

St. Kevin's N.S. Child Protection Safeguarding Statement

St. Kevin's N.S. 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 St. Kevin's N.S. 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: **Ms. Corrina Bailey**
- 3 The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is: **Ms. Mary Begg**
- 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 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

9 This statement has been published on the school's website and has been provided to all members of school personnel, the Parents' Association 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 15/10/2019 and was updated on 22/09/2020

Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment

School Activities	Risk Level	The School has identified the following risk or harm	The school has the following procedures/safe guards in place to address the identified risk
Training of school personnel in Child Protection matters.	High	Harm not recognised or reported promptly.	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. BOM have been given Child Protection Procedures. BOM records all records of staff and board training.
Recruitment of new staff.	Medium	Harm not recognised or reported promptly.	Follow Garda Vetting Circular 31/16. Statutory Declaration and Form of Undertaking signed. Given copy of Child Protection Safety Statement and Risk Assessment. Read and sign that they have read the Children First Guidelines.
Student teachers undertaking training placement in school.	Medium	Harm to pupils	Garda Vetted. Given copy of Child Protection Safety Statement and Risk Assessment.
Secondary students participating in work experience.	Low	Harm by student	Child Safeguarding Statement. Pupils are Garda vetted. Never one on one with pupils.
Volunteers and Parents.	Medium	Harm to pupils	All Garda Vetted. Given parent or visitor lanyards to wear. Sign in and out at office. Guidelines for parents document to add a line about contacting principal with any Child Protection concerns.
Visitors.	Med	Harm to pupils	Given guest lanyards to wear. Sign in and out at office.
One to one teaching.	Medium	Harm by school personnel	Open door or glass panel in door.
Care of children with special needs, including intimate care needs.	High	Harm by school personnel	Toileting guidelines.
Care of pupils with specific vulnerabilities.	Medium	Bullying Toileting	Anti-Bullying Policy. Two gender-neutral toilets (6a and beside office).
Toilet areas.	High	Inappropriate behaviour	Supervision policy.
Curricular provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay safe.	Medium	Non-teaching of same	School implements SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe in full.
Managing of challenging behaviour amongst pupils, including appropriate use of restraint.	Medium	Injury to pupils and staff	Code Of Behaviour policy Anti-Bullying policy.
Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils.	Medium	Harm from other pupils, unknown adults on the playground	Supervision policy. Health & Safety policy.

Recreation breaks for pupils.	High	Injury to pupils/Bullying/ Harm not recognised or properly or promptly reported	Anti-Bullying policy. Supervision policy. Code of Behaviour policy. Teacher must have at least two children present during First Aid.
Classroom teaching.	Low	Harm by others	If teacher leaves the class, the door is left open with another teacher notified. Supervision policy.
Outside sporting activities.	Medium	Harm by others	Minimum two Garda vetted adults to attend sporting events.
After school activities.	Medium	Harm to pupils	Adults Garda vetted. References sought for all new after school co-ordinators. Pupils are not allowed to change in school for Hip Hop.
Cycle training.	Low	Harm to Pupils	Teachers always present.
School tours.			School tour policy. Supervision policy.
School transport arrangements including use of bus escorts.	High	Harm to pupils. Harm not recognised or properly or promptly reported.	Aaron Cullen from Bus Eireann confirmed that there is no requirement to have a bus escort. Clarification with the Department of Education is ongoing in relation to above.
Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst pupils.	Medium	Harm to pupils	Anti-Bullying policy. AUP.
Use of Information and Communication Technology by pupils in school.	Medium	Bullying Staff not following policies and procedures	ICT policy. Anti-Bullying policy. Code of Behaviour policy.
Use of video/ photography/ other media to record school events.	Medium	Sharing information over social media.	Parents are informed not to post any videos on social media in start of year letter.
Children going on messages in the school.	Medium	Harm to Pupils.	Children will be sent in pairs.
Swimming.	Medium	Harm to Pupils.	Under the care of parents of individual children.
Administration of Medication.		Incorrect administration of medication.	Administration of Medication policy.