Ennistymon Community School

Mandatory Template 1: Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment

Child Safeguarding Statement

Ennistymon Community School is a primary/special/post-primary school providing primary/post-primary education to pupils from Junior Infants to Sixth Class/First Year to Leaving Certificate Year (delete as appropriate).

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 [insert school name] 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 Orla Conway

3 The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is Karen O'Neill

4 Relevant Person is Orla Conway
(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. In a school setting the relevant person shall be the designated liaison person.)

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 16th October 2023.

This Child Safeguarding Statement was reviewed by the Board of Management on 16th October 2023.

Signed: _____

Chairperson of Board of Management

Date: 24/9/25

Signed: _____

Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Date: 24/9/25

Mandatory Template 2: Checklist for Review of the Child Safeguarding Statement

The Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools (revised 2023) require that the Board of Management must undertake a review of its Child Safeguarding Statement and that the following checklist shall be used for this purpose. **The review must be completed every year or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which the Child Safeguarding Statement refers.** Undertaking an annual review will also ensure that a school also meets its statutory obligation under section 11(8) of the Children First Act 2015, to review its Child Safeguarding Statement every two years.

The checklist is designed as an aid to conducting this review and is not intended as an exhaustive list of the issues to be considered. Individual Boards of Management shall include other items in the checklist that are of relevance to the school in question.

As part of the overall review process, Boards of Management should also assess relevant school policies, procedures, practices and activities vis a vis their adherence to the principles of best practice in child protection and welfare as set out in the school's Child Safeguarding Statement, the Children First Act 2015, the Addendum to Children First (2019) and the *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools (revised 2023).*

	Yes/No
1. Has the Board formally adopted a Child Safeguarding Statement in accordance with the *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools (revised 2023)*?	Y
2. Is the Board satisfied that the Child Safeguarding Statement is displayed in a prominent place near the main entrance to the school?	Y
3. As part of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement, has the Board formally adopted, without modification, the *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools (revised 2023)*?	Y
4. Does the school's Child Safeguarding Statement include a written assessment of risk as required under the Children First Act 2015? (This includes considering the specific issue of online safety as required by the Addendum to Children First)	Y
5. Has the Board reviewed and updated where necessary the written assessment of risk as part of this overall review?	Y
6. Has the Risk Assessment taken account of the risk of harm relevant to online teaching and learning remotely?	Y
7. Has the DLP attended available child protection training?	Y
8. Has the Deputy DLP attended available child protection training?	Y
9. Have any members of the Board attended child protection training?	Y
10. Has the school appointed a DLP and a Deputy DLP?	Y
11. Are the relevant contact details (Tusla and An Garda Síochána) to hand?	Y
12. Has the Board arrangements in place to communicate the school's Child Safeguarding Statement to new school personnel?	Y
13. Is the Board satisfied that all school personnel have been made aware of their responsibilities under the *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools (revised 2023)* and the Children First Act 2015?	Y
14. Has the Board received a Principal's Child Protection Oversight Report (CPOR) at each Board meeting held since the last review was undertaken?	Y
15. Since the Board's last review, did each CPOR contain all of the information required under each of the 4 headings set out in sections 9.5 to 9.8 inclusive of the procedures?	Y

16. Since the Board's last review, has the Board been provided with and reviewed all records relevant to the CPOR?	Y
17. Is the Board satisfied that the records provided are anonymised and redacted as necessary to ensure that the identities of children and any other parties, including school personnel, to whom the concern or report relates are not disclosed?	Y
18. Since the Board's last review, have the minutes of each Board meeting appropriately recorded the records provided to the Board as part of CPOR?	Y
19. Have the minutes of each Board meeting appropriately recorded the CPOR?	Y
20. Is the Board satisfied that the child protection procedures in relation to the making of reports to Tusla/An Garda Síochána were appropriately followed in each case reviewed?	Y
21. Is the Board satisfied that, since the last review, all appropriate actions are being or have been taken in respect of any member of school personnel against whom an allegation of abuse or neglect has been made?*	Y
22. Where applicable, were unique identifiers used to record child protection matters in the Board minutes?	Y
23. Is the Board satisfied that all records relating to child protection are appropriately filed and stored securely?	Y
24. Has the Board been notified by any parent in relation to that parent not receiving the standard notification required under section 5.6 of the *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools (revised 2023)*?	Y
25. In relation to any cases identified at question 20 above, has the Board ensured that any notifications required under section 5.6 of the *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools (revised 2023)* were subsequently issued by the DLP?	Y
26. Has the Board ensured that the Parents' Association (if any), has been provided with the school's Child Safeguarding Statement?	Y
27. Has the Board ensured that the patron has been provided with the school's Child Safeguarding Statement?	Y
28. Has the Board ensured that the school's Child Safeguarding Statement is available to parents on request?	Y
29. Has the Board ensured that the Stay Safe programme is implemented in full in the school? (applies to primary schools)	Y
30. Has the Board ensured that the Wellbeing Programme for Junior Cycle students is implemented in full in the school? (applies to post-primary schools)	Y
31. Has the Board ensured that the SPHE curriculum is implemented in full in the school?	Y
32. Is the Board satisfied that the statutory requirements for Garda Vetting have been met in respect of all school personnel (employees and volunteers)? *	Y
33. Is the Board satisfied that the Department's requirements in relation to the provision of a child protection related statutory declaration and associated form of undertaking have been met in respect of persons appointed to teaching and non-teaching positions? *	Y
34. Is the Board satisfied that, from a child protection perspective, thorough recruitment and selection procedures are applied by the school in relation to all school personnel (employees and volunteers)?*	Y
35. Has the Board considered and addressed any complaints or suggestions for improvements regarding the school's Child Safeguarding Statement?	Y
36. Has the Board sought the feedback of parents in relation to the school's compliance with the requirements of the child safeguarding requirements of the *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools (revised 2023)*?	Y
37. Has the Board sought the feedback of pupils in relation to the school's child safeguarding arrangements?	Y
38. Is the Board satisfied that the '*Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools Post-Primary Schools (revised 2023)* are being fully and adequately implemented by the school?	Y
39. Has the Board identified any aspects of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement and/or its implementation that require further improvement?	Y
40. Has the Board put in place an action plan containing appropriate timelines to address those aspects of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement and/or its implementation that have been identified as requiring further improvement?	Y

41. Has the Board ensured that any areas for improvement that were identified in any previous review of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement have been adequately addressed?	Y

*In schools where the ETB is the employer, the responsibility for meeting the employer's requirements rests with the ETB concerned. In such cases, this question should be completed following consultation with the ETB.

Signed _____ Date 24/9/25

Chairperson, Board of Management

Signed _____ Date 24/9/25

Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Note: Where a school is undertaking its first review, references in this checklist to the "last review" shall be taken to refer to the date on which the Child Safeguarding Statement was first put in place.

Ennistymon Community School

Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment

1. List of school activities	2. The school has identified the following risk of harm in respect of its activities	3. The school has the following procedures in place to address the risks of harm identified in this assessment
• Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils. • Movement between campuses. • Recreation breaks for pupils • After school use of school premises by other organisations • Use of school premises by other organisation during school day • Evening study	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of students entering and leaving the school. • Risk of harm not being reported properly and promptly by school personnel • Risk of harm not being reported properly and promptly by mandated persons • 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 closing blinds in classrooms to the extent the classroom is blackened out completely preventing visibility from outside	• Sign in/Sign out book at reception. Parents and students have been informed that this must be signed when late and leaving the school. • Students have been informed on appropriate behaviour and timekeeping when travelling to and from classes in other campuses. Teachers and SNA's often travel with the students. • Co. Council has increased the hours of the Lollipop Person on Blake's corner. • The school has a yard/playground supervision procedure to ensure appropriate supervision of children during, assembly, dismissal, and breaks and in respect of specific areas such as toilets, changing rooms, etc. 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
• Classroom teaching • One-to-one teaching • One-to-one counselling • Outdoor teaching activities	• 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	

• Sporting Activities • School outings • School trips involving overnight stay • School trips involving foreign travel • Use of toilet/changing/shower areas in schools • Annual Sports Day • Fundraising events involving pupils • Use of off-site facilities for school activities • School transport arrangements including use of bus escorts if required. Care of children with special educational needs • Management of challenging behaviour amongst pupils, including appropriate use of positive handling where required. • Curricular provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe • Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst pupils • Training of school personnel in child protection matters • Use of external personnel to supplement curriculum • Use of external personnel to support sports and other extra-curricular activities	or other person while child participating in out of school activities e.g., school trip • 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 placing posters on classroom doors preventing visibility	• The school has in place procedures for one to-one teaching activities • The school has in place procedures for one to-one counselling • 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 adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation and relevant DES circulars in relation to recruitment and Garda vetting • The school has codes of conduct for school personnel (teaching and non-teaching staff) • The school complies with the agreed disciplinary procedures for teaching staff • The school – o Has made each member of school staff aware of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement o Encourages staff to avail of relevant training o Encourages board of management members to avail of relevant training o Maintains records of all staff and board member training • The school has an Anti-Bullying Policy which fully adheres to the requirements of the Department's Anti-Bullying Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools

• Care of pupils with specific vulnerabilities/ needs such as - Pupils from ethnic minorities/migrants - Members of the Traveller community - Lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender (LGBTQI+) children - Pupils perceived to be LGBTQI+ Pupils of minority religious faiths - Children in care - Children on CPNS • Recruitment of school personnel including - - 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 • Participation by pupils in religious ceremonies/religious instruction external to the school • Use of Information and Communication Technology by pupils in school • Application of sanctions under the school's Code of Behaviour including detention of pupils, confiscation of phones etc. • Students participating in work experience in the school • Students from the school participating in work experience elsewhere • Student teachers undertaking training placement in school	• 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 due to inadequate code of behaviour • Risk of harm in one-to-one teaching, counselling, coaching situation Risk of harm to a student by a member of staff/ or staff of another organization who has not been Garda Vetted • 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 a member of school personnel accessing/circulating inappropriate material via social media, texting, digital device or other manner. • Risk of harm caused by a student accessing/circulating inappropriate material via social media, texting, digital device or other manner.	• The school has in place a code of behaviour for pupils • The school has in place a policy and clear procedures in respect of school outings/trips. • The school has a Health and safety policy • The school has in place procedures for the administration of First Aid • The school has in place procedures for the use of external sports coaches • The school has in place an acceptable internet usage policy in respect of usage of digital devices. The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation and relevant DES circulars in relation to recruitment and Garda vetting • The school has codes of conduct for school personnel (teaching and non-teaching staff) • The school implements the RSE programme • The school implements the SPHE curriculum • The school implements the Wellbeing Programme • The school has in place a Critical Incident Management Policy.

• Use of video/photography/other media to record school events • Administration of Medicine • Administration of First Aid • Risk of transferring a student to First Aid clinic/hospital	Risk of students with certain medical conditions, due to lack of knowledge & understanding & time constraints	• The school has in place procedures for the use of external persons to supplement the delivery of the curriculum • The school has in place procedures in respect of student teacher placements • The school has in place procedures in respect of students undertaking work experience in the school / and external organizations. • The school has in place an ICT policy in respect of usage of ICT by pupils • Training provided to specific staff in relation to certain conditions .eg. Epilepsy The school has in place procedures for the administration of medicines. • Pastoral Care Team • Year head meetings • Guidance counsellor referral • NEPS • First Aid – Occupational First Aiders. The school has at least 8 First Responders on staff.