

Tullamore Educate Together N.S

Child Safeguarding Statement

Tullamore Educate Together National School provides primary education to pupils from Junior Infants to Sixth Class. In addition to its mainstream classes, there is an ASD unit which makes educational provision for twelve children with an ASD.

In accordance with the requirements of the Children First Act 2015, Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children 2017, 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 Tullamore ETNS has agreed the Child Safeguarding Statement set out in this document.

For the purpose of this document "harm" means, in relation to a child-(a) assault, ill-treatment or neglect of the child in a manner that seriously affects or is likely to seriously affect the child's health, development or welfare, or (b) sexual abuse of the child. (*Children First Act 2015*)

- 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 Cathy Lyons.
- 3** The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (DLP) is Rebecca Quigley.
- 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.
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The school will also adhere to the above principles in relation to any adult pupil/employee 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 DES 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 DES and available on the DES 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 above named DLP as the "relevant person" (as defined in the Children First Act 2015) to be the first point of contact in respect of the 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, 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 attached as an appendix to these procedures.
 - The various procedures referred to in this Statement can be accessed via the school's website, the DES website or will be made available on request by the school.
- 6** This statement has been published on the school's website and has been provided to all members of school personnel, the Parents' Association and the patron. It is readily accessible to parents and guardians on request. A copy of this Statement will be made available to Tusla 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

Signed: _____

CHAIRPERSON of BOARD of MANAGEMENT

Date: 11/03/18

Signed: _____

PRINCIPAL

Date: 11/03/18

Appendix 1: Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment

Written Assessment of Risk of Tullamore Educate Together N.S, Tullamore, Co.Offaly.

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 Tullamore ETNS

For the purpose of this document "harm" means, in relation to a child-(a) assault, ill-treatment or neglect of the child in a manner that seriously affects or is likely to seriously affect the child's health, development or welfare, or (b) sexual abuse of the child. (*Children First Act 2015*)

1. List of school activities

Risk identified	Risk Level	Potential risk of harm	Procedure in place to manage risk identified
Opening/Closing Times and Break Times	Low	<p>Access to pupils by strangers or other adults.</p> <p>Risk of harm from other pupils.</p>	<p>Supervision by Principal or Deputy Principal from 9.10 a.m. Parents are informed annually not to drop off children before this time</p> <p>The yard doors are closed at 9.25 a.m. and a key code is necessary for entry after that. Late arrivals go through the Administration Office.</p> <p>Supervision by 4 SNAs and 3 teachers during 11am and 1pm breaks daily.</p>

			<p>Adequate supervision at break times.</p> <p>Dismissal of pupils is supervised by teachers at all times</p>
<p>Training of school personnel in Child Protection matters</p>	<p>Low risk</p>	<p>Failure to follow protocols and procedures</p>	<p>Child Safeguarding Statement & DES procedures accessible to all.</p> <p>DLP & DDLP to attend PDST face to face training.</p> <p>All staff to complete Tusla training module and all other online training offered by PDST</p> <p>BOM records all records of staff and board training.</p>

<p>Visitors/Visiting Tutors/Sports coaches</p>	<p>Low</p>	<p>Tutors behaving inappropriately</p> <p>Tutors lacking awareness of child safety issues.</p>	<p>Visiting tutors from reputable organisations with appropriate vetting.</p> <p>Coaches - insurance</p> <p>Sign in/Sign out</p> <p>Glass panels in doors.</p> <p>Give a copy of Safeguarding Procedures & Risk Assessment to all coaches.</p> <p>Teacher present at all times.</p>
<p>One to one teaching/Working alone with children</p>	<p>Low</p>	<p>Harm by school personnel</p>	<p>Glass in window of door.</p> <p>Policy to be drawn up on one to one teaching.</p> <p>SEN Policy</p> <p>We have one room used for</p>

			teaching on a part time basis without a glass panel. The door is left open in this room during 1:1 teaching
School Tours/Outings	Med	<p>Access to pupils by strangers.</p> <p>Inappropriate activity by pupils.</p> <p>Dangers posed by unfamiliar environment</p>	<p>Adequate supervision</p> <p>Adequate planning and preparation by staff.</p> <p>Supervision Policy</p> <p>Stay Safe Programme</p>
Care of children with special needs, including intimate care needs	Low	<p>Harm by school personnel</p> <p>Harm by child to another child</p> <p>Inappropriate behaviour - child to child</p>	<p>SEN Policy</p> <p>Two staff members attend</p> <p>Adequate supervision</p> <p>Adequate Training</p> <p>Very good classroom management practices</p>

Access/Egress	Low	Access to pupils by strangers or other adults. Flight risk for some pupils	Codes to enter the school building. Sign in and out book at reception. Supervised dismissal of children by teachers at all times.
Managing of challenging behaviour amongst pupils, including appropriate use of restraint	Low	Injury to pupils and staff	Health & Safety Policy Procedures in place Code of behaviour
Toilet at break time	Low	Inappropriate behaviour	Specific toilet use on lower level One child at a time entering toilets. Teacher always on indoor duty
Swimming Lessons/Sports Events	Med	Potential for unsupervised	Adequate supervision provided.

		times in changing areas. Access to pupils by strangers or other adults.	Trained lifeguards in pool Specific protocol by teachers/SNAs
Curricular Provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe programme	Low	Non-teaching of same	School implements SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe in full. See SPHE policy for commencement dates. CM reflects teaching of same.
Social Media	Low	Potential for bullying. Potential for grooming of pupils	Mobile phone policy Anti-Bullying Policy Information sessions for pupils, parents and staff
Use of information and communication	Low	Bullying	ICT Policy

Technology by pupils in school			Anti-bullying Policy Code of behaviour
Use of video/photography/other media to record school events	Low	Inappropriate sharing of photos	Request permission from parents/guardian on enrolment form to take photos of children. Mobile phone policy.
Students participating in work experience and teaching practice Volunteering by parents	Low	Harm by student	Garda vetting Work experience policy Child Safeguarding Statement

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*.

In undertaking this risk assessment, the board of management has endeavoured to identify as far as possible the risks of harm that are relevant to this school and to ensure that adequate procedures are in place to manage

all risks identified. While it is not possible to foresee and remove all risk of harm, the school has in place the procedures listed in this risk assessment to manage and reduce risk to the greatest possible extent.

This risk assessment has been completed by the Board of Management on 11/03/18. It shall be reviewed as part of the school’s annual review of its Child Safeguarding Statement.

Signed _____

Date _____

Chairperson, Board of Management

Signed _____

Date _____

Principal