

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

## Child Safeguarding Statement

Castleconnell 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 (revised 2023) and Tusla Guidance on the preparation of Child Safeguarding Statements, the Board of Management of Castleconnell 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 (revised (2023))* as part of this overall Child Safeguarding Statement
- 2 The Designated Liaison Person (DLP) is  
Richie Ryan
- 3 The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is Thérèse O' Callaghan
- 4 The Relevant Person is  
Richie Ryan  
(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 25/09/23 [date].

This Child Safeguarding Statement was reviewed by the Board of Management on 25/09/23 [most recent review date].

Signed: *Theresa Johnson*  
Chairperson of Board of Management

Signed: *Patrick Ryan*  
Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Date: 25/09/23

Date: 25/09/23

## Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment

### Written Assessment of Risk of Castleconnell 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 (revised 2023)*, the following is the Written Risk Assessment of Castleconnell National 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 -
1) Training of school personnel in Child Protection matters	1) Risk of harm not being recognised by school personnel or recognised/reported promptly	1) Child Safeguarding Statement & DES procedures made available to all staff  DLP & DDLP to attend PDST face to face training All Staff to view TUSLA training module & any other online training offered by PDST  BOM records all records of staff and board training 2) Policy on intimate care
2) Care of Children with special needs, including intimate care needs	2) Risk of child being harmed in the school by a member of school personnel while receiving intimate care	
3) Toilet areas	3) Inappropriate behaviour- Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children in school	3) Usage and supervision procedures and policy in place
4) Curricular Provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay safe.	4) Non-teaching of same	4) School implements SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe in full
5) LGBT Children/Pupils perceived to be LGBT	5) Risk of harm due to bullying	5) Anti-Bullying Policy Code of Behaviour
6) Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils	6) Harm from older pupils, unknown adults on the playground	6) Arrival and dismissal supervised by Teachers. Supervision policy in place

7) Managing of challenging behaviour amongst pupils, including appropriate use of restraint	7) Injury/harm to pupils and/or staff	7) Health & Safety Policy. Code of Behaviour implemented in full. NEPS Continuum of Support used. Outside agencies accessed as early as possible when needed
8) Sports Coaches	8) Risk of harm to pupils in coaching situation	8) Procedures in place including vetting requirements
9) Students participating in work experience	9) Risk of harm to pupils	9) Work experience procedures and vetting in place. Child Safeguarding Statement.
10) Recreation breaks for pupils	10) Risk of harm to pupil during recreation breaks	10) Teacher supervising at all times.
11) Classroom teaching	11) Risk of harm due to inappropriate relationship/communications between child and another child or adult to pupil	11) Appointment and vetting procedures adhered to. Supervision policy in place
12) One-to-one teaching	12) Risk of harm due to inappropriate relationship/communication between child and adult	12) Appointment and vetting procedures adhered to. School has procedures in place for one to one teaching. Open doors, glass in window, table between teacher and pupil.
13) Outdoor activities/outings	13) Risk of harm due to inappropriate relationship/communication between child and adult 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	13) Adequate number of school personnel supervising at all times. Vetting procedures adhered to.
14) Administration of Medicine Administration of First Aid	14) Risk of harm to pupils	14) Regular staff training and refresher courses provided where applicable. Pupils with medical conditions identified, staff made aware and their medical passport put on display in staffroom and classroom
15) Use of external personnel to supplement curriculum	15) Risk of harm to pupils	15) Teacher present at all times and vetting procedures adhered to.
16) Recruitment of school personnel including -	16) Risk of harm not recognised or properly/ promptly reported	16) Child Safeguarding Statement & DES procedures made available to all staff

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Teachers</li> <li>• SNA's</li> <li>• Caretaker/Secretary/Cleaners</li> <li>• Sports coaches</li> <li>• External Tutors/Guest Speakers</li> <li>• Volunteers/Parents in school activities</li> <li>• Visitors/contractors present in school during school hours</li> <li>• Visitors/contractors present during after school activities</li> </ul>	<p>Risk of harm due to inappropriate relationship/communication between child and adult</p>	<p>Staff to view Tusla training module &amp; any other online training offered by PDST</p> <p>Vetting Procedures Implemented</p> <p>Vetting of Parents / Volunteers</p> <p>Vetting of Visiting Contractors</p>
<p>17) Use of Information and Communication Technology by pupils in school including the use of online websites/platforms</p>	<p>17) Risk of harm due to children inappropriately accessing/using computers, social media, phones and other devices while at school</p>	<p>17) ICT policy</p> <p>Anti-Bullying Policy</p> <p>SPHE Policy including online safety lessons in the Stay safe programme, weaving wellbeing programme, supplementary lessons on website including HTML Heroes</p> <p>Online Safety Promotion on Internet safety Day</p> <p>Yearly online safety talk by local gardai.</p> <p>Code of Behaviour</p> <p>Supervision of pupils at all times</p> <p>DES internet web blocker in use</p>
<p>18) Use of video/photography/other media to record school events</p>	<p>18) Risk of harm to pupils due to the misuse of the materials online</p>	<p>18) Permission sought from parents at the beginning of each school year through school Aladdin App.</p> <p>No personal information related to a child is used.</p>
<p>19) Use of online platforms for distance learning e.g. Zoom</p>	<p>19) Risk of harm due to inappropriate information, verbal and non-verbal being displayed and/or viewed by the children during an online class</p>	<p>19) Code of conduct for video calls to be followed. All zoom security measures to be followed.</p>
<p>20) Swimming</p>	<p>20) Risk of harm to child by other child or school personnel. Risk is increased as supervision is less structured than in the classroom.</p>	<p>20) Child Safeguarding Statement - Supervision procedures</p>

	<p>-Potential exposure to other adults/children which increases the risk of harm/abuse/grooming.          -Heightened risk as activity requires changing of clothes as there is no way to secure premises to exclude adults/children unrelated to the school. This is especially the case where children require assistance getting changed.</p>	<p>-Arrangements to be made where possible to exclusively use the premises, particularly changing rooms.</p>
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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)*

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.