

Child Safeguarding Statement for the NDNSP

The North Dublin National School Project 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 the North Dublin National School Project 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 Ruth Donald
- 3 The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is Doireann Sheridan
- 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.

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 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 _____ [date].

Signed: _____

Chairperson of Board of Management

Signed: _____

Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Date: _____

Date: _____

Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment Template

Written Assessment of Risk of North Dublin National School Project

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 the North Dublin National School Project.

Key:

Complete

In progress

To be actioned

List of school activities	Risks of harm	Procedures to address risks
Training of school personnel in child protection matters	Harm not recognised or reported properly	Child safeguarding statement DES procedures made available to all staff All staff to complete TUSLA training module; followed by PDST module BOM records all records of staff training as part of yearly review

<p>Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst pupils/ Care of pupils with specific vulnerabilities such as Ethnic minorities LGBT children Members of the Traveller community Pupils of minority faiths Children in care Children with special educational needs</p>	<p>Risk of children being harmed in school by another child</p>	<p>Code of behaviour Anti bullying policy Individual risk assessment where necessary SEN policy Anti-bullying campaign</p>
<p>Afterschool use of premises by other organisations</p>	<p>Risk of harm by a member of staff of other organisation, or by staff member</p>	<p>Policy for after school activities, which identifies procedures to be followed in case of disclosure; vetting of all afterschool staff</p>
<p>School outings</p>	<p>Risk of harm by a member of staff of other organization</p>	<p>School outing policy</p>
<p>Students participating in work experience in the school</p>	<p>Risk of harm to children by student</p>	<p>Work experience policy</p>
<p>Student teachers undertaking placement in the school</p>	<p>Risk of harm by student teacher</p>	<p>Garda vetting to be kept on file for all student teachers</p>
<p>1:1 teaching</p>	<p>Risk of harm by staff member</p>	<p>Glass panes in all doors, or windows which give a public view of room Garda vetting completed by all staff members since 2016</p>

Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision	Traffic management initiative Gates open/close times controlled
Recreation breaks for pupils	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision	Supervision policy, to include yard toilet procedure (currently not applicable 2020-21, as yard toilets not in use) Small pool of teachers on each yard - easier to communicate issues Accident/yard book Designated visitor toilet, not used by students
1:1 Counselling Curricular provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe	Risk of harm by counsellors Non-teaching of same	Counselling policy to be developed SPHE policy outlines teaching requirements Monthly Cuntas identifies lessons taught
Recruitment of new staff	Harm by school personnel	Garda vetting of staff Statutory declarations required Yearly review of child protection guidelines as a whole staff
Use of external personnel to supplement curriculum	Harm by external persons	Garda vetting policy to be reviewed to outline when personnel are vetted by the

		<p>school, and when external vetting can be accepted</p> <p>Note: this has been done but it is difficult to be definite about- needs to be reviewed on a case by case basis.</p> <p>An example - an employee of Dublin City Council delivering a workshop can be covered by DCC vetting, but a volunteer delivering a workshop on behalf of DCC might have to be vetted by the school.</p>
Use of external personnel to supplement sports provision	Harm by external persons	<p>External coaches -GAA/Leinster rugby vet every 3 years, so we need to check whether we have the most up to date vetting on file - this will need to be done yearly</p>
Volunteers/parents	Harm to pupils	<p>List of vetted volunteers maintained in office</p> <p>All parent volunteers working with classes on an ongoing basis to be garda vetted</p>
Use of ICT by students in school	Bullying	<p>Acceptable use policy</p> <p>Anti bullying policy which fully adheres to the requirements of the Department's <i>'Anti Bullying Procedures for Primary and Post-primary Schools'</i></p> <p>Code of behaviour</p>
Management of challenging behaviour	Harm to pupils	<p>Code of Behaviour, reviewed regularly</p>
School outing	Harm by external persons	<p>School tour policy</p>
Classroom teaching	Harm by school staff	<p>All school personnel are required to adhere to the Child Protection Procedures for</p>

	Risk of allegation against school personnel	<p>Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017 and all registered teaching staff are required to adhere to the Children First Act 2015</p> <p>Staff training on CP regularly</p> <p>Glass panes in all rooms</p>
--	---	--

Covid adaptations (Jan 2021)

Online teaching	Harm by school staff	<p>Videoconferencing policy developed</p> <p>Where a child is participating in a small group/1:1 online lesson, a parent or guardian must be in the room with the child</p>
Online teaching	Risk of allegation against school personnel	
	Harm by external persons	<p>All video conferencing done using password; link sent via email directly to parents and on Google classroom (ie not available publicly); waiting rooms used; access codes changed regularly</p> <p>All written contact between children and staff is done through Google Classroom/Seesaw and at least two staff have access to all Google classroom/seesaw accounts - so all interactions can be seen by a third party</p>

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 21st April 2021. 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