



Child Safeguarding Statement 22/09/2022

Ardrahan National School 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 Ardrahan National School 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 Fidelma Hughes
- 3 The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is Olivia Flynn.
- 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 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 abovenamed 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 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 5/03/2018.

This Child Safeguarding Statement was reviewed by the Board of Management on 22/09/2022

Signed: Martin Murphy

Chairperson of Board of Management

Date: 22/09/2022

Signed: Fidelma Hughes

Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Date: 22/09/2022



Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment

Written Assessment of Risk of Ardrahan National 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 Post-Primary Schools 2017, the following is the Written Risk Assessment of Ardrahan National School.

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	Child Safeguarding Statement & DES procedures made available to all staff. DLP (Ms Hughes) & DDLP (Ms Flynn) attended PDST face to face training All Staff have completed Tusla training module & PDST training module for all school personnel BOM records all staff and board training
One to one teaching	Harm by school personnel	School has SET policy in place and Special Education teachers are provided with a copy Table between teacher and pupil Glass in window of all doors

Care of Children with special needs, including intimate care needs	Harm by school personnel	Two adults present if a child needs toileting intervention
Toilet areas	Inappropriate behaviour	Supervision policy
Curricular Provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe.	Non-teaching of same	School implements SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe in full
LGBT Children/Pupils perceived to be LGBT	Bullying	Anti-Bullying Policy Code of Behaviour SPHE plan
Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils	Harm from unknown adults on the playground before/after school	Supervision policy in place Parents advised not to have children unsupervised on the yard before 9:10am and to collect promptly at day's end. Doors open for children at 9:10am Children attending Crèche before/after school are walked to the gate when school opens and are collected by Crèche personnel at the gate after school. Children in Junior and Senior Infants are released to their parents by the Infant teacher. Children whose parents are late for collection are advised to return to the school and a call will be made to the parent/guardian. Child will remain in the school until parent/guardian arrives.
Managing of challenging behaviour amongst pupils, including appropriate use of restraint	Injury to pupils and staff	Health & Safety Policy Code Of Behaviour
Students participating in work experience	Harm by work experience student	Work Experience Policy

		Child Safeguarding Statement.
Sporting Activities/training	Inappropriate behaviour in the changing rooms	Code of Behaviour in place Supervision policy in place
School outings/tours/matches	Risk of harm by unknown adults/other personnel not known to the staff	A risk assessment will be completed before each school tour or trip. Pupil-teacher ratio is reduced for school tours to maximise the supervision of children. Pupils are closely supervised by staff when transitioning from one area to another (e.g. going to the toilets, going to and from the bus) and when interacting with staff and/or volunteers from the establishment they are visiting. Changing rooms are closely supervised by staff when in use by children e.g. at swimming lessons and sports events (matches)
Classroom teaching	Risk of harm not being recognised by school personnel	The school - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Has provided each member of school 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

		➤ Each classroom has glass panel in door
Annual Sports Day	Risk of child being harmed in the school by volunteer or visitor to the school	Adequate supervision of pupils
Use of off-site facilities for school activities	Risk of harm from non-school personnel	Adequate supervision of pupils
Administration of Medicine Administration of First Aid	Harm by school personnel	All medicines shall be held in the office. The Administration of Medication Policy will be implemented in the event that a child requires medication throughout the school day. Minor cuts and grazes will be cleaned and dressed if as necessary in the office. A second child will accompany the injured child while receiving treatment.
Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst pupils	Risk of child being harmed in the school by another child	Anti-Bullying policy is in place and is available to view on the school website SPHE and Stay Safe programmes implemented
Use of external personnel to supplement curriculum.	Harm by visiting teacher/personnel	Visitors to the school must check in at the office. Front entrance to the school has a magnetic lock and so visitors must be provided with access by a staff member Side entrance is locked by infant teacher all children have arrived after 9.30am Regular visitors/visiting teachers to be vetted

		Class teacher to supervise all visitors to the classroom
Student teachers undertaking training placement in school	Harm by student teacher Teacher unaware of procedures involving child safety	Student teacher to be given a copy of Child Safeguarding statement Student Teacher to be alerted to relevant school policies
Use of video/photography/other media to record school events	Inappropriate use of video/photography	Acceptable Usage Policy available for parents Parental permission obtained for children to be photographed/recorded at enrolment.
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 	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 in place Contractors present during school hours are not allowed unsupervised access to children. School Cleaner's hours set from 4pm-6pm when no children are present.
Sports Coaches	Harm to pupils	All visiting coaches to furnish their Garda Vetting clearance documentation. Class teacher to supervise coaching session

<p>Use of Information and Communication Technology by pupils in school</p>	<p>Bullying Accessing inappropriate content on the internet</p>	<p>Written parental permission to take photos of children is obtained by the school at enrolment. Class teachers are made aware of any children in his or her class who do not have permission to be in school photos Photos taken by staff are removed from personal devices when uploaded onto the school online storage space. Children names are not published with photos uploaded to the school website/class blogs. Children are not permitted to use electronic devices (e.g. iPads, cameras, personal devices) unless under the supervision of an adult. Children are not permitted to take phones to school as per AUP. School internet is provided by <i>PDST Technology in Education</i> which is monitored for inappropriate content and unsuitable websites blocked. Memory Sticks for children's use to be used solely for classwork</p>
<p>Care of pupils with specific vulnerabilities/needs such as Pupils from ethnic minorities/migrants Pupils of minority faith</p>	<p>Risk of bullying</p>	<p>Anti-Bullying Policy SPHE programme</p>