

## Annual Review of the Child Safeguarding Statement

February 2021

The *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017* require 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 and the *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017*.

1. The Board has formally adopted a Child Safeguarding Statement in accordance with the 'Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools 2017'
2. As part of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement, the Board formally adopted, without modification, the 'Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools 2017'
3. The school's Child Safeguarding Statement includes a written assessment of risk as required under the Children First Act 2015
4. The Board reviewed and updated where necessary the written assessment of risk as part of this overall review
5. The DLP is Mr Richard Prendiville and he has attended available child protection training on 17<sup>th</sup> October 2013
6. The Deputy DLP is Ms Leila Moloney and she has attended available child protection training on December 11<sup>th</sup> 2013.
7. Other members of the Board such as Mrs Mary McGillicuddy, Ann Marie Hassett, Anne O'Sullivan, Niamh Wall and Sr. Frances Day have attended child protection training.
8. Both a DLP and Deputy DLP are appointed
9. The relevant contact details of the Túsła, (Social Services in Tralee – 0667195641 and Newcastlewest – 0696653) and An Garda Síochána 06850820 are to hand.
10. The Board has arrangements in place to communicate the school's Child Safeguarding Statement to new school personnel. All new staff members are given a copy of the procedures each year and sign the relevant documentation.
11. The Board has ensured that all school personnel have been made aware of their responsibilities under the Department's "Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools 2017" and the "Children First Act 2015". All staff are reminded at the first staff meeting each year and routinely throughout the year. The Procedures are also located on a dedicated Child Protection folder on the shared Q Drive and included in the staff handbook/diary.
12. The Board has received a Principal's Child Protection Oversight Report at each Board meeting held since the last review was undertaken
13. Since the Board's last review, the Board was informed of three (1 in June 19 and 2 in December 19) child protection reports made to Túsła/An Garda Síochána by the DLP
14. Since the Board's last review (February 2020), the Board was informed of zero cases where the DLP sought advice from Túsła/and as a result of this advice, no report to the HSE was made

15. Since the Board's last review, the Board was informed of zero cases where an allegation of abuse or neglect was made against any member of school personnel
16. The Board is provided with a Child Protection Oversight Report at each Board meeting. As per section 9.5 in the 2017 Child Protection Guidelines, in the event of an allegation being made against School personnel all relevant documents including copies of records, notes, Tusla advice, Tusla reports, other records of communication with Tusla, Gardai etc. shall be provided to the Board. All such records shall be recovered after each Board meeting by the DLP and not retained by Board members.
17. The Board is satisfied that the child protection procedures in relation to the making of reports to Túsła/An Garda Síochána were appropriately followed and reviewed
18. The Board is satisfied that, since the last review, zero cases exist where school personnel have had an allegation of abuse or neglect made. However should such a case arise all appropriate actions would be, will be, are being or have been taken in respect of any member of the school
19. Child protection matters reported to the Board appropriately were recorded in the Board minutes
20. The Board is satisfied that all records relating to child protection are appropriately filed and stored securely in the Principal's office
21. The Board has not 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 2017'
22. In relation to any potential cases identified at question 21 above, the Board would ensure that any notifications required section 5.6 of the 'Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools 2017' would subsequently be issued by the DLP
23. The Board has ensured that the Parents' Association, has been previously issued with the Child Protection Policy in 2020. They will be provided with the school's Child Safeguarding Statement in the coming weeks. The policy is on display on entry to the school office area and can be accessed on the schools website. As an addition to this a detailed version of 'Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools' has also been placed on the school website.
24. The patron will be provided with the school's Child Safeguarding Statement after ratification
25. The school's Child Safeguarding Statement is available to parents on request, by hard copy or email. It will also be placed on the School website.
26. N/A – Primary only
27. The Board has ensured that the Wellbeing Programme for Junior Cycle students is implemented in full in the school as outlined in the written Junior Cycle Wellbeing Programme of Tarbert Comprehensive School ratified on 12-2-19.
28. The Board has ensured that the SPHE curriculum is implemented in full in the school
29. The Board is satisfied that the statutory requirements for Garda Vetting have been met in respect of all school personnel (employees and volunteers). Retrospective vetting is now complete for all such persons.
30. The Board is 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
31. The Board is 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)
32. The Board is open to considering and addressing any complaints or suggestions for improvements regarding the school's Child Safeguarding Statement
33. The Board, through the Principal and its own parental representatives is constantly open to 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 2017'. Parents were invited through the School website and text message, to review the

Child Safeguarding Statement and offer any suggestions for improvement as part of a consultation process.

34. The Board through the Students Council constantly receives feedback on a variety of issues and the Council was consulted in relation to the school's child safeguarding arrangements in January 2021.
35. The Board is satisfied that the 'Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools 2017' are being fully and adequately implemented by the school
36. The Board has not identified any aspects of the school's child protection policy and/or its implementation that require further improvement at this time. However this will be kept under constant review and acted upon as necessary. In the past year the school's child protection policy identified other school policies, practices and activities that are regarded as having child protection relevance such as the medical emergency protocol.
37. If necessary an action plan containing appropriate timelines to address those aspects of the school's child protection policy and/or its implementation that may be identified as requiring further improvement would be instigated
38. The Board has ensured that any areas for improvement that were identified in any previous review of the school's child protection policy have been adequately addressed

Signed  Date 9th February 2021

**Mrs Mary McGillicuddy, Chairperson, Board of Management**

Signed  Date 9th February 2021

**Mr Richard Prendiville, Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management**