

Mandatory Template 1: Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk

Assessment Child Safeguarding Statement

St. Attracta's National School, Ballaghaderreen 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 2017](#) and [Tusla Guidance on the preparation of Child Safeguarding Statements](#), the Board of Management of [insert school name] 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 MR. NOEL LOFTUS.
- 3 The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is MS. JENNIFER McCANN.
- 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.

The school will also adhere to the above principles in relation to any adult pupil with a special vulnerability.

- 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 DE 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 DE 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 schools 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 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 DE 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.

- 6 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.
- 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 1st June 2018.

This Child Safeguarding Statement was reviewed by the Board of Management on 13th June

2023.


Rev. Fr. Paul Kivelan

Chairperson of Board of Management

Date: 13th June 2023


Mr. Noel Loftus

Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Date: 13th June 2023

Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment

Written Assessment of Risk of St. Attracta's National School, Ballaghaderreen. 19980S

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 [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 - |
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| 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 in hardcopy and e-copy format.</p> <p>DLP & DDLP attended PDST face to face training.</p> <p>All Staff have viewed Túsla training module and encouraged to avail of any other online training offered by PDST.</p> <p>Annually, the DLP & DDLP provide a brief refresh session on safeguarding requirements for mandated persons.</p> <p>BOM records all records of staff and board training.</p> |
| One to one teaching | Harm by school personnel | <p>School has policy in place for one to one teaching:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open doors • Table between teacher and pupil |
| Blended learning using a video call with pupils i.e. Zoom and Google Meet | Harm by school personnel | <p>School updated its AUP policy in May 2020 with measures to govern the use of video calls with pupils by staff members.</p> |

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| Curricular Provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay safe. | Non-teaching of same | School implements SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe in full |
| Care of pupils with specific vulnerabilities/ needs such as: Pupils from ethnic minorities/migrants Members of the Traveller community Pupils of minority religious faiths Children in care | Bullying | Anti-Bullying Policy Code of Behaviour |
| Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils | Harm from older pupils, unknown adults on the playground | Arrival and dismissal supervised by staff – see Supervision Policy. Sign-in/Sign-out book at Office to be completed by all visitors. Security buzzer on locked main door. Only opened by staff member. CCTV in operation. |
| Child late arriving / early leaving | Harm to child from unauthorised adults | Parent/designated person sign out/in child late arriving / early leaving |
| Managing of challenging behaviour amongst pupils. | Injury to pupils and staff | Code Of Behaviour Health & Safety Policy |
| Sports Coaches / Visiting teachers | Harm to pupils | All visiting teachers or coaches must have Garda Vetting. Class teacher remains with class at all times. |
| Recreation breaks for pupils | Harm from older pupils, unknown adults on the playground | Supervision Policy |
| Summer Camp Provision | Harm and injury to pupils | Child Safeguarding Statement and DES Guidelines in place and provided to all. Other relevant school policies in place: Code of Behaviour, Anti-Bullying, Critical Incident, Health & Safety & Healthy Eating. DLP and health & safety officer on-site for the duration of the camps. |

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| Use of Assistive Technology at home | Harm to pupils | Assistive Technology Policy and the Assistive Technology Agreement to be signed and implemented by the child's parent / guardian. |
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