



Clocha Rince National School

Child Safeguarding Statement

Clocha Rince 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 Clocha Rince 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: **Maeve McConaghy**
- 3 The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is: **Muiríosa McCarthy**
- 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.



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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



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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 (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 7th February 2018.

Signed: _____ Signed: _____

Kathleen Lynch

Maeve McConaghy

Chairperson of BoM

Principal/Secretary to the BoM

Date: 8th February 2018

Date: 8th February 2018



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Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment (of any potential harm)

| List of School Activities | Risk Level | The School has identified the following Risk of Harm | The School has the following Procedures in place to address risk identified in this assessment |
|--|------------|--|---|
| 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 Túsla training module & any other online training offered by PDST BOM records all records of staff and board training |
| One to one teaching | Med | Harm by school personnel | Best Practice Guidelines Open doors Table between teacher and pupil Glass in window SEN policy |
| Care of Children with special needs, including intimate care needs | High | Harm by school personnel | Policy on intimate care SEN policy |
| Toilet areas (in Hall) | High | Inappropriate behaviour | Usage and supervision policy Code of Behaviour Policy |
| Curricular Provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay safe. | Med | Non-teaching of same | School implements SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe in full |
| LGBT Children/Pupils perceived to be LGBT | Low | Bullying | Anti-Bullying Policy Code of Behaviour |
| Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils | Med | Harm from older pupils, unknown adults on the playground | Parents remain with children until 9.05am Arrival at 9.05 supervised by teachers Wet mornings Principal or delegated teacher supervises from 8.55am Teachers' escort children to front door |



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| Managing of challenging behaviour amongst pupils, including appropriate use of restraint | High | Injury to pupils and staff | Positive Behaviour Policy and IEPs/IPLPs Health & Safety Policy Code Of Behaviour |
| List of School Activities | Risk Level | The School has identified the following Risk of Harm | The School has the following Procedures in place to address risk identified in this assessment |
| Sports Coaches | Med | Harm to pupils by coach Inadequate supervision by school personnel | Policy & Procedures in place Garda vetting received from Sporting Body or arranged through CPSMA Visitors' sign-in book |
| External personnel to support curriculum e.g. authors, engineers, swimming coaches, parents/grandparents | Med | Harm to pupils Inappropriate behaviour by pupils | Best practice Guidelines Visitors' sign-in book Booking procedures via reputable sources Policy for supervision Presence of teacher |
| Recreation breaks for pupils | High | Harm to students Adults other than school personnel arriving on yard (known and unknown) Bullying | Supervision Policy Use of toilets Code of Behaviour Policy on collection of children for appointments |
| Classroom teaching | Med | Harm by school personnel Harm by student Bullying Substitute teachers | Recruitment procedures including vetting Supervision Policy Punctuality of teacher |
| Outdoor teaching activities | High | Harm by unknown adults Harm to student Inappropriate behaviour | Supervision Policy Procedures for outdoor teaching activities |
| Sporting Activities | High | Harm by known/unknown adults Harm by school personnel Inappropriate behaviour Transport by parents Bullying | Supervision Policy Consent policy for sports Garda vetting of parent volunteers Code of Behaviour Best practice guidelines |
| School outings | High | Harm by unknown adults Harm by school personnel Harm by venue personnel Bullying/Inappropriate behaviour | Supervision policy Trips and Tours policy Consent policy Best Practice guidelines |



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| School trips involving overnight stay | High | Harm by unknown adults Harm by school personnel Harm by venue personnel Bullying | Supervision policy Trips and Tours policy Consent policy Best Practice guidelines |
| List of School Activities | Risk Level | The School has identified the following Risk of Harm | The School has the following Procedures in place to address risk identified in this assessment |
| Use of toilet/shower areas in schools (SEN) | High | Harm by school personnel | Intimate Care Policy Best Practice Guidelines |
| Active Schools' Week | Med | Harm by visiting coaches Inappropriate behaviour | Supervision Policy Best practice guidelines Visitors' Sign In Policy |
| Fundraising events involving pupils | Med | Harm by known/unknown adults Inappropriate behaviour Bullying Inadequate supervision | Supervision by teachers Vetting of adults assisting Procedures for event Visitor sign-in book Code of Behaviour |
| Use of off-site facilities for school activities e.g. swimming pool; Rahan Wood; GAA pitch | High | Harm by unknown adults Harm by school personnel Harm by other students Inadequate supervision Bullying | Supervision policy Trips and tours policy Vetting of external personnel Code of Behaviour 1 st Aid policy/Health and Safety Policy |
| School transport arrangements including use of bus escorts | High | Harm by Bus Escort Bullying Harm by Drivers Inappropriate Behaviour | Recruitment procedures and vetting Code of behaviour Best practice guidelines Training in Child Protection Provision of Child Safeguarding statement Anti-Bullying policy |
| Administration of Medicine Administration of First Aid | Med | Harm by school personnel | First Aid Policy Training in basic 1 st Aid for all staff Administration of Medicine policy |
| Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst pupils | High | Harm by pupils Cyber-bullying | Code of Behaviour Anti-Bullying Policy and Procedures |



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| | | Inadequate training of school personnel Harm by school personnel during counselling/investigation | Safe internet usage training for pupils and staff Stay Safe Programme Regular training and review of procedures |
| List of School Activities | | The School has identified the following Risk of Harm | The School has the following Procedures in place to address risk identified in this assessment |
| Care of pupils with specific vulnerabilities/needs such as <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 • Children in care • Children on CPNS | Med | Bullying Inappropriate Behaviour Harm by school personnel Harm by wider school community/visitor | Code of Behaviour Anti-bullying Policy Anti-harassment policy Anti-racism policy Stay Safe, RSE and SPHE implemented in full |
| Recruitment of school personnel including - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teachers • SNA's • Caretaker/Secretary/Cleaners • Sports coaches • External Tutors/Guest Speakers • Volunteers/Parents in school activities • Visitors/contractors present in school during school hours • Visitors/contractors present during after school activities | High | 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 Policy on Parents / Volunteers Policy on Visiting Contractors |
| Use of school premises by other organisation during school day (Pre-school) | Med | Inadequate communication between school and organisation Unknown Adults on premises | Agreement in place between parties Regular meetings Child safe-Guarding Statement provided Staff and personnel made know to school management |



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| | | | Access to school restricted |
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| List of School Activities | | The School has identified the following Risk of Harm | The School has the following Procedures in place to address risk identified in this assessment |
| Use of Information and Communication Technology by pupils in school | High | Bullying Inappropriate use of ICT and | ICT policy Anti-Bullying Policy Code of Behaviour AUP for pupils Safe Internet training PDST safeguards in place |
| Application of sanctions under the school's Code of Behaviour including detention of pupils, confiscation of phones etc. | Med | Harm by school personnel Inadequate supervision | Mobile Phone and Digital Technology Policy Stay Safe Supervision Policy Code of Behaviour and Anti-Bullying Policy |
| Students participating in work experience in the school (TY/SNAs) | Med | Harm by student doing work experience | Garda vetting and insurance received Child Safeguarding Statement & DES procedures made available to all staff Supervision by teacher |
| Student teachers undertaking training placement in school | Med | Harm by student undertaking placement | Child Safeguarding Statement & DES procedures made available to all staff Garda vetting and insurance Supervision by class teacher |
| Use of video/photography/other media to record school events | | Harm by school personnel Harm by known/unknown adults | Consent policy for publishing on social media/newspapers etc Disciplinary procedures for school personnel Staff AUP |
| After school use of school premises by other organisations | Med | Harm by adult to school children | Child Safeguarding Statement & DES procedures made available to all staff |



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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 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 8th February 2018. It will be reviewed as part of the school's annual review of its Child Safeguarding Statement.

Signed Kathleen Lynch Date 8th February 2018

Chairperson, Board of Management

Signed Maeve McConaghy Date 8th February 2018

Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management