

Mandatory Template 1: Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment Template

Child Safeguarding Statement

Donaghpatrick NS 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 Addendum to Children First \(2019\)](#), the [Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools \(revised 2023\)](#) and [Tusla Guidance on the preparation of Child Safeguarding Statements](#), the Board of Management of Donaghpatrick NS 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 (revised 2023)* 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 Relevant Person is Muireann Cradock
(*The relevant person is one who can provide information in respect of how the child safeguarding statement was developed and will be able to provide the statement on request. In a school setting the relevant person shall be the designated liaison person.*)
- 5 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.

- 6 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 (revised 2023) and to the relevant agreed disciplinary procedures for school staff which are published on the gov.ie 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 gov.ie 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 (revised 2023)*, including in the case of registered teachers, those in relation to mandated reporting under the Children First Act 2015.
- 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 gov.ie 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.

- 7 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.
- 8 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 23rd November, 2023.

This Child Safeguarding Statement was reviewed by the Board of Management on 2nd July, 2024.

Signed: Vincent Judge

Chairperson of Board of Management

Date: 02-07-2024

Signed: Muireann Craddock

Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Date: 02-07-2024

Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment

Written Assessment of Risk of Donaghpatrick National School, Caherlistrane, Co. Galway

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 (revised 2023)*, the following is the Written Risk Assessment of Donaghpatrick NS.

List of School Activities	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	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</p> <p>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	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	Harm by school personnel	Policy on intimate care
Toilet areas	Inappropriate behaviour	<p>Permission sought from teachers</p> <p>One at a time normally</p>
Curricular Provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay safe.	Non-teaching of same	School implements SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe in full
Children/Pupils of all minorities	Bullying	<p>Anti-Bullying Policy</p> <p>Code of Behaviour</p>

Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils at opening and closing	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	Injury to pupils and staff	Health & Safety Policy Code of Behaviour
External Personnel	Harm to pupils	Policy & Procedures in place
Students participating in work experience	Harm by student	Work experience Policy Child Safeguarding Statement.
Recreation breaks for pupils	Harm by student	Code of Behaviour Anti-Bullying Policy Supervision Policy
Classroom teaching	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	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	Harm by pupils or school personnel	Individual changing/ showering
Annual Sports Day	Harm by Students, school personnel, visiting coaches	Code of Behaviour, code of anti-bullying, supervision procedures, code of conduct
Use of Swimming facilities	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	Harm by school personnel	Administration of Medication Policy Intimate Care Policy Anti-bullying policy Code of behaviour

Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst pupils	Harm by pupils	Anti- Bullying Policy Code of Behaviour SPHE Curriculum
Recruitment of school personnel including - Teachers - SNAs - Caretaker/Secretary /Cleaners - Sports coaches -External Tutors/Guest Speakers -Volunteers/Parents in school activities - Visitors/contractors present in school during school hours - Visitors/contractors present during after school activities	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
Use of school premises by other organisation during or after school day	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	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	Harm by school personnel	Anti-Bullying Policy Code of Conduct
Use of video/photography/other media to record school events	Harm to personnel and pupils	Data Protection Policy and Procedures SPHE Curriculum

Serving in the church for funerals/ weddings during school time	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	Harm to pupils	Code of conduct Code of behaviour Always send two students where possible
Unknown adult into school	Harm to pupils or school personnel	Buzzer on door – only adult allowed to open CCTV
Before and after school activities	Harm to pupils	Safeguarding statement from organisation Vetting procedures followed Two staff members present where possible
Montessori Facilities	Harm to pupils	Safeguarding statement from organisation Vetting procedures followed Two or more staff members present Inspections and regulations adhered to
Playground Facilities	Harm to pupils or school personnel	Signage clearly visible at front gate stating that playground open after school hours of 9am – 3pm and on holidays.

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 (revised 2023)*

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.

Examples of activities, risks and procedures

The examples listed in this document are provided to assist schools in undertaking their risk assessment under the Children First Act, 2015. Schools should note that this list of examples is not intended to be exhaustive. It is the responsibility of each school to ensure, as far as possible, that any other risks and procedures that are relevant to its own particular circumstances are

identified and specified in the written risk assessment and that adequate procedures are in place to address all risks identified.

It is acknowledged that schools already have in place a range of policies, practices and procedures to mitigate the risk of harm to children while they are participating in the activities of the school and that some school activities will carry low or minimal risks of harm compared to others. In the context of the risk assessment that must be undertaken by schools, the Children First Act, 2015 refers to risk as “any potential for harm”. Therefore, it is important that, as part of its risk assessment process, each school lists and reviews all of its various activities (which shall include identifying those that may carry low risk of harm as well as those that carry higher risks of harm). Doing so will help the school to (1) identify, as required under the Children First Act, 2015, any risks of harm that may exist in respect of the school’s activities, (2) identify and assess the adequacy of the various procedures already in place to manage those risks of harm and (3) identify and put in place any such additional procedures as are considered necessary to manage any risk identified.

The Addendum to *Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children* published in January 2019 clarifies that organisations providing relevant services to children should consider the specific issue of online safety when carrying out their risk assessment and preparing their Child Safeguarding Statement.

The Guidance on Continuity of Schooling for primary and post-primary schools (April 2020) advises of the importance of teachers maintaining the safe and ethical use of the internet during distance learning and assisting parents and guardians to be aware of their role also. Schools should ensure that their Acceptable Use Policy (AUP) informs and guides remote or distance learning activity.

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 (revised 2023)*.