland and the UK have adopted and are committed to the European Code of Sports Ethics, which defines fair play as:

***“much more than playing within the rules. It incorporates the concepts of friendship, respect for others and always playing within the right spirit. Fair play is defined as a way of thinking, not just a way of behaving. It incorporates issues concerned with the elimination of cheating, gamesmanship, doping, violence (both physical and verbal), exploitation, unequal opportunities, excessive commercialism and corruption.”***

(European Sports Charter and Code of Ethics, Council of Europe, 1993)

## ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FEES

CHILDREN	ADULT
Under 10s - £5	Non-Playing - £50
Under 16s - £15	Playing - £100
Under 18s - £25	Student - £50
FAMILY (Parents & all children under-16) - £100	
Members to receive 10% discount at Club Shop	



# St John's GAC Child Protection Policy

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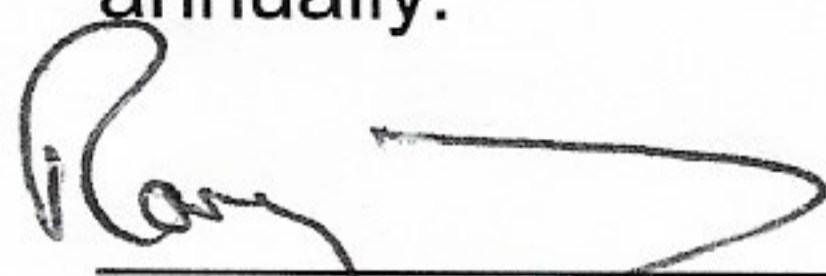


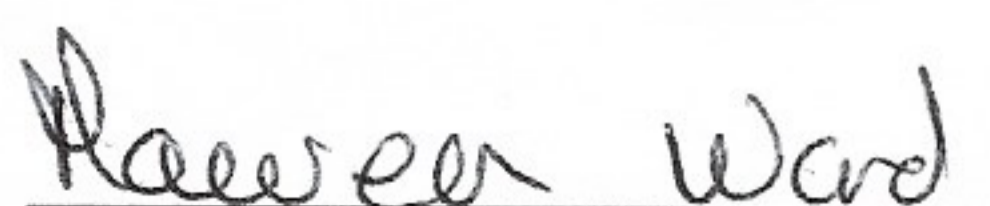
## Child & Vulnerable Adult Protection Policy

St John's Drumnaquoile GAC is committed to creating and maintaining the safest possible environment for all young people and vulnerable adults who wish to participate in our Gaelic Games and activities. We recognise our moral duty and legal obligation to protect children and vulnerable adults at our club through the promotion of an environment which promotes the safety, dignity and well-being of young people at all times.

In order to protect and promote the interests of those under 18 years of age and vulnerable adults at our club we shall:-

1. Ensure careful recruitment, retention and management procedures for people working with young people and vulnerable adults at St John's.
2. Carry out background checks with statutory bodies for all people working with young people and vulnerable adults at St John's.
3. Provide child safeguarding and best practice training for all people working with young people and vulnerable adults at St John's.
4. Appoint at least two officers, a "Designated Child Protection Officer", and a "Children's Officer" whose prime concern will be the well-being of children at St John's.
5. Produce an Anti-Bullying statement to protect those in our care.
6. Produce a Social Media policy to protect children and vulnerable adults.
7. Follow governing body guidance for Dealing and Reporting Allegations or Concerns of Abuse.
8. Support GAA "RESPECT" initiative,
9. Keep this Child and Vulnerable Adults Protection Policy under regular review.
10. Provide a copy of this Child & Vulnerable Adult Protection Policy and supporting information for each young person and their parents / guardians annually.

  
Cathaoirleach

  
Rúnaí

26/11/2018  
Dáta



## YOUTH PLAYERS CODE OF CONDUCT

**St John's GAC** is fully committed to the safeguarding and promoting the well being of all its members. The club believes that it is important that members, coaches, administrators and parents associated with the club must, at all times, show respect and understanding for the safety and welfare of everybody. Implementation of this code of conduct is the responsibility of every member and any queries about this code should be referred to the Designated Child Protection Officer or the Club Chairperson

### Players must:

- Respect the rights, dignity and worth of all and treat everyone equitably.
- Not exert undue influence to obtain person benefit or reward.

### Players within the Club must:

- Play by the rules
- Never argue with an official. If you need clarification, have your captain, coach or manager approach the official during a break or after the competition.
- Work equally hard for yourself and your team. Your team's performance will benefit – so will you.
- Co-operate with and respect your coaches – they are giving up their time for you and your team-mates.
- Co-operate with and respect your team-mates – without them there would be no team.
- Be a good sport. Applaud all good plays whether they are made by your team or the opposition.
- Show respect to and acknowledge opponents and officials (e.g. shake hands before and after the game and say things like “good luck”, “thanks for the game” etc.)
- Respect your opponents - without them here would be no competition
- Be on time for training sessions, matches and competitions so as not to disrupt the smooth running of their team.
- Participate for your own enjoyment and benefit not just to please parents and coaches.
- Play fair - no verbal abuse of officials, or deliberately distracting or provoking an opponent.
- Respect the rights dignity and worth of all participants regardless of their gender, ability, cultural background or religion.
- Switch off mobile phones when in changing rooms / showers area
- Leave changing rooms tidy and do not leave litter

### Declaration

I understand and agree to abide by this Code of Conduct. I understand that failure to abide by this Code of Conduct may result in disciplinary action by the club committee.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ (player) Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ (parent/guardian) Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## PARENTS CODE OF CONDUCT

St John's GAC has a child-centred approach and philosophy in the running of the club to ensure that those working with children and young people are at all times provided a quality sporting and social programme, by working to an agreed philosophy and set of standards. Implementation of this code of conduct is the responsibility of every member and any queries about this code should be referred to the Designated Child Protection Officer or the Club Chairperson

Parents and guardians have an influential role to play in assisting their offspring to adopt positive attitudes and encouraging them to maintain an involvement in sport. Parents should not attempt to meet their own needs for success and achievement through their children's participation in Gaelic Games. The following guidelines will be assistance in their regard:

### Parents within the Club must:

- Remember that children participate in sport for their enjoyment not yours.
- Encourage children always to play according to the rules and to settle disagreements without resorting to hostility or violence.
- Support involvement in modified rules games and other development programmes.
- Never ridicule or yell at a child for making a mistake or not winning.
- Always try to be positive – if criticism is needed, then make it constructive.
- Respect officials' decisions and encourage children to do likewise.
- Show appreciation for volunteer coaches, officials and administrators.
- Applaud good performance and efforts from all individuals and teams.
- Congratulate all participants regardless of the game's outcome.
- Condemn the use of violence and verbal abuse of any form.
- Know the start and finish times of the training sessions and matches and ensure that you arrive on time to collect your child.
- It is the parent's responsibility to inform the coaches of any conditions, medical or otherwise regarding their child.
- Encourage your child to learn the rules and play within them.
- Use correct and appropriate language at all times.
- Support your child's involvement and help them to enjoy sport.
- Remind your child the effort and teamwork are as important as victory so that the result of each game is accepted without undue disappointment.
- Support policy and practices (and lead by example) in relation to responsible use of alcohol and recreational and performance enhancing drugs.
- Respect the rights, dignity and worth of every young person regardless of their gender, ability, cultural background or religion.

I understand and agree to abide by this Code of Conduct. I understand that failure to abide by this Code of Conduct may result in disciplinary action by the Club Executive Committee.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ (parent/guardian) Date: \_\_\_\_\_



### **GIVE RESPECT – GET RESPECT**

**Give Respect – Get Respect** is an awareness campaign that seeks to ensure that Gaelic Games are promoted and played in a positive, fair and enjoyable manner and where Players, Coaches, Spectators and Referees Give Respect – Get Respect from each other.

The **RESPECT** campaign applies at all levels and amongst all players regardless of age, competition or ability. The key participants in the **Give Respect – Get Respect** campaign are not just the Players themselves but Coaches, Clubs, Parents, Referees and Supporters.

The **Give Respect – Get Respect** initiative is supported by the GAA, Ladies Gaelic Football Association, the Camogie Association, GAA Handball Ireland and the Rounders Council of Ireland.

### **THE RESPECT CAMPAIGN HIGHLIGHTS THE FOLLOWING GOOD PRACTICES:**

- All players and coaches shake hands with their opponents and the referee before and after each game.
- Mark out a designated spectators' area around the playing area
- At relevant underage categories teams should strive to achieve the maximum participation of all players in accordance with agreed playing models.
- The host Club should welcome referees and opposing team to all games.
- A merit award, based on sporting endeavour and fair play, shall be awarded to players and teams who have upheld the RESPECT principles.
- Adopt and implement of the Code of Behaviour when working with underage players as the minimum level of agreement between the Club and players, coaches, parents, guardians and supporters at underage level.
- Organise half-time exhibition games during Club and League and Championship Games that promote the principles of the RESPECT campaign in association with others.
- Clubs should ensure that the coaches of underage teams are aware of and also implement the Give Respect – Get Respect initiative.

### **RESPECT**

- Responsible
- Encouraging
- Supportive
  - Positive
  - Enabling
- Considerate
  - Tolerant



## HOW PARENTS/GUARDIANS CAN HELP

We thank you for your support of the club and of your child's involvement with the club. We hope that both you and your child have a very enjoyable time at St John's. Weekly training sessions and matches can only be facilitated with your support. We have recruited a small team of willing parents and volunteers but we need more help.

### PLEASE CONSIDER VOLUNTEERING SOME OF YOUR TIME TO ASSIST OUR YOUTH SECTION

There are many way you can help with our activities for the benefit of all our children. Some things require a large time commitment but others are less demanding. You don't need to be steeped in the "gaa tradition" to help out.

#### *What volunteering is*

Volunteering is giving your time to help someone else or a cause you care about, simply because you want to and without expecting payment. In Northern Ireland volunteers make an important contribution to community life.

Lots of people engaged in voluntary work might not consider themselves as volunteers. They may see themselves as 'just helping out' or 'lending a hand'. The list of things that volunteers do is almost endless. You could be a sports coach, fundraiser, committee member, gardener, volunteer driver or dog walker. You can choose what you want to do, though it always helps to get involved in something you care about or are interested in.

#### *Reasons to volunteer*

Volunteering helps you make new friends, increases your confidence and lets you play a part in your community. It can also give you a better chance of getting paid work, improving your career prospects or getting a place at university by helping you to:

- learn new skills
- practise the skills you have
- build your confidence
- discover new hobbies and interests
- meet people who can help you find paid work
- include volunteering experience on your CV
- show employers you can keep regular hours and handle commitment
- have things to talk about in a job interview
- get references

Other benefits of volunteering include:

- having fun doing something you've never tried before
- a sense of satisfaction and achievement
- the opportunity to make new friends with people from diverse backgrounds and experiences

## ST JOHN'S AGAINST BULLYING

Bullying will not be accepted or condoned at St John's.

To that end we delivered a Cyber Bullying workshop for parents on 29<sup>th</sup> November 2017 and an Anti-Bullying & Positive Mental Health Workshop for our under-12s and under-14s on 26<sup>th</sup> February 2018. We also facilitated an Ulster Council Anti-Bullying Workshop for our Committee member sand Coaches on 11<sup>th</sup> March 2019.

All forms of bullying will be addressed. Bullying can include:

- physical pushing, kicking, hitting, pinching etc
- name calling, sarcasm, spreading rumours, persistent teasing and emotional torment through ridicule, humiliation and the continual ignoring of individuals
- sectarian/racial taunts, graffiti, gestures
- sexual comments and/or suggestions
- unwanted physical contact
- Children from ethnic minorities, disabled children, young people who are gay or lesbian, or those with learning difficulties are more vulnerable to this form of abuse and may well be targeted.

### Preventing Bullying

- Everybody has the responsibility to work together to stop bullying – the child, the parent and the coach.
- This club is committed to the early identification of bullying and prompt, collective action to deal with it.
- Policy and practice will be agreed through consultation with the club, parents and children.
- Children should be encouraged to take a role in stopping bullying in the club.
- Policy and practice will be reviewed regularly in the light of changing needs and changes adopted by other agencies.
- Coaches will be given support when dealing with a bullying incident.



# GAA Tackling Bullying



The GAA aims to create a supportive environment where any form of bullying is unacceptable.

We adopt a whole organisational approach to addressing bullying and are committed to implementing structures and relevant training to deal with allegations of bullying. Incidents of bullying are regarded as serious breaches of our Code of Best Practice in Youth Sport, Our Games - Our Code.

We are committed to achieving an ethos of respect so as to maximise the potential of all of our members when playing or participating in our Gaelic Games.

## WHAT IS BULLYING?

- Bullying can take many different forms:
- **VERBAL:** threatening consequences, spreading rumours, name calling, teasing, making sexual/racist/sectarian remarks, highlighting physical appearances or sporting ability.
  - **PHYSICAL:** kicking, punching, hitting, spitting, biting, tripping, theft or destruction of property and kit.
  - **EMOTIONAL:** ignoring, excluding, getting people into trouble, talking behind their backs, writing unpleasant notes/letters/graffiti, writing letters/text messages/emails or comments.
  - **CYBERBULLYING:** when instant messages, emails, text messages, webpages or social network sites are used to spread rumours, make threats or harass. It can include written messages, photographs, videos or voice messages.

## PREVENTING BULLYING

It is the responsibility of everybody in the Club to prevent or if need be to deal with incidents of Bullying.

**GAA players, coaches, spectators and Clubs should**

- ✓ Implement the Code of Behaviour when working with underage players
- ✓ Create a supportive environment where it is not acceptable to Bully
- ✓ Support the ethos of the Club that its 'ok to talk'
- ✓ Make everybody aware of our Anti Bullying Policy
- ✓ Promote the Give Respect - Get Respect Initiative

**GIVE RESPECT  
GET RESPECT**

Our games. Our ethics.

The Children's Officer in each club has a responsibility to promote an 'anti bullying ethos' and ensure that the Club adheres to the Code of Best Practice in Youth Sport - Our Games - Our Code.

## DEALING WITH BULLYING

How do you know if it's Bullying?  
Ask yourself the following questions:

**TARGETED** Is the behaviour targeted at a group or individual?  
**DURATION** Has this behaviour been happening over a period of time?

**FREQUENCY** How frequent is the behaviour and is there a pattern occurring?

**INTENTION** Is the intention of the behaviour to cause pain/harm/stress to an individual or group?

Every person in membership of a GAA Club or attending our games or activities should be fully aware that Bullying is unacceptable in the GAA.

## BULLYING CAN HAPPEN FROM

- Young Person To Young Person
- Young Person To Adult
- Adult To Young Person
- Adult To Adult





# GAA Anti-Bullying Policy Statement

The GAA aims to create a supportive environment where any form of bullying is unacceptable. We adopt a whole organisational approach to addressing bullying and are committed to implementing structures and relevant training to deal with allegations of bullying. Incidents of bullying are regarded as serious breaches of our Code of Best Practice in Youth Sport - Our Games Our Code. We are committed to achieving an ethos of respect so as to maximise the potential of all our members when playing or participating in our Gaelic Games.

## DEFINITION

Bullying is defined as repeated aggression, be it verbal, psychological or physical, conducted by an individual or group against others.

## THE GAA SEEKS TO ENSURE THAT:

- Incidents of bullying behaviour are addressed appropriately
- All persons in membership of the Association or attending our games or activities are aware that bullying behaviour is unacceptable in the GAA.

## DEALING WITH BULLYING

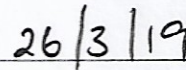
The Code of Behaviour when working with underage players provides good practice guidance in relation to the prevention of bullying.

If you are aware of or have a concern that bullying behaviour is happening within your Club you should report the matter to your Club Children's Officer.

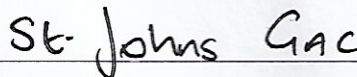
We recognise that incidents of bullying are a breach of the Code of Behaviour and of our Give Respect - Get Respect initiative and all such incidents will be dealt with accordingly.



Club Children's Officer



Date



Name of Club

**Our Games Our Code** Code of Behaviour Underage

Let us ensure that everyone working on our behalf emphasises **FAIR PLAY, RESPECT, EQUALITY, SAFETY** and **NO DISCRIMINATION** in all aspects of our work with children and young people.



## **SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY**

Social media plays an ever increasing and important role in the organisation and promotion of our Games. It provides an engaging forum through which the GAA community can connect. Social media refers to a broad range of online tools or functions that allow people to communicate and/ or share content via the internet.

When acting in an official capacity for St John's GAC it is important that officials convey the same positive, volunteer-led spirit that the GAA instils in all of its communications.

### **Accordingly St John's GAC expects its officials to:**

- Be respectful of all individuals, races, religions and cultures.
- Not post material which is likely to cause offence or bring the St John's GAC or GAA into disrepute.
- Only post text, images, video, or other presentations suitable for people of all ages.
- Not use accounts to support or oppose any politically or socially controversial subjects, issues, or candidates.
- Not use the club account to post personal opinion on any page using the official account, not post comments on any external platform that may imply they are speaking on behalf of the St John' GAC. Officials are of course free to express their opinions but should avoid using official St John's GAC channels to do so.
- Not say anything dishonest, untrue or misleading. St John' GAC recommends erring on the side of caution – if in doubt, do not post or upload.
- Further information on the types of content which breach the standards the St John' GAC expects from all members is listed in the following section.

### **Communicating with underage players and teams**

Coaches, mentors and other officials should never place themselves in a compromising position by texting or communicating via social media sites with underage players. All such communications regarding GAA activities should be sent via the parents or guardians of the underage player.

### **In general, the following apply when communicating with underage players:**

- Use mobile phones, if deemed appropriate, for communicating with the parents/guardians of players. Do not communicate individually by text/email sites with underage players.
- Do not communicate with underage players via social network sites.

**Mobile phones / camera are not to be used in changing rooms etc.**

## PHOTOGRAPHS AND IMAGES OF CHILDREN

**St John's GAC** feel it is important to recognise the achievements and successes of our youth and of the club as a whole. One of the ways to do this is to publish photographs and details of achievements in the media. As a club we would like to use pictures of our youth members in the local press and on the club or county websites and facebook.

We may also wish to video record training session and matches in order to analyse players' performance. Such video records would only be used within the club.

We take the issue of child safety very seriously and this includes the images of the children in our care. Our duty of care to our young members is paramount and this form of publicity must be carefully monitored to ensure that it is consistent with our Child Protection Policy and the Data Protection Legislation.

For this reason we have put the following guidelines into place:-

- We ask parental consent for the club to take and use photographs of their children and for permission to use the press and media to promote the youth programme.
- Photographs and interviews will at all times take place in the presence of a coach.
- Action and individual photographs will only be used, with individual parental consent, prior to the inclusion on the club website or in the local press.
- Provide a clear brief to the photographer about what is considered appropriate in terms of content and behaviour.
- Do not allow unsupervised access to children or one to one photo sessions at events.
- Children and parents should be informed that if they have concerns they could report these to the organiser.
- Concerns regarding inappropriate or intrusive photography should be reported to the event organiser or official and recorded in the same manner as any other child protection concern.



## MOUTHGUARDS

It is now mandatory to use a mouthguard in all GAA Football Games and GAA Practice Football sessions for all age grades up to and including adult. Further information on mouthguards can be obtained from the GAA's website (<http://gaa.ie/medical-and-player-welfare/mouthguards/>).

**If a child does not have a mouthguard he / she will not be allowed to participate.**

## HYDRATION

Maintaining proper hydration levels is important if one is to perform a sporting activity to the best of their ability and in order to aid recovery from exercise. We recommend that every player brings a suitable drink (water preferably, but not fizzy drinks) with them to training and games. We ask that the bottle is taken away again afterwards – the best environmental option is then to rinse and re-use it.

## 2019 CHARITY PARTNER – HOME START



**A child's early years are critical to their future.  
We help families give their children the best start in life.**

### ***Why it matters***

**Home-Start believes** that the years between birth and school are vital for a child's development. What goes on inside a family strongly determines the opportunities and life chances children have. Children who are raised in a stable, loving, family environment are more likely to have a positive and healthy future.

Home-Start works because our volunteers are parents. They understand how hard it can be. They work alongside parents, in their own homes, to help them cope with the stresses and strains of life and make sure they have the skills, confidence and strength they need to nurture their children.

## ALCOHOL AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE PREVENTION

St John's believe that there no place for alcohol or drug abuse in sport and indeed that these are detrimental to our society as a whole.

St John's have run seminars and workshops aimed an empowering young people to make informed, sensible and mature decision regarding these issues over the past number of years and will continue to give these matter close attention.

**In line with GAA best practice we hope to develop and implement a policy dealing with drug and alcohol related issues in the near future and your input would be welcomed.**

It is against the law for anyone

- to knowingly sell alcohol to a person under 18 years of age
- to give alcohol to anyone under 14 years of age
- to buy alcohol for someone under 18 years of age to consume on a licensed premises

We acknowledge that some parents may give or allow older teenagers to take a drink at home in the hope that this may "demystify" drinking and avoid binge drinking when they child turns 18. We respect the parents right to do this, but **please do not expect or "allow" anyone under 18 years of age to get an alcoholic drink at St John's.**

**If you have any concerns about alcohol or drug abuse please contact our Healthy Club Officer (details below).**

## DESIGNATED PERSONS

It is the policy of St John's GAC to have at least two designated Child Protection Officer, ideally one male and one female.

Our Designated Child Protection Officer for 2019 is:-

**Laura Branniff      077 4346 0685**

Other officers you may want to speak to include

Coaching Officer	Mickey Flynn	077 6475 5348
Children's Officer	Sarah Cunningham	077 8787 2526
Chairperson	Jimmy Laverty	077 6335 7210
Secretary	Maureen Ward	077 9306 6146
Healthy Club Officer	Kevin McGlynn	078 3596 0804

**The most important person is the child**

This information should be read in conjunction with  
GAA Code of Best Practice in Youth Sport



## YOUTH / PARENTAL CONSENT

**This information will be treated in the strictest confidence.**

I have read and understood the “2019 Information to Parents and Juvenile Players” and give consent that my child be a member of St John’s GAC. He/She may take part in the various under-age activities organised by St John’s GAC and may travel to various venues as required to represent the club in competitions and games.

I shall endeavour to abide by the club’s code of conduct for parents.

In the event of illness or an accident, I authorize the team manager or other official of the club to sign on my behalf any written forms of consent required by medical authorities, if the delay required to obtain my own signature is considered unnecessary or inadvisable by the Doctor or Surgeon concerned.

I do give / do not give\* permission for my child to be photographed and videoed while representing St John’s GAC. \* Delete as appropriate

Parent/Guardian Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Contact No.: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/2019

I have read and understood the club’s Youth Players’ Code of Conduct and I shall endeavour to abide by it.

Youth member name:	DOB	Signature	Date
_____	__/__/__	_____	__/__/2019
_____	__/__/__	_____	__/__/2019
_____	__/__/__	_____	__/__/2019
_____	__/__/__	_____	__/__/2019
_____	__/__/__	_____	__/__/2019

## MEDICAL/EMERGENCY DETAILS

**This information will be treated in the strictest confidence.**

Please indicate if you son/daughter suffers from an illness, medical condition e.g. asthma, diabetes), allergy (e.g. food allergies, penicillin, elastoplast, etc.) or injury or is undergoing or receiving any medication of which we should be made aware. If yes, please give details:-

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National Health Service Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Family Doctor's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Doctor' Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Doctor's Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact Details:

Name	Relationship	Contact No.
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____