

# North Dublin National School Project

## Child Safeguarding Statement

### Mandatory Template 1: Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment

#### Child Safeguarding Statement

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 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 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 (revised (2023))* 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 Relevant Person is Ruth Donald  
(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](http://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](http://gov.ie) 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](http://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](http://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 19<sup>th</sup> September 2024.

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 North Dubin NS 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 PostPrimary Schools (revised 2023)*, the following is the Written Risk Assessment of North Dublin NS 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	<p>Child safeguarding statement  DES procedures made available to all staff  All staff to complete TUSLA training module; followed by PDST module  Yearly review of child protection procedures</p> <p>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	Risk of children being harmed in school by another child	<p>Code of behaviour  Anti bullying policy  Individual risk assessment where necessary  SEN policy  Anti-bullying campaign</p>

Afterschool use of premises by other organisations	Risk of harm by a member of staff of other organisation, or by staff member	Policy for after school activities, which identifies procedures to be followed in case of disclosure; vetting of all afterschool staff working as sole traders; where a company is providing an afterschool service, the company to provide a safeguarding statement.
School outings	Risk of harm by a member of staff of other organization	School outing policy
Students participating in work experience in the school	Risk of harm to children by student	Work experience policy
Student teachers undertaking placement in the school	Risk of harm by student teacher	Garda vetting to be kept on file for all student teachers
1:1 teaching	Risk of harm by staff member	Glass panes in all doors, or windows which give a public view of room Garda vetting completed by all staff members Schedule created to ensure that all non teaching staff are vetted regularly (teaching staff the responsibility of the Teaching Council)
Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision	Supervision policy  Gates open/close times controlled
Recreation breaks for pupils	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision	Supervision policy, to include yard toilet procedure Small pool of teachers on each yard - easier to communicate issues Accident book Designated visitor toilet, not used by students

1:1 Play therapy	Risk of harm by therapist	Ensuring that play therapists working in the school are members of the Irish Association of Play Therapy, and as such have undertaken to abide by the IAPT child protection policy (or equivalent where another professional membership applies)
Curricular provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe	Non-teaching of same	SPHE policy outlines teaching requirements Monthly Cuntais 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 school, and when external vetting can be accepted Note: this has been done but it is difficult to be definite about- needs to be reviewed on a case by case basis. 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.
Use of external personnel to supplement sports provision	Harm by external persons	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 so should remain as an outstanding issue
Volunteers/parents	Harm to pupils	List of vetted volunteers maintained in office All parent volunteers working with classes on an ongoing basis to be garda vetted

Intimate care where required	Harm to pupils  Risk of allegation against school personnel	Children are encouraged to change themselves where a change is needed; where the child cannot do so then two staff members to be present, and parents to be informed of same.
Use of ICT by students in school	Bullying	Acceptable use policy Anti bullying policy which fully adheres to the requirements of the Department's ' <i>Anti Bullying Procedures for Primary and Post-primary Schools</i> ' Code of behaviour
Management of challenging behaviour	Harm to pupils	Code of Behaviour, reviewed regularly
School outing	Harm by external persons	School tour policy
Classroom teaching	Harm by school staff  Risk of allegation against school personnel	All school personnel are required to adhere to the Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools (reviewed 2023) and all registered teaching staff are required to adhere to the Children First Act 2015  Staff training on CP regularly  Glass panes in all rooms

## Covid adaptations (Jan 2021)

Online teaching	Harm by school staff	Videoconferencing policy developed
	Risk of allegation against school personnel	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
Online teaching	Harm by external persons	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
		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

**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.