



St. Patrick's N.S. Ballylinan.

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Mandatory Template 1: Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment Template (Landscape Version)

Child Safeguarding Statement

Ballylinan 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 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 Ballylinan 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 (revised (2023))* as part of this overall Child Safeguarding Statement
- 2 The Designated Liaison Person (DLP) is Aileen Hurley
- 3 The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is Paula Connolly
- 4 The Relevant Person is Aileen Hurley
(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. This person can also be the DLP)

- 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](https://www.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](https://www.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](https://www.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](https://www.gov.ie) website or will be made available on request by the school.
- 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 _____ [date].

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

Signed: Michael Souerke

Chairperson of Board of Management

Date: 23/10/23

Signed: Paula Connolly

Acting Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Date: 23/10/23

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 requirement of Chapter 8 of the *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and PostPrimary Schools (revised 2023)*, the following is the Written Risk Assessment of [name of school].

1. List of school activities	2. The school has identified the following risk of harm in respect of its activities –	3. The school has the following procedures in place to address the risks of harm identified in this assessment -
(insert list of school activities in this section) Training of school personnel in Child Protection Matters	(insert risks of harm identified in this section) Harm not recognised or reportedly promptly	(insert the procedures in place to address risks of harm in this section) Child Safeguarding Statement & Department of Education procedures made available to all staff. DLP and DDLP to attend face to face training All staff to view Túsla training programme BOM maintains record of all staff and BOM training.
One to one teaching	Harm to pupils	Glass in doors
Care of children with special needs, including intimate care needs	Harm to pupils	Intimate care policy
Toilet areas	Inappropriate behaviour	Appropriate supervision

Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils	Harm from older pupils, unknown adults on the playground	Arrival and dismissal supervised by Teachers
Managing of challenging behaviour amongst pupils	Injury to pupils and staff	Procedures in place
Sports Coaches	Harm to pupils	Work experience procedures
Recreation breaks for pupils	Harm to pupils	Appropriate supervision Code of Behaviour Anti-Bullying Policy
Classroom teaching	Harm to pupils	Child Safeguarding Statement Child Protection Procedures
Remote learning	Online bullying and/or grooming	Appropriate supervision Anti-bullying Policy Stay Safe
(changing for) Sporting Activities	Harm to pupils	Appropriate supervision Code of Behaviour Child Safeguarding Statement Anti-Bullying Policy
After-school Activities	Harm to pupils	Appropriate supervision Child Safeguarding Statement
School outings	Harm to pupils	Appropriate supervision
Administration of Medicine	Harm to pupils	Administration of Medicines policy
Curricular provision of Stay Safe programme	Programme not being covered	Coverage of programme to be noted in teachers' record of work

Training of school personnel in child protection matters	Harm to pupils	Training to be availed of when available
Care of pupils with specific vulnerabilities/ needs such as <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pupils from ethnic minorities/migrants • Members of the Traveller community • Pupils perceived to be LGBT • Pupils of minority religious faiths • Children in care 	Harm to pupils	Appropriate supervision Code of Behaviour Child Safeguarding Statement Anti-Bullying Policy
Use of Information and Communication Technology by pupils in school	Bullying, harm to pupils	ICT policy Anti-Bullying Policy Code of Behaviour
Recruitment of school personnel including <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teachers • SNA's • 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

Student teachers undertaking placement in school	Harm to pupils	Child Safeguarding Statement & DES procedures made available Vetting Procedures
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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)*