

# **Kilross National School**

## **Child Safeguarding Statement**



Kilross 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 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 Kilross 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: Róisín Coughlan
- 3 The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is: Fiona Foley
- 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. The school will adhere to the following principles of best practice in child protection and welfare. The school will:
  - a. recognise that the protection and welfare of children is of paramount importance, regardless of all other considerations
  - b. fully comply with its statutory obligations under the Children First Act 2015 and other relevant legislation relating to the protection and welfare of children
  - c. fully co-operate with the relevant statutory authorities in relation to child protection and welfare matters
  - d. 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
  - e. develop a practice of openness with parents and encourage parental involvement in the education of their children; and
  - f. 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:
  - a. 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
  - b. 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

- c. 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:
  - i. Has provided each member of staff with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement
  - ii. Ensures all new staff are provided with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement
  - iii. Encourages staff to avail of relevant training
  - iv. Encourages Board of Management members to avail of relevant training
  - v. The Board of Management maintains records of all staff and Board member training.
- d. 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
- e. 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 school's child safeguarding statement.

- 6 All registered teachers employed by the school are mandated persons under the Children First Act 2015
- 7 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 attached as an appendix to these procedures
- 8 The various procedures referred to in this Statement can be accessed via the DES website and will be 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

- 9 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.
- 10 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 11<sup>th</sup> March 2018

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Chairperson of BoM

Principal/Secretary to the BoM

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Appendix A**  
**Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment**  
**(of any potential harm)**

<b>List of School Activities</b>	<b>Risk Level</b>	<b>The School has identified the following Risk of Harm</b>	<b>The School has the following Procedures in place to address risk identified in this assessment</b>
Training of school personnel in Child Protection matters	low	Harm not recognised or reported promptly	<p>Child Safeguarding Statement &amp; DES procedures made available to all staff</p> <p>DLP&amp; DDLP are due to attend PDST face to face training on May 31<sup>st</sup> 2018</p> <p>All Staff have viewed Túsla training module &amp; any other online training offered by PDST</p> <p>BOM records all records of staff and board training</p>
One to one teaching	Med	Harm by school personnel	<p>SEN Policy under review</p> <p>Child Safeguarding statement</p> <p>Table between teacher and pupil</p> <p>Glass to be fitted in SEN room.</p>
Toilet areas/Toileting accident	Med	<p>Inappropriate behaviour</p> <p>Harm by school personnel</p>	<p>Usage and supervision policy to be drawn up</p> <p>Monitoring of toilet areas by staff, particularly during break times.</p> <p>Separate toilets to be used by junior and senior room</p> <p>Separate toilets for boys and girls use</p> <p>Children only permitted to leave classroom to use toilets individually</p> <p>Where child has a toileting accident, teacher will not enter toilet cubicle area but instruct child from outside the door and parents of child will be contacted.</p>
Curricular Provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay safe.	Med	Non-teaching of same	School implements SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe in full

Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils	Med	Harm from older pupils, unknown adults on the playground	Arrival and dismissal supervised by Teachers
Managing of challenging behaviour amongst pupils, including appropriate use of restraint	High	Injury to pupils and staff	Safety Statement Code Of Behaviour
Sports Coaches	Med	Harm to pupils	Child Safety Statement Coaches must provide garda vetting to school prior to commencing coaching Teacher must remain with class at all times
Students participating in work experience	Low	Harm by student	Work experience Policy Child Safeguarding Statement. Class teacher remains with the class during student teacher contact time
Recreation breaks for pupils	Med	Harm from older pupils, unknown adults on the playground	Yard Supervision Rota Child Safeguarding Statement Anti-Bullying policy Code of Behaviour Teaching of SPHE Curriculum to pupils
Classroom teaching	Low	Harm to pupils	Child Protection Policy Code of Behaviour Anti-Bullying Policy
Outdoor teaching activities	Low	Harm to pupils	Child Protection Policy Code of Behaviour Anti-Bullying Policy
Sporting Activities including swimming	Med	Harm from older pupils, unknown adults	Supervision of children by class teacher. Garda vetting required of adults providing service Class teacher to remain with group at all times.
After-School Training	High	Harm from older pupils, coaches or unknown adults	Child Safeguarding Statement Code of Behaviour Anti-Bullying Policy 2 adults who are Garda vetted present for duration of training
School outings	High	Harm from older pupils, unknown adults on the playground	Ensure all adults present are Garda vetted and have an up-to-date Child Protection Policy.

			Children assigned a partner/buddy for duration of outing
Annual Sports Day	Med	Harm from older pupils, unknown adults	Ensure all adults present are Garda vetted and have an up-to-date Child Protection Policy. Teachers remain with class.
School transport arrangements including use of bus escorts during school hours	Med	Harm from older pupils or unknown adults	Class teacher remain with class at all times while on school outings
Administration of Medicine Administration of First Aid	Med	Harm to pupils	Administration of Medicine Policy Code of Behaviour Child Protection Policy Training for all staff in administration of medicine Procedure clearly posted on classroom wall and staffroom beside medicine cabinet.
Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst pupils	Low	Harm to pupils by pupils	Code of Behaviour Anti-Bullying Child Protection Teaching of SPHE programmes
Use of external personnel to supplement curriculum	Med	Harm to pupils	Child Protection Policy Class teacher to remain with class for duration of supplementary teaching
Recruitment of school personnel including - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Teachers</li> <li>• Secretary</li> <li>• Sports coaches</li> <li>• External Tutors/Guest Speakers</li> <li>• Volunteers/Parents in school activities</li> </ul>	Med	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
Use of Information and Communication Technology by pupils in school	Med	Bullying Accessing inappropriate content	Acceptable Use of ICT policy to be developed Anti-Bullying Policy Code of Behaviour

Application of sanctions under the school's Code of Behaviour including detention of pupils, confiscation of phones etc.	Low	Harm to pupils	Code of Behaviour Supervision in public area of the school – outside staffroom door.
Student teachers undertaking training placement in school	Low	Harm to pupils	Child Safeguarding Statement & DES procedures made available to students Child Protection Garda Vetting Requirements fulfilled
Use of video/photography/other media to record school events	Low	Bullying. Harm to pupils	Child Protection Policy Consent sought in school enrolment form.

**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.

This risk assessment has been completed by the Board of Management on *[insert date]*. It will be reviewed as part of the school's annual review of its Child Safeguarding Statement.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Chairperson, Board of Management

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management