

Mandatory Template 1: Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment Template

Child Safeguarding Statement

Ard Rí Community National School 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 Ard Rí Community 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 **Darragh Roe (Príomhoide)**
- 3 The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is **Catherine Dooley (Leas-Príomhoide)**
- 4 The Relevant Person is **Darragh Roe (Príomhoide)**
(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. This person can also be the DLP)
- 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 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 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 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 _____.

This Child Safeguarding Statement was reviewed by the Board of Management on _____.

Signed: _____

Signed: _____

Chairperson of Board of Management

Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Date: _____

Date: _____

Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment

Written Assessment of Risk of Ard Rí Community National School

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 (revised 2023)*, the following is the Written Risk Assessment of Ard Rí Community National School.

1. List of school activities

- Collection and drop-off of children
- Children arriving late to school and leaving early from school
- Classroom teaching
- One-to-one teaching
- Withdrawal from mainstream class by Special Ed Team
- Recreation breaks for pupils
- Outdoor teaching activities
- Online teaching and learning remotely
- Use of Information and Communication Technology by pupils in school, including social media
 - Children accessing the internet on school or personal devices
 - Use of video/photography/other media to record school events
 - School tours
 - Private buses and creches taking pupils to and from school
 - School walks, nature walks, walking to town
 - Bus trips- sporting trips, library trips
 - Children visiting other schools- Primary or Post Primary
 - Other schools visiting our school- Primary or Post Primary (including work experience)
 - Teaching practice students carrying out placement in our school
 - Swimming including changing and shower areas
 - Activities involving parental involvement- post office, school tours, fundraising etc.
- After school sports clubs
- Curricular provision- especially in respect of SPHE, Stay Safe, RSE, GMGY!
- Training of school personnel in child protection matters
- Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst pupils
- Helping pupils with intimate care needs
- 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/Beliefs and pupils of no Faith/Belief
 - Children in care
 - Children on CPNS
 - Children with medical needs
- Recruitment of school personnel
- Withdrawal from mainstream class by Special Ed Team
- Visiting the Principal's Office

- Managing Challenging Behaviour, including appropriate use of restraint where required
- Application of sanctions under the school's Code of Behaviour including detention of pupils, confiscation of phones etc.
- Bed-time stories/ Art Gallery (or similar initiatives where children and parents attend events in the evening)
- Use of video/photography/other media by both school and parents to record school events
- After-school use of premises by other organisations
- Sports Days and Winter Show
- Yard/ break times
- Administration of First Aid
- Administration of Medication
- Use of external personnel to supplement curriculum
- Use of external personnel to support sports and other extra-curricular activities
- Students participating in work experience in the school
- Student teachers undertaking training placement in school

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 DLP, DDLP or mandated persons
- Risk of child being harmed 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 another organisation or other person while participating in out of school activities e.g. school trip, swimming lessons
- Risk of harm occurring due to inadequate supervision either in school or out of school activities
- Risk of child being harmed in one-to-one situations
- Risk of harm due to inappropriate use of online remote teaching and learning communication platform such as an uninvited person accessing the lesson link
- Risk of harm due to children inappropriately accessing/using computers, social media, phones and other devices while at school
- Risk of harm caused by member of school community communicating with pupils in an inappropriate manner via social media, texting, digital device or other manner
- Risk of harm caused by member of school community accessing/circulating inappropriate material via social media, texting, digital device or other manner
- Risk of harm occurring due to inappropriate relationships/communications between younger and older children mixing
- Risk of harm during Intimate Care situations
- Risk of harm due to racism
- Risk of harm due to one's prejudices- e.g. towards minorities, social backgrounds
- Risk of harm due to inadequate vetting of external coaches, volunteers or school visitors
- Risk of harm due to bullying of a child due by another child or adult
- Risk of harm due to exposure to inappropriate content or exposure to cyberbullying while on the internet on either school or personal devices

- Risk of harm caused by member of school personnel communicating with children in an inappropriate manner via social media, texting, digital device, in person or in any other manner
- Risk of harm due to incorrect application of school policies e.g. Code of Behaviour, Anti-Bullying Policy, AUP
- Risk of harm due to poor Data Protection/ Confidentiality

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

- 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
- The school implements in full the Stay Safe Programme
- The school implements in full the SPHE curriculum
- Confidential Records are kept of all incidents or concerns
- The school has in place an Anti-Bullying Policy which fully adheres to the requirements of the Departments Anti-Bullying Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools
- The school has in place a Code of Behaviour for pupils
- The school undertakes anti-racism awareness initiatives
- The school has in place a policy for Intimate Care, Administration of Medications, Administration of First Aid and a plans in place in respect of children who require such care.
- The school has a yard/playground supervision policy to ensure appropriate supervision of children during breaks and in respect of specific areas such as toilets, back of school etc.
- The school has a Health and Safety Policy
- The school adheres to the requirements of Garda Vetting Legislation and relevant DES circulars in relation to recruitment, volunteers and Garda Vetting
- The school implements the Teaching Council Code of Professional Conduct for Teachers
- 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 a complaints procedure in place
- Has provided each member of school staff with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement
- Ensures all new staff, substitute teachers and volunteers are provided with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement
- Encourages staff to avail of relevant CPD
- 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 Critical Incident Management Plan, Health and Safety policy Special Educational Needs 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 (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.