

# Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment

## Child Safeguarding Statement

Tullamore Educate Together NS is a primary school providing primary/post-primary education to pupils from Junior Infants to Sixth Class.

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 Cathy Lyons
- 3 The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is Michelle Cleary
- 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 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 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 schools 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 DES 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 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 \_\_\_\_\_ [date].

This Child Safeguarding Statement was reviewed by the Board of Management on \_\_\_\_\_ [most recent review date].

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

*Signed:* \_\_\_\_\_  
Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

*Date:* \_\_\_\_\_

*Date:* \_\_\_\_\_

# 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 requirements 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].

### 1. List of school activities

1. Daily arrival/dismissal and recreation breaks of pupils.
2. Training of school personnel in Child Protection matters.
3. Use of external personnel to support sports and other extra-curricular activities.
4. Class teaching/One to one teaching/Online teaching and learning remotely.
5. School Tours/Outings
6. Care of children with special needs, including intimate care needs
7. Access/Egress
8. Managing of challenging behaviour amongst pupils, including appropriate use of restraint.
9. Use of toilet/ toilet at break time.
10. Swimming Lessons/Sporting Activities.
11. Curricular Provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe programme.
12. Use of information and Communication Technology by pupils in school including social media.
13. Annual Sports Day
14. Use of video/photography/other media to record school events
15. Students participating in work experience and teaching placement. School Transport Arrangements including use of bus escorts
16. Administration of Medicines. Administration of First Aid
17. Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst pupils.
18. Care of pupils with specific vulnerabilities such as:
  - Pupil from ethnic minorities/migrants
  - Members of the Traveller community
  - LGBT children
  - Children in care
  - Children on CPNS
  - Children with medical needs
19. Recruitment of school personnel including; teachers/SNA/Ancillary Staff/Sports Coaches/External Tutors/Guest Speakers/Visitors/Contractors present during school hours
20. Application of sanctions under the school's code of behaviour: Confiscation of phone. After school use of school premises by other organisation. Use of school premises by other organisations during the school day.

## 2. The school has identified the following risk of harm in respect of its activities -

1. Access to pupils by strangers or other adults. Risk of harm from other pupils.
2. Failure to follow protocols and procedures.
3. Tutors behaving inappropriately or lacking awareness of child safety issues.
4. Harm by school personnel. Risk of harm such as an uninvited person accessing the lesson link. Risk of harm with inappropriate communications between a child and school personnel.
5. Access to pupils by strangers. Inappropriate activity by pupils. Dangers posed by unfamiliar environment
6. Harm by school personnel. Harm by a child to another child. Inappropriate behaviour - child to child.
7. Access to pupils by strangers or other adults. Flight risk for some pupils.
8. Injury to pupils and staff.
9. Inappropriate behaviour.
10. Potential for unsupervised times in changing areas. Access to pupils by strangers or other adults.
11. Non-teaching of same.
12. Potential for bullying. Potential for grooming of pupils.
13. Spectators and use of digital devices.
14. Inappropriate sharing of photos.
15. Harm by student. Harm to child.
16. Harm to child.
17. Not being recognised by school personnel.
18. Bullying being recognised by school personnel. Bullying not being disclosed by the child.
19. Harm to child. Inappropriate Communications.
20. Inability of child to contact parent. Harm to child. Inappropriate Communications.

### 3. The school has the following procedures in place to address the risks of harm identified in this assessment -

#### **1. Supervision by Principal or Deputy Principal from 9.10 a.m. Parents are informed annually termly not to drop off children before this time.**

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.

Supervision by 4 SNAs and 3 teachers during 11am and 1pm breaks daily.

Adequate supervision at break times.

Dismissal of pupils is supervised by teachers at all times.

#### **2. Child Safeguarding Statement & DES procedures accessible to all.**

DLP & DDLP to attend PDST face to face training.

All staff to complete Tusla training module and all other online training offered by PDST

BOM records all records of staff and board training.

#### **3. Visiting tutors from reputable organisations with appropriate vetting.**

Coaches – insurance.

Sign in/Sign out.

Glass panels in doors.

Give a copy of Safeguarding Procedures & Risk Assessment to all coaches.

Teacher is present at all times.

#### **4. Glass in window of door.**

Policy to be drawn up on one to one teaching.

SEN Policy.

We have one room used for teaching on a part time basis without a glass panel. The door is left open in this room during 1:1 teaching.

We do not use reoccurring links.

Remote learning policy.

Two school personnel present with one child and /or child to engage from a room with a family member present.

#### **5. Adequate supervision**

Adequate planning and preparation by staff.

Supervision Policy.

Stay Safe Programme.

## **6. SEN Policy**

Two staff members attend.

Adequate supervision.

Adequate Training.

Very good classroom management practices.

## **7. Codes to enter the school building.**

Sign in and out book at reception.

Supervised dismissal of children by teachers at all times.

## **8. Health & Safety Policy.**

Procedures in place.

Code of behaviour.

## **9. Specific toilet use on lower level.**

One child at a time entering toilets.

Teacher always on indoor duty. .

## **10. Adequate supervision provided.**

Trained lifeguards in pool.

Specific protocol by teachers/SNAs.

## **11. School implements SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe in full. See SPHE policy for commencement dates.**

CM reflects teaching of same.

## **12. Mobile phone policy.**

Anti-Bullying Policy.

Information sessions for pupils, parents and staff.

ICT Policy.

Code of Behaviour.

## **13. Supervision.**

Policy on Photographs/Recording.

## **14. Request permission from parents/guardian on enrolment form to take photos of children.**

No sharing of photos/video on social media request.

**15. Garda vetting.**

Work experience policy.  
Child Safeguarding Statement.  
College Policy on Placement.  
Two adults present.

**16. Admin of medicines policy.**

Staff training.  
Indemnity.  
Accident log book.  
Two personnel aware of need for first aid.

**17. Anti-bullying Policy.**

School undertakes initiatives to counteract bullying.  
Supervision Policy.  
Stay Safe programme.  
SPHE / RSE Programme.

**18. Enrolment Forms-awareness of cultural backgrounds.**

SPHE/Ethical Curriculum.  
RSE/Stay Safe Programme.  
School undertakes initiatives to increase awareness.  
Anti-Bullying Policies.

**19. Garda Vetting.**

Recruitment Procedures.  
Teachers present.

**20. School Personnel Present.**

Supervision.  
Parent is made aware of need to collect phone before the child leaves the premises.  
Evidence of Garda Vetting.  
References.

**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 ..... [date]. 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/Secretary to the Board of Management