



Child Safeguarding Statement

Knocktemple NS 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 Knocktemple NS 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 **Vincent Mulvey**
- 3 The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is **Amanda Rowan**
- 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.

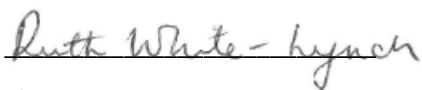
- In relation to the provision of information and, where necessary, instruction and training, to staff in respect of the identification of the occurrence of harm (as defined in the 2015 Act) the school-
 - Has provided each member of staff with a copy of the school’s Child Safeguarding Statement
 - Ensures 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 school’s 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 attached as an appendix to these procedures.
- The various procedures referred to in this Statement can be accessed via the school’s website, the DES 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 30.6.2021 .

Signed: 
Chairperson of Board of Management

Signed: 
Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Date: 30.6.2021

Date: 30.6.2021

Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment

Written Assessment of Risk Knocktemple NS

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 Knocktemple NS.

1. List of school activities

- Recruitment of school personnel including -
- Teachers
- SNA's
- Caretaker/Secretary/Cleaners
- Sports coaches
- External Tutors/Guest Speakers
- Volunteers - in school activities
- Visitors/contractors present in school during school hours
- Visitors/contractors present during after school activities

- Training of school personnel in Child Protection matters
- Administration of Medicine/Administration of First Aid
- Care of Children with special needs, including intimate care needs (also to cover any child with toileting accident)
- Curricular Provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay safe.
- Appropriate Supervision of pupils during daily arrival, dismissal of pupils, breaks
- Managing of challenging behaviour amongst pupils,
- Students participating in work experience
- Student teachers undertaking training placement in school
- Use of external personnel to supplement curriculum (Sport, Drama & etc)
- Use of Information and Communication Technology by pupils in school
- Classroom teaching
- SET teaching – small groups and one to one teaching
- Outdoor teaching activities (to include swimming)
- Application of sanctions under the school's Code of Behaviour including detention of pupils, etc.
- Sporting Activities
- Use of toilet/changing /shower areas in schools and elsewhere (sport & etc)
- School trips/outings
- School trips involving overnight stay
- Use of off-site facilities for school activities
- School transport arrangements
- Participation by pupils in religious ceremonies/ instruction external to the school
- Annual Sports Day
- Fundraising events involving pupils
- 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 or Pupils perceived to be.
- Pupils of minority religious faiths
- Children in care

- Use of video/photography/ other media to record school events

- After school use of school premises by other organisations
- Critical Incident Management
- Children on corridors, doing jobs etc
- Emergency in classroom

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

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

- Vetting – all teachers & SNAs on recruitment or retrospectively completed (Deadline extended to 30th April 2018)
- Statutory Declaration & Form of Undertaking signed by all new teachers & SNAs
- Child Protection Policy in all classrooms including SET rooms, offices and staff room. Policy in substitute folder. DDLP makes substitutes aware of procedures.
- All staff training – 1 full school day as per DES Guidelines. DLP (Vincent Mulvey) & DDLP (Amanda Rowan) – training in April/May 2018. Further training when necessary or as advised by DES
- Admin of Medication policy updated annually
- SEN policy 2017 – currently being updated in light of 2017 SEN guidelines. Open door policy, Glass in door to be always clear
- NEPS psychologists are vetted by DES as are DES inspectors
- SNA policy (2015-2016) - circular 30/2014
- School implements SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe in full. SPHE Policy reviewed in 2017/2018 schoolyear
- Supervision policy updated 2017 (including visitors to school, swimming and afterschool


- Health & Safety Policy – reviewed annually jointly by staff rep, Code Of Behaviour – reviewed 2016-2017
- Joint Agreement regarding Garda Vetting in place as per circulars 31/2016 & 16/2017. Stat Dec & Form of Undertaking to be signed. Garda Vetting undertaken by college in relation to school placements, Colleges provide evidence of appropriate insurance cover
- Procedures in place – in supervision policy. Garda Vetting provided by umbrella organisation eg GAA coach
- ICT policy –
- Acceptable Use Policy – updated 2017- 2018
- School security provided by PDST technology
- Anti-Bullying Policy
- Policy –
- School guidelines and procedures – that children are under care of parents/guardians at religious ceremonies. Teacher in attendance at any instruction/practice activities as per supervision policy
- Admissions Policy. All relevant permission sought on Admission form
- Anti-Bullying Policy
- Critical Incident Management Team in place. Policy reviewed annually by CIMT

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 30.6.2021. It shall be reviewed as part of the school’s annual review of its Child Safeguarding Statement.

Signed  Date 30.6.2021
Chairperson, Board of Management

Signed  Date 30.6.2021
Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management