

Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment

Child Safeguarding Statement

[Insert school name] is a primary/special/post-primary school providing primary/post-primary education to pupils from Junior Infants to Sixth Class/First Year to Leaving Certificate Year (delete as appropriate).

In accordance with the requirements of the Children First Act 2015, Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children 2017, the Addendum to Children First (2019), the Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools 2017 and Tusla Guidance on the preparation of Child Safeguarding Statements, the Board of Management of [insert school name] has agreed the Child Safeguarding Statement set out in this document.

- 1 The Board of Management has adopted and will implement fully and without modification the Department's Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools 2017 as part of this overall Child Safeguarding Statement
- 2 The Designated Liaison Person (DLP) is Kay Joyce
- 3 The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is Ciara Molloy
- 4 The Board of Management recognises that child protection and welfare considerations permeate all aspects of school life and must be reflected in all of the school's policies, procedures, practices and activities. In its policies, procedures, practices and activities, the school will adhere to the following principles of best practice in child protection and welfare:

The school will:

- recognise that the protection and welfare of children is of paramount importance, regardless of all other considerations;
- fully comply with its statutory obligations under the Children First Act 2015 and other relevant legislation relating to the protection and welfare of children;
- fully co-operate with the relevant statutory authorities in relation to child protection and welfare matters;
- adopt safe practices to minimise the possibility of harm or accidents happening to children and protect workers from the necessity to take unnecessary risks that may leave themselves open to accusations of abuse or neglect;
- develop a practice of openness with parents and encourage parental involvement in the education of their children; and
- fully respect confidentiality requirements in dealing with child protection matters.

The school will also adhere to the above principles in relation to any adult pupil with a special vulnerability.

5 The following procedures/measures are in place:

- In relation to any member of staff who is the subject of any investigation (howsoever described) in respect of any act, omission or circumstance in respect of a child attending the school, the school adheres to the relevant procedures set out in Chapter 7 of the Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017 and to the relevant agreed disciplinary procedures for school staff which are published on the DE website.
- In relation to the selection or recruitment of staff and their suitability to work with children, the school adheres to the statutory vetting requirements of the National Vetting Bureau (Children and Vulnerable Persons) Acts 2012 to 2016 and to the wider duty of care guidance set out in relevant Garda vetting and recruitment circulars published by the Department of Education and available on the DE website.
- In relation to the provision of information and, where necessary, instruction and training, to staff in respect of the identification of the occurrence of harm (as defined in the 2015 Act) the school-
 - Has provided each member of staff with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement
 - Ensures all new staff are provided with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement
 - Encourages staff to avail of relevant training
 - Encourages Board of Management members to avail of relevant training
 - The Board of Management maintains records of all staff and Board member training
- In relation to reporting of child protection concerns to Tusla, all school personnel are required to adhere to the procedures set out in the Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017, including in the case of registered teachers, those in relation to mandated reporting under the Children First Act 2015.
- In this school the Board has appointed the abovenamed DLP as the "relevant person" (as defined in the Children First Act 2015) to be the first point of contact in respect of the school's child safeguarding statement.
- All registered teachers employed by the school are mandated persons under the Children First Act 2015.
- In accordance with the Children First Act 2015 and the Addendum to Children First (2019), the Board has carried out an assessment of any potential for harm to a child while attending the school or participating in school activities. A written assessment setting out the areas of risk identified and the school's procedures for managing those risks is included with the Child Safeguarding Statement.
- The various procedures referred to in this Statement can be accessed via the school's website, the DE website or will be made available on request by the school.

Note: The above is not intended as an exhaustive list. Individual Boards of Management shall also include in this section such other procedures/measures that are of relevance to the school in question.

6 This statement has been published on the school's website and has been provided to all members of school personnel, the Parents' Association (if any) and the patron. It is readily accessible to parents and guardians on request. A copy of this Statement will be made available to Tulsa and the Department if requested.

7 This Child Safeguarding Statement will be reviewed annually or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which this statement refers.

This Child Safeguarding Statement was adopted by the Board of Management on 28/9/22 [date].

This Child Safeguarding Statement was reviewed by the Board of Management on 28/9/22, [most recent review date].

Signed: Michael McFadden
Chairperson of Board of Management

Signed: Kan Joyce
Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Date: 28/9/22

Date: 28/9/22

Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment

Written Assessment of Risk of [name of school]

In accordance with section 11 of the Children First Act 2015 and with the requirement of Chapter 8 of the *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017*, the following is the Written Risk Assessment of [name of school].

<p>1. List of school activities</p> <p>(insert list of school activities in this section)</p>	<p>2. The school has identified the following risk of harm in respect of its activities –</p> <p>(insert risks of harm identified in this section)</p>	<p>3. The school has the following procedures in place to address the risks of harm identified in this assessment -</p> <p>(insert the procedures in place to address risks of harm in this section)</p>
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Important Note: It should be noted that risk in the context of this risk assessment is the risk of “harm” as defined in the Children First Act 2015 and not general health and safety risk. The definition of harm is set out in Chapter 4 of the *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017*

Appendix 4 Checklist for annual review of the anti-bullying policy and its implementation

The Board of Management (the Board) must undertake an annual review of the school's anti-bullying policy and its implementation. The following checklist must be used for this purpose. The checklist is an aid to conducting this review and is not intended as an exhaustive list. In order to complete the checklist, an examination and review involving both quantitative and qualitative analysis, as appropriate across the various elements of the implementation of the school's anti-bullying policy will be required.

	Yes /No
Has the Board formally adopted an anti-bullying policy that fully complies with the requirements of the <i>Anti-Bullying Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools</i> ?	yes
Has the Board published the policy on the school website and provided a copy to the parents' association?	yes
Has the Board ensured that the policy has been made available to school staff (including new staff)?	yes
Is the Board satisfied that school staff are sufficiently familiar with the policy and procedures to enable them to effectively and consistently apply the policy and procedures in their day to day work?	yes
Has the Board ensured that the policy has been adequately communicated to all pupils?	yes
Has the policy documented the prevention and education strategies that the school applies?	yes
Have all of the prevention and education strategies been implemented?	yes
Has the effectiveness of the prevention and education strategies that have been implemented been examined?	yes
Is the Board satisfied that all teachers are recording and dealing with incidents in accordance with the policy?	yes
Has the Board received and minuted the periodic summary reports of the Principal?	yes
Has the Board discussed how well the school is handling all reports of bullying including those addressed at an early stage and not therefore included in the Principal's periodic report to the Board?	yes
Has the Board received any complaints from parents regarding the school's handling of bullying incidents?	no
Have any parents withdrawn their child from the school citing dissatisfaction with the school's handling of a bullying situation?	no
Have any Ombudsman for Children investigations into the school's handling of a bullying case been initiated or completed?	n/a
Has the data available from cases reported to the Principal (by the bullying recording template) been analysed to identify any issues, trends or patterns in bullying behaviour?	n/a
Has the Board identified any aspects of the school's policy and/or its implementation that require further improvement?	no
Has the Board put in place an action plan to address any areas for improvement?	n/a

Signed Mubal Whittaker
Chairperson, Board of Management

Date 28/9/22

Signed Kay Joyce
Principal

Date 28/9/22

Notification regarding the Board of Management’s annual review of the anti-bullying policy

To: _____

The Board of Management of _____ wishes to inform you that:

- The Board of Management’s annual review of the school’s anti-bullying policy and its implementation was completed at the Board meeting of _____ [date].
- This review was conducted in accordance with the checklist set out in **Appendix 4** of the Department’s *Anti-Bullying Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools*.

Signed _____
Chairperson, Board of Management

Date _____

Signed _____
Principal

Date _____

Mandatory Template 2: Checklist for Review of the Child Safeguarding Statement

The *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017* require that the Board of Management must undertake a review of its Child Safeguarding Statement and that the following checklist shall be used for this purpose. **The review must be completed every year or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which the Child Safeguarding Statement refers.** Undertaking an annual review will also ensure that a school also meets its statutory obligation under section 11(8) of the Children First Act 2015, to review its Child Safeguarding Statement every two years.

The checklist is designed as an aid to conducting this review and is not intended as an exhaustive list of the issues to be considered. Individual Boards of Management shall include other items in the checklist that are of relevance to the school in question.

As part of the overall review process, Boards of Management should also assess relevant school policies, procedures, practices and activities vis a vis their adherence to the principles of best practice in child protection and welfare as set out in the school's Child Safeguarding Statement, the Children First Act 2015, the Addendum to Children First (2019) and the *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017*.

	Yes/No
1. Has the Board formally adopted a Child Safeguarding Statement in accordance with the 'Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools 2017'?	yes
2. Is the Board satisfied that the Child Safeguarding Statement is displayed in a prominent place near the main entrance to the school?	yes
3. As part of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement, has the Board formally adopted, without modification, the 'Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools 2017'?	yes
4. Does the school's Child Safeguarding Statement include a written assessment of risk as required under the Children First Act 2015 ? (This includes considering the specific issue of online safety as required by the Addendum to Children First)	yes
5. Has the Board reviewed and updated where necessary the written assessment of risk as part of this overall review?	yes
6. Has the Risk Assessment taken account of the risk of harm relevant to online teaching and learning remotely?	yes
7. Has the DLP attended available child protection training?	yes
8. Has the Deputy DLP attended available child protection training?	no
9. Have any members of the Board attended child protection training?	yes
10. Are there both a DLP and a Deputy DLP currently appointed?	yes
11. Are the relevant contact details (Tusla and An Garda Síochána) to hand?	yes
12. Has the Board arrangements in place to communicate the school's Child Safeguarding Statement to new school personnel?	yes
13. Is the Board satisfied that all school personnel have been made aware of their responsibilities under the 'Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools 2017' and the Children First Act 2015?	yes
14. Has the Board received a Principals Child Protection Oversight Report (CPOR) at each Board meeting held since the last review was undertaken?	yes
15. Since the Board's last review, did each CPOR contain all of the information required under each of the 4 headings set out in sections 9.5 to 9.8 inclusive of the procedures?	yes
16. Since the Board's last review, has the Board been provided with and reviewed all documents relevant to the CPOR?	yes
17. Since the Board's last review, have the minutes of each Board meeting appropriately recorded the records provided to the Board as part of CPOR report?	yes
18. Have the minutes of each Board meeting appropriately recorded the CPOR report?	yes

19. Is the Board satisfied that the child protection procedures in relation to the making of reports to Tusla/An Garda Síochána were appropriately followed in each case reviewed?	yes
20. Is the Board satisfied that, since the last review, all appropriate actions are being or have been taken in respect of any member of school personnel against whom an allegation of abuse or neglect has been made?*	Yes (n/a)
21. Where applicable, were unique identifiers used to record child protection matters in the Board minutes?	yes
22. Is the Board satisfied that all records relating to child protection are appropriately filed and stored securely?	yes
23. Has the Board been notified by any parent in relation to that parent not receiving the standard notification required under section 5.6 of the 'Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools 2017'?	no
24. In relation to any cases identified at question 20 above, has the Board ensured that any notifications required under section 5.6 of the 'Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools 2017' were subsequently issued by the DLP?	n/a
25. Has the Board ensured that the Parents' Association (if any), has been provided with the school's Child Safeguarding Statement?	yes
26. Has the Board ensured that the patron has been provided with the school's Child Safeguarding Statement?	yes
27. Has the Board ensured that the school's Child Safeguarding Statement is available to parents on request?	yes
28. Has the Board ensured that the Stay Safe programme is implemented in full in the school? (applies to primary schools)	yes
29. Has the Board ensured that the Wellbeing Programme for Junior Cycle students is implemented in full in the school? (applies to post- primary schools)	n/a
30. Has the Board ensured that the SPHE curriculum is implemented in full in the school?	yes
31. Is the Board satisfied that the statutory requirements for Garda Vetting have been met in respect of all school personnel (employees and volunteers)? *	yes
32. Is the Board satisfied that the Department's requirements in relation to the provision of a child protection related statutory declaration and associated form of undertaking have been met in respect of persons appointed to teaching and non-teaching positions?*	yes
33. Is the Board satisfied that, from a child protection perspective, thorough recruitment and selection procedures are applied by the school in relation to all school personnel (employees and volunteers)?*	yes
34. Has the Board considered and addressed any complaints or suggestions for improvements regarding the school's Child Safeguarding Statement?	Yes (no issues)
35. Has the Board sought the feedback of parents in relation to the school's compliance with the requirements of the child safeguarding requirements of the 'Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools 2017'?	yes
36. Has the Board sought the feedback of pupils in relation to the school's child safeguarding arrangements?	yes
37. Is the Board satisfied that the 'Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools 2017' are being fully and adequately implemented by the school?	yes
38. Has the Board identified any aspects of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement and/or its implementation that require further improvement?	no
39. Has the Board put in place an action plan containing appropriate timelines to address those aspects of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement and/or its implementation that have been identified as requiring further improvement?	n/a
40. Has the Board ensured that any areas for improvement that were identified in any previous review of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement have been adequately addressed?	n/a

*In schools where the ETB is the employer the responsibility for meeting the employer's requirements rests with the ETB concerned. In such cases, this question should be completed following consultation with the ETB.

Signed Michael Whittaker Date 28/9/22

Chairperson, Board of Management

Signed Kay Ina Date 28/9/22

Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Note: Where a school is undertaking its first review, references in this checklist to the “last review” shall be taken to refer to the date on which the Child Safeguarding Statement was first put in place.

Notification regarding the Board of Management's review of the Child Safeguarding Statement

To: Parents Association , St. Colman's N.S. Mucklagh

The Board of Management of St. Colman's N.S. wishes to inform you that:

- The Board of Management's annual review of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement was completed at the Board meeting of 28/9/22 [date].
- This review was conducted in accordance with the "Checklist for Review of the Child Safeguarding Statement" published on the Department's 'website www.education.ie

Signed Michael Whittaker Date 28/9/22

Chairperson, Board of Management

Signed Kay Joyce Date 28/9/22

Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management