

Mandatory Template 1: Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment Template

Child Safeguarding Statement

Newtown NS is a primary/special/post-primary school providing primary/post-primary education to pupils from Junior Infants to Sixth Class/First Year to Leaving Certificate Year (delete as appropriate).

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 Bridie O'Sullivan
- 3 The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is Róisín Malone
- 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 in 26th April 2018

This Child Safeguarding Statement was reviewed by the Board of Management on 6th December 2021

Signed: Gery Boyle

Chairperson of Board of Management

Date: 5/12/22

Signed: _____

Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Date: _____

Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment

Written Assessment of Risk of Newtown NS

In accordance with section 11 of the Children First Act 2015 and with the requirements 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

1. Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils
2. Recreation breaks for pupils
3. Classroom teaching
4. One-to-one teaching
5. Sporting Activities on and off school premises
6. School outings/trips
7. Use of toilet/changing areas in schools
8. Dealing with an emergency sick child/toileting issue
9. Annual Sports Day
10. Fundraising events involving pupils
11. School transport arrangements
12. Care of children with special educational needs
13. Management of challenging behaviour amongst pupils including appropriate use of restraint
14. Administration of Medicine
15. Administration of First Aid
16. Curricular provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe
17. Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst pupils
18. Training of school personnel in child protection matters
19. Use of external personnel to supplement curriculum
20. Care of pupils with specific vulnerabilities/needs such as:
 - from ethnic minorities/migrants,
 - Members of the Traveller community
 - Lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender (LGBT)
 - Pupils perceived to be LGBT
 - Pupils of minority religious faiths
 - Children in care
 - Children on CPNS
21. Recruitment of school personnel
 - 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
22. Participation by pupils in religious ceremonies
23. Use of Information and Communication Technology by pupils in school
24. Application of sanctions under the school's Code of Behaviour including detention of pupils, confiscation of phones etc.
25. Students participating in work experience in the school
26. Student teachers undertaking training placement in school
27. Use of video/photography/other media to record school events
28. Sports Coaches
29. Outdoor Teaching Activities

30. Physically Restraining Children – where child puts themselves or others in danger
31. Visitors/Guest Speakers
32. Children with specific toileting/intimate care needs
33. Toileting Accidents
34. Changing for PE/Swimming
35. Changing for Christmas Play/Drama shows etc
36. One-to-One Teaching
37. Photographs of Pupils
38. School Website
39. Use of Bicycles
40. Distance Learning – children not in school, but if teacher hears/sees anything onscreen or in any other way that causes concern, the teacher is mandated to report
41. Video Conferencing and other communication with pupils

2. The school has identified the following risk of harm in respect of its activities -

1. Harm from older pupils, unknown adults on the playground
2. Adults may enter the yard Bullying
3. Harm by school personnel. Harm by other pupils.
4. Harm by school personnel
5. Harm by pupils including bullying. Harm by school personnel. Harm by adults.
6. Harm by pupils including bullying. Harm by school personnel. Harm by adults.
7. Inappropriate behaviour. Harm from other children. Harm from school personnel.
8. Harm from school personnel. Harm from other children
9. Inappropriate behaviour. Harm from other children. Harm from school personnel.
Harm from a parent/adult
10. Inappropriate behaviour. Harm from other children. Harm from school personnel.
Harm from a parent/adult
11. Harm from adults
12. Harm by school personnel. Harm from other pupils
13. Injury/harm to pupils and staff
14. Harm to school personnel. Harm to pupil/pupils
15. Harm to pupil. Harm by school personnel
16. Non-teaching content
17. Bullying
18. Harm not recognised or reported promptly
19. Harm by external personnel
20. Bullying. Harm from personnel. Harm from pupils. Harm from adults.
21. Harm from personnel
22. Harm by external personnel
23. Harm by adults. Bullying – Cyber Bullying,
24. Harm by other pupils, harm by adults
25. Harm by student
26. Harm by student teacher
27. Harm by adults. Bullying.
28. Harm by adults. Harm by other pupils.
29. Harm by adults. Harm by other pupils.
30. Harm by adults. Harm by other pupils.
31. Harm by adults/Guest speakers.
32. Harm by adults
33. Harm by adults
34. Harm by adults. Harm by other pupils.
35. Harm by adults. Harm by other pupils.

- 36.Harm by adults.
- 37.Harm by adults. Harm by other pupils.
- 38.Harm by adults. Harm by other pupils.
- 39.Harm by adults. Harm by other pupils.
- 40.Risk of Harm not being reported properly and promptly by school personnel
- 41.Harm by adults, harm by other pupils, cyber bullying

3. The school has the following procedures in place to address the risks of harm identified in this assessment -

1. Arrival and dismissal supervised by teachers. Termly letter to parents, Arrival and Dismissal Policy Practice and Policies in School, Covid Plan
- 2.Code of Behaviour. Entry to the school is by permission only with use of specific doors
- 3.Glass panel in the doors. Other adults visit. Other children present.
4. Open door. Table between teacher and pupil, One to One teaching policy.
- 5.Buses are for transport. Garda Vetting is required by all parents accompanying on bus. Code of Behaviour. Changing of gear takes place before the activity in the school or at Venue. Children must return to the school during school hours. In-school activities are supervised by each class teacher.
- 6.Transport is arranged by school. Garda Vetting is required by all parents involved. Teachers supervise the changing of gear from outside changing rooms. Children must return to the school. Vetting, Practices & Procedures In-School
- 7.Child Safeguarding Statement. Toileting – one child at any time. Entering cloakroom one child at a time.
- 8.Child Safeguarding Statement. Toileting accidents – SNA deals with it, door left ajar, record in Incident Book in staffroom and report to parents and principal. If incident occurs on yard 2 further teachers will be called to supervise – children never left unattended.
- 9.Child Safeguarding Statement. Teachers supervise their class during all activities. Vetted Parents only.
- 10.Code of Behaviour. Anti-Bullying Policy. Child Safeguarding Statement. Vetted personnel.
11. Accompanying parents, must be vetted. Details of what to do in an emergency are provided.
- 12.Code of Behaviour. Child Safeguarding Statement. Anti-Bullying Policy.
- 13.Code of Behaviour. Health & Safety Policy. Child Safeguarding Statement. Vetted personnel, Training arranged as required.
- 14.Administration of Medicines Policy. Training arranged as required.
- 15.Health & Safety Policy. First Aid Training. Doors must remain open.
- 16.School implements SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe in full.
- 17.Anti-Bullying Policy. Code of Behaviour.
- 18.Child Safeguarding Statement & DES procedures made available to staff. DLP & DDLP to attend PDST face to face training module and any online training offered by PDST BOM records all records of staff and Board training.
- 19.The class teacher must remain with their class when supported by external personnel. All external personnel require Garda Vetting.
- 20.Anti-Bullying Policy. SPHE Programme. Code of Behaviour. Child Safeguarding Statement.
- 21.Current vetting procedures are carried out when recruiting. All existing school employees are vetted. All adults, visitors to the school and volunteers are properly screened and vetted. Joint Vetting Agreement applicable for those vetted by other organisations. All adults, visitors to the school and volunteers are supervised & not left alone while on campus. Proper records of vetting are stored in school.
- 22.Transport is arranged by school when applicable. Children supervised by teacher. Children accompanied by parents. Child Safeguarding Statement.
- 23.Mobile phone/Electric Devices Policy. Anti-Bullying Policy. Restricted access to the internet. Training arranged for staff & parents when available. Child Safeguarding Statement.; Child Safeguarding Statement. Code of Behaviour.

24. Student must be supervised by the relevant teacher.
25. Garda Vetting is required for all students over 16 years. (done by own school) Joint Vetting Agreement. Under 16 cannot be vetted and not taken in the school.
26. Student teacher must be supervised by the relevant teacher. Garda Vetting is required for all students through their college
27. Parental permission is required. Only school camera/equipment is used. Anti-Bullying Policy. Code of Behaviour. Child Safeguarding Statement. Disclaimer read out before School events e.g. Christmas Plays.
28. Garda Vetting. Child Safeguarding Statement. Teacher supervises. Joint Vetting Agreement.
29. Child Safeguarding Statement. Code of Behaviour. Teacher supervision. Joint Vetting Agreement.
30. Child Safeguarding Statement. Code of Behaviour, Practices & Procedures in school. Training as required.
31. Child Safeguarding Statement. Vetting, Code of Behaviour, Code of Behaviour for External Agencies.
32. Child Safeguarding Statement, Special Education Policy. Practices & Procedures in school. Vetting.
33. Child Protection Statement, Special Education Policy, Practices & Procedures in school. Vetting.
34. Child Protection Statement, Practices & Procedures in school. Vetting. Swimming policy. Code of Behaviour for External Agencies.
35. Child Protection Statement, Risk Assessment, Practices & Procedures in School, Vetting.
36. Child Protection Statement/Risk Assessment, Practices & Procedures in School, Vetting, Special Education Policy. One to One teaching policy.
37. Child Protection Policy/Risk Assessment, Practices & Procedures in School, Data Protection Policy, A.U.P. Facebook policy
38. Child Protection Statement/Risk Assessment, Practices & Procedures in School, Data Protection Policy, A.U.P.
39. Use of Bicycles Policy, Child Protection Statement/Risk Assessment, Practices & Procedures in School.
40. Child Protection Statement/Risk Assessment, Practices & Procedures in School.
41. Child Protection Statement and Risk Assessment, Practices and Procedures in School, AUP, Anti-Bullying Policy

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.

Examples of activities, risks and procedures

The examples listed in this document are provided to assist schools in undertaking their risk assessment under the Children First Act, 2015. Schools should note that this list of examples

is not intended to be exhaustive. It is the responsibility of each school to ensure, as far as possible, that any other risks and procedures that are relevant to its own particular circumstances are identified and specified in the written risk assessment and that adequate procedures are in place to address all risks identified.

It is acknowledged that schools already have in place a range of policies, practices and procedures to mitigate the risk of harm to children while they are participating in the activities of the school and that some school activities will carry low or minimal risks of harm compared to others. In the context of the risk assessment that must be undertaken by schools, the Children First Act, 2015 refers to risk as “any potential for harm”. Therefore, it is important that, as part of its risk assessment process, each school lists and reviews all of its various activities (which shall include identifying those that may carry low risk of harm as well as those that carry higher risks of harm). Doing so will help the school to (1) identify, as required under the Children First Act, 2015, any risks of harm that may exist in respect of the school’s activities, (2) identify and assess the adequacy of the various procedures already in place to manage those risks of harm and (3) identify and put in place any such additional procedures as are considered necessary to manage any risk identified.

The Addendum to *Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children* published in January 2019 clarifies that organisations providing relevant services to children should consider the specific issue of online safety when carrying out their risk assessment and preparing their Child Safeguarding Statement.

The Guidance on Continuity of Schooling for primary and post-primary schools (April 2020) advises of the importance of teachers maintaining the safe and ethical use of the internet during distance learning and assisting parents and guardians to be aware of their role also. Schools should ensure that their Acceptable Use Policy (AUP) informs and guides remote or distance learning activity.

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.

Examples of School Activities

- Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils
- Recreation breaks for pupils
- Classroom teaching
- One-to-one teaching
- One-to-one learning support
- One-to-one counselling
- Outdoor teaching activities
- Online teaching and learning remotely
- Sporting Activities
- School outings
- School trips involving overnight stay
- School trips involving foreign travel
- Use of toilet/changing/shower areas in schools

- Provision of residential facilities for boarders
- Annual Sports Day
- Fundraising events involving pupils
- Use of off-site facilities for school activities
- School transport arrangements including use of bus escorts
- Care of children with special educational needs, including intimate care where needed,
- Care of any vulnerable adult students, including intimate care where needed
- Management of challenging behaviour amongst pupils, including appropriate use of restraint where required
- Management of provision of food and drink
- Administration of Medicine
- Administration of First Aid
- Curricular provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe
- Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst pupils
- Training of school personnel in child protection matters
- Use of external personnel to supplement curriculum
- Use of external personnel to support sports and other extra-curricular activities
- Care of pupils with specific vulnerabilities/ needs such as
 - Pupils from ethnic minorities/migrants
 - Members of the Traveller community
 - Lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender (LGBT) children
 - Pupils perceived to be LGBT
 - Pupils of minority religious faiths
 - Children in care
 - Children on CPNS
 - Children with medical needs
- Recruitment of school personnel including -
 - 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
- Participation by pupils in religious ceremonies/religious instruction external to the school
- Use of Information and Communication Technology by pupils in school, including social media
- Application of sanctions under the school's Code of Behaviour including detention of pupils, confiscation of phones etc.
- Students participating in work experience in the school
- Students from the school participating in work experience elsewhere
- Student teachers undertaking training placement in school
- Use of video/photography/other media to record school events
- After school use of school premises by other organisations

- Use of school premises by other organisation during school day
- Breakfast club
- Homework club/evening study

Examples of Risks of Harm

- Risk of harm not being recognised by school personnel
- Risk of harm not being reported properly and promptly by school personnel
- Risk of child being harmed in the school by a member of school personnel
- Risk of child being harmed in the school by another child
- Risk of child being harmed in the school by volunteer or visitor to the school
- Risk of child being harmed by a member of school personnel, a member of staff of another organisation or other person while child participating in out of school activities e.g. school trip, swimming lessons
- Risk of harm due to inappropriate use of online remote teaching and learning communication platform such as an uninvited person accessing the lesson link, students being left unsupervised for long periods of time in breakout rooms
- Risk of harm due to bullying of child
- Risk of harm due to racism
- Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children in school
- Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children while attending out of school activities
- Risk of harm due to inappropriate relationship/communications between child and another child or adult
- Risk of harm due to children inappropriately accessing/using computers, social media, phones and other devices while at school
- Risk of harm to children with SEN who have particular vulnerabilities, including medical vulnerabilities
- Risk of harm to child while a child is receiving intimate care
- Risk of harm due to inadequate code of behaviour
- Risk of harm in one-to-one teaching, counselling, coaching situation
- Risk of harm caused by member of school personnel communicating with pupils in an inappropriate manner via social media, texting, digital device or other manner
- Risk of harm caused by member of school personnel accessing/circulating inappropriate material via social media, texting, digital device or other manner

Examples of Procedures to address risks of harm

- All school personnel are provided with a copy of the school's *Child Safeguarding Statement*
- The *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017* are made available to all school personnel
- School Personnel are required to adhere to the *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017* and all registered teaching staff are required to adhere to the *Children First Act 2015* and its Addendum (2019)
- The school implements in full the Stay Safe Programme
- The school implements in full the SPHE curriculum

- The school implements in full the Wellbeing Programme at Junior Cycle
- The school has an Anti-Bullying Policy which fully adheres to the requirements of the Department's *Anti-Bullying Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools*
- The school undertakes anti-racism awareness initiatives
- The school has a yard/playground supervision policy to ensure appropriate supervision of children during, assembly, dismissal and breaks and in respect of specific areas such as toilets, changing rooms etc.
- The school has in place a policy and clear procedures in respect of school outings
- The school has a Health and safety policy
- The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation and relevant DE circulars in relation to recruitment and Garda vetting
- The school has a codes of conduct for school personnel (teaching and non-teaching staff)
- The school complies with the agreed disciplinary procedures for teaching staff
- The school has a Special Educational Needs policy
- The school has an intimate care policy/plan in respect of students who require such care
- The school has in place a policy and procedures for the administration of medication to pupils
- The school –
 - 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
 - Encourages board of management members to avail of relevant training
 - Maintains records of all staff and board member training
- The school has in place a policy and procedures for the administration of First Aid
- The school has in place a code of behaviour for pupils
- The school has an Acceptable Use Policy in place, to include provision for online teaching and learning remotely, and has communicated this policy to parents
- The school has in place a policy governing the use of smart phones and tablet devices in the school by pupils as per circular 38/2018
- The school has in place a Critical Incident Management Plan
- The school has in place a Home School Liaison policy and related procedures
- The school has in place a policy and procedures for the use of external persons to supplement delivery of the curriculum
- The school has in place a policy and procedures for the use of external sports coaches
- The school has in place a policy and clear procedures for one-to-one teaching activities
- The school has in place a policy and procedures for one-to-one counselling

- The school has in place a policy and procedures in respect of student teacher placements
- The school has in place a policy and procedures in respect of students undertaking work experience in the school
- The school has in place a policy and procedures in respect of pupils of the school undertaking work experience in external organisations