

Mandatory Template 1: Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment Template (Landscape Version)

Child Safeguarding Statement

Garrydoolis NS 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 2017](#) and [Tusla Guidance on the preparation of Child Safeguarding Statements](#), the Board of Management of Garrydoolis 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 Heidi Jordan
- 3 The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is Tina Hickey
- 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. 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.

5 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 2017 and to the relevant agreed disciplinary procedures for school staff which are published on the DE 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 DE 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 2017, including in the case of registered teachers, those in relation to mandated reporting under the Children First Act 2015.
- In this school the Board has appointed the abovenamed DLP as the "relevant person" (as defined in the Children First Act 2015) to be the first point of contact in respect of the schools child safeguarding statement.
- 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 DE 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.

- 6 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.
- 7 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 27/2/18

This Child Safeguarding Statement was most recently reviewed by the Board of Management on 11/11/21

Signed: Joanne Beary

Signed: Heidi Jordan

Chairperson of Board of Management

Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Date: 11/11/21

Date: 11/11/21

Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment

Written Assessment of Risk of [name of school]

In accordance with section 11 of the Children First Act 2015 and with the requirement of Chapter 8 of the *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017*, the following is the Written Risk Assessment of [name of school].

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 -
Training of School Personnel in Child Protection matters	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 have completed Túsla training module & any other online training offered by PDST BOM records all records of staff and board training
One to One teaching	Harm by school personnel	School has policy in place for one to one teaching Open doors/ Glass in window
Toilet Areas	Inappropriate behaviour	Usage and supervision procedures
Curricular Provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe	Non-teaching of same	School implements SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe in full
Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils	Harm from unknown adults outside of school/ traffic	Arrival and dismissal supervised by teachers
Managing challenging behaviour	Injury to pupils and staff	Health and Safety Policy Teacher always present
Sports Coaches	Harm to pupils	Policy and procedures in place

		Teacher always present
Students participating in work experience individuals volunteering	Harm by student	Work experience/ volunteering policy (to be put in place) Child Safeguarding Statement
Recreation breaks for pupils	Harm to pupils	Teachers always on supervision at breaks and one teacher manning first aid station Cones in place so that all children stay within teachers' vision Children only go to yard if weather and underfoot conditions suitable Wet days are walking days, no balls Field out of use during winter months
Classroom teaching	Harm to pupils	Child Safeguarding Statement & DES procedures made available to all staff Glass in doors Teacher training and continued professional development
Outdoor teaching activities	Harm to pupils	Pupils supervised at all times Outdoor teaching activities only take place when weather and underfoot conditions are suitable
Sporting activities	Harm to pupils	Pupils supervised at all times Suitable safety equipment, ie. Helmets, mouth guards, must be used by pupils Appropriate training
School outings	Harm to pupils or staff	Outings well researched and schedule prepared by teachers Reputable bus company used All pupils use seatbelts throughout journeys All pupils supervised at all times
Annual Sports' Day	Harm to pupils	All pupils supervised at all times Sports Day only takes place if weather and underfoot conditions are suitable Schedule for day prepared by teachers Equipment checked prior to use
Fundraising events involving pupils	Harm to pupils	Pupils supervised at all times

		Teacher designates specific roles to pupils
Use of off-site facilities for school activities	Harm to pupils	Pupils only brought to a site which has been assessed by teachers All pupils supervised at all times Appropriate travel arrangements pre-arranged
Administration of Medicine Administration of first aid	Harm to pupils	Policy and Procedures in place Teachers training in First Aid
Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst pupils	Harm to pupils	Anti-bullying Policy, Anti-Bullying Parents' Guide and Code of Behaviour in place Parents made aware of same on enrolment and accept terms of same on behalf of their children SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe being implemented Participation in Amber Flag Programme
Use of external personnel to supplement curriculum	Harm to pupils	Procedures in place Vetting Teachers present at all times
Recruitment of school personnel including- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teachers • SNAs • Secretary/ Cleaner • Sports coaches • External tutors/ Guest speakers • Volunteers/ Parents in school activities • Visitors/ contractors present in school during school hours 	Harm not recognised or properly/ 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 of Parents / Volunteers (to be put in place) Policy on Visiting Contractors (to be put in place)
Use of Information and communication technology by pupils in school	Bullying	ICT policy Anti-Bullying Policy Code of Behaviour Internet Filter Supervised use of I.T.
Students participating in work experience	Harm to or by pupils	Policy in place

in the school		Vetting Teachers present at all times
Student teachers undertaking training placement in school Managing challenging behaviour	Harm to or by pupils	Policy in place Vetting Teachers present at all times
Use of video/ photography/ other media to record school events	Harm to or by pupils	Policy in place Parental permission sought on enrolment for photography, use of images on website Raise awareness of social media information events for parents
After school use of school premises by other organisations	Harm to individuals	Policy in place Use of specific room
COVID 19	Illness	<i>School COVID-19 Response Plan in place in line with Department of Education guidance, the Return to Work Safely protocol and public health advice</i>

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.