



Child Safeguarding Statement

Donaghpatrick N.S is a primary school providing 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 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 Donaghpatrick N.S 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: **Muireann Cradock**
- 3 The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is: **Olive Bhreathnach**
- 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. The school will adhere to the following principles of best practice in child protection and welfare.
The school will:
 - a. recognise that the protection and welfare of children is of paramount importance, regardless of all other considerations
 - b. fully comply with its statutory obligations under the Children First Act 2015 and other relevant legislation relating to the protection and welfare of children
 - c. fully co-operate with the relevant statutory authorities in relation to child protection and welfare matters
 - d. 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
 - e. develop a practice of openness with parents and encourage parental involvement in the education of their children
 - f. fully respect confidentiality requirements in dealing with child protection matters
- 5 The following procedures/measures are in place:
 - a. 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
 - b. 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

- c. 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:
- i. Has provided each member of staff with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement
 - ii. Ensures all new staff are provided with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement
 - iii. Encourages staff to avail of relevant training
 - iv. Encourages Board of Management members to avail of relevant training
 - v. The Board of Management maintains records of all staff and Board member training.
- d. 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
- e. 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 school's child safeguarding statement.
- 6 All registered teachers employed by the school are mandated persons under the Children First Act 2015
- 7 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
- 8 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
- 9 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.
- 10 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 8th March 2018.

Signed: *Vincent Judge*

Chairperson of BoM

Date: 8-10-2018

Signed: *Muiréann Bradock*

Principal/Secretary to the BoM

Date: 8-3-2018

Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment

List of School Activities	Risk Level	The School has identified the following Risk of Harm	The School has the following Procedures in place to address risk identified in this assessment
Training of school personnel in Child Protection matters	High	Harm not recognised or reported promptly	<p>Child Safeguarding Statement & DES procedures made available to all staff</p> <p>DLP& DDLP to attend PDST face to face training All Staff to view Túsla training module & any other online training offered by PDST</p> <p>BOM records all records of staff and board training</p>
One to one teaching	Med	Harm by school personnel	<p>School has a policy in place for one to one teaching – See SEN Policy</p> <p>If no glass in doors – open them and make another member of staff aware that one-one teaching is taking place</p> <p>[Where one-one teaching is taking place with a junior student, the teacher will talk back with student where possible]</p> <p>Glass in window</p>
Care of Children with special needs, including intimate care needs	High	Harm by school personnel	Policy on intimate care
Toilet areas	High	Inappropriate behaviour	<p>Permission sought from teachers</p> <p>One at a time normally</p>
Curricular Provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay safe.	Med	Non-teaching of same	School implements SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe in full
Children/Pupils of all minorities	Low	Bullying	<p>Anti-Bullying Policy</p> <p>Code of Behaviour</p>
Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils at opening and closing	Med	Harm from older pupils, unknown adults on the playground	Arrival and dismissal supervised by Teachers
Managing of challenging behaviour amongst pupils, including appropriate use of restraint	High	Injury to pupils and staff	<p>Health & Safety Policy</p> <p>Code of Behaviour</p>

External Personnel	Med	Harm to pupils	Policy & Procedures in place
Students participating in work experience	Low	Harm by student	Work experience Policy Child Safeguarding Statement.
Recreation breaks for pupils	High	Harm by student	Code of Behaviour Anti-Bullying Policy Supervision Policy
Classroom teaching	Low	Harm by student School Personnel	Code of Behaviour Code of Conduct
School outings e.g. tours, matches, churches, nature walks, retreats, show rehearsals, representing school at events	High	Harm to pupils from unknown adults, harm by other pupils or school personnel	Code of behaviour 2 members of staff will be present where possible
Use of toilet/changing/shower areas in schools	High	Harm by pupils or school personnel	Individual changing/ showering
Annual Sports Day	Medium	Harm by Students, school personnel, visiting coaches	Code of Behaviour, code of anti-bullying, supervision procedures, code of conduct
Use of Swimming facilities	High	Harm by unknown adults, school personnel, pupils, unknown adults, bullying	Swimming pool Children First procedures Code of Behaviour Code of Conduct
Administration of Medicine Administration of First Aid	High	Harm by school personnel	Administration of Medication Policy Intimate Care Policy Anti-bullying policy Code of behaviour
Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst pupils	High	Harm by pupils	Anti- Bullying Policy Code of Behaviour SPHE Curriculum
Recruitment of school personnel including - Teachers - SNAs - Caretaker/Secretary /Cleaners - Sports coaches	Medium	Harm not recognised or properly or promptly reported	Child Safeguarding Statement & DES procedures made available to all staff Staff to view Tusla training module & any other online training offered by PDST Vetting Procedures

-External Tutors/Guest Speakers -Volunteers/Parents in school activities - Visitors/contractors present in school during school hours - Visitors/contractors present during after school activities			
Use of school premises by other organisation during or after school day	High	Harm by personnel and pupils	Code of Conduct Safeguarding statements from other organisation, vetting, use of CCTV, Two adults present where possible
Use of Information and Communication Technology by pupils in school	Low	Bullying	ICT policy Anti-Bullying Policy Code of Behaviour Stay Safe
Application of sanctions under the school's Code of Behaviour including detention of pupils	High	Harm by school personnel	Anti-Bullying Policy Code of Conduct
Use of video/photography/other media to record school events	High	Harm to personnel and pupils	Data Protection Policy and Procedures SPHE Curriculum
Serving in the church for funerals/weddings during school time	High	Harm to pupils	Safeguarding statement from church Supervision where possible on journey to and from church Two adults present where possible Signing in and out of school premises
Children going to office/ staffroom	Medium	Harm to pupils	Code of conduct Code of behaviour Always send two students where possible
Unknown adult into school	Low	Harm to pupils or school personnel	Buzzer on door – only adult allowed to open CCTV

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 the 8th March, 2018. It will be reviewed as part of the school’s annual review of its Child Safeguarding Statement.

Signed Vincent Judge Date 8-03-2018

Chairperson, Board of Management

Signed Muireann Craddock Date 8-03-2018

Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management