

Child Safeguarding Statement

Clonmellon NS 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 Clonmellon 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 **Lavinia Williams**
- 3 The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is **Nicola Darby**
- 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 DES 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 DES and available on the DES 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 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 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, 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 attached as an appendix to these procedures.
 - 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.

- 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.

Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment

Written Assessment of Risk of Clonmellon NS

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 Clonmellon NS.

List of school activities:	Level of Risk	The school has identified the following risks of harm in respect of its activities	The school has the following procedures in place to address risk identified in this assessment:
Training of school personnel in Child Protection matters	M	<p>Risk of harm not being recognised by school personnel</p> <p>Risk of harm not being reported properly and promptly by school personnel</p>	<p>-Child Safeguarding Statement & DES procedures made available to all staff</p> <p>-School Personnel are required to adhere to the <i>Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017</i> and all registered teaching staff are required to adhere to the <i>Children First Act 2015</i> and its Addendum (2019)</p> <p>-DLP& DDLP to attend PDST face to face training</p> <p>-All Staff to view Túsla training module & any other online training offered by PDST</p> <p>-BOM records all staff and board training</p>
<p>Recruitment of school personnel including -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teachers • SNA's • Secretary /Cleaners • Groundskeeper 	H	<p>Risk of harm not being recognised by school personnel</p> <p>Risk of harm not being reported properly and promptly by school personnel</p>	<p>Child Safeguarding Statement & DES procedures made available to all staff</p> <p>Staff to view Tusla training module & any other online training offered by PDST</p> <p>Garda Vetting Policy</p>
<p>One to one teaching</p> <p>One to one learning support</p>	H	<p>Risk of child being harmed in the school by a member of school personnel</p> <p>Risk of harm in one-to-one teaching or coaching situation</p>	<p>The school has in place a policy and clear procedures for one-to-one teaching activities</p> <p>SEN policy</p> <p>Open door policy</p> <p>Glass in window</p>
Classroom teaching	L	Risk of child being harmed in the school by a member of school personnel	<p>Open door policy</p> <p>Welcome pack outlines expectations</p>

Online teaching and learning	H	Risk of Harm due to inappropriate use of online remote teaching and learning communication platform	Acceptable Use Policy SPHE lessons on online safety
Use of ipads, chromebooks and other devices in the classroom and in the course of the school day	H	Risk of harm associated with the misuse/ abuse of devices and the various associated technologies	Acceptable Use Policy (in line with circ. 38/2018)
Outdoor teaching activities	L	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children in school	Gates closed when younger classes engaged in outdoor learning. Use buddy system/ group system
Toilet areas	H	Risk of child being harmed in the school by another child Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children in school	Supervision policy
Managing of challenging behaviour amongst pupils, including appropriate use of restraint	L	Risk of child being harmed in the school by another child Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children in school Risk of harm due to inadequate code of behaviour	Health & Safety Policy Code Of Behaviour SNA policy Supervision Policy – Red Hand procedure
Care of Children with special needs, including intimate care needs	M	Risk of harm to child while a child is receiving intimate care	SNA policy SEN policy
Supervision of changing rooms when swimming	M	Risk of harm to child while a child is changing before/ after swimming	Supervision Policy Tour Policy SNA policy
Showering protocol in school	M	Risk of harm to child while a child is showering in the event of toileting accident	Supervision Policy SNA policy
Curricular Provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay safe.	L	Non-teaching of same	School implements SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe as per school plan
Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst pupils	M	Risk of child being harmed in the school by another child Risk of harm due to bullying of child Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children in school	Anti-Bullying Policy Code of Behaviour Anti-bullying campaign.ie / alternative anti-bullying lesson every 6 weeks

		Risk of harm due to inadequate code of behaviour	
Application of sanctions under the school's Code of Behaviour including detention of pupils, confiscation of phones etc.	L	Risk of harm due to inadequate code of behaviour	Code of Behaviour Open door policy Homework policy
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 	M	<p>Risk of harm to children with SEN who have particular vulnerabilities, including medical vulnerabilities</p> <p>Risk of child being harmed in the school by volunteer or visitor to the school</p> <p>Risk of child being harmed in the school by another child</p> <p>Risk of harm due to racism</p> <p>Risk of harm due to bullying of child</p> <p>Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children in school</p>	Anti-Bullying Policy Code of Behaviour
Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils	L	<p>Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children in school</p> <p>Risk of child being harmed in the school by another child</p> <p>Harm from unknown adults on the playground</p>	Arrival and dismissal supervised by teachers Supervision Policy
Recreation breaks for pupils	L	<p>Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children in school</p> <p>Risk of child being harmed in the school by another child</p>	Supervision Policy Critical incident Policy
Sporting Activities	H	<p>Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children in school</p> <p>Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children while attending out of school activities</p> <p>Risk of child being harmed in the school by another child</p>	The school has in place a policy and procedures for the use of external sports coaches Supervision Policy Excursion policy Critical incident Policy

Annual Sports Day	H	<p>Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children in school</p> <p>Risk of child being harmed in the school by another child</p> <p>Harm from unknown adults on the school grounds</p>	<p>Supervision Policy</p> <p>Critical incident Policy</p>
Use of off-site facilities for school activities	H	<p>Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children while attending out of school activities</p> <p>Risk of child being harmed by a member of school personnel, a member of staff of another organisation or other person while child participating in out of school activities e.g. school trip, swimming lessons</p>	<p>The school has in place a policy and procedures for the use of external sports coaches</p> <p>Supervision Policy</p> <p>Excursion policy</p>
School outings	H	<p>Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children while attending out of school activities</p> <p>Risk of child being harmed by a member of school personnel, a member of staff of another organisation or other person while child participating in out of school activities e.g. school trip, swimming lessons</p>	<p>Excursion policy</p> <p>Critical incident Policy</p>
Student teachers undertaking training placement in school	L	<p>Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children in school</p> <p>Risk of harm due to inappropriate relationship /communications between child and another child or adult</p>	<p>The school has in place a policy and procedures in respect of student teacher placements</p> <p>Work experience Policy</p> <p>Child Safeguarding Statement made available to students.</p> <p>Garda Vetting Policy</p>
Students participating in work experience	L	<p>Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children in school</p> <p>Risk of child being harmed in the school by volunteer or visitor to the school</p>	<p>The school has in place a policy and procedures in respect of students undertaking work experience in the school.</p> <p>Work experience Policy</p> <p>Garda Vetting Policy</p> <p>Supervision Procedures</p>

		Risk of harm due to inappropriate relationship /communications between child and another child or adult	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> External Tutors or Guest Speakers i.e. sports coaches / music teachers/ visiting authors, engineers, architects, scientists, etc. Volunteers/Parents in school activities Visitors/contractors present in school during school hours Visitors/contractors present during after school activities 	L	<p>Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children in school</p> <p>Risk of child being harmed in the school by volunteer or visitor to the school</p> <p>Risk of harm due to inappropriate relationship /communications between child and another child or adult</p>	<p>The school has in place a policy and procedures for the use of external persons to supplement delivery of the curriculum, external sports coaches, Parents Association volunteers.</p> <p>Garda Vetting Policy</p>
Administration of Medicine	H	Untimely/ Inappropriate administration of medicine	Administration of Medicine policy Supervision policy
Administration of First Aid	H	Harm to pupils	Administration of Medicine policy Supervision policy
<p>Use of Information and Communication Technology by pupils in school</p> <p>Remote learning in event of school closure</p>	M	<p>Risk of harm due to inappropriate use of online remote teaching and learning communication platform such as an uninvited person accessing the lesson link, students being left unsupervised for long periods of time in breakout rooms.</p> <p>Risk of harm due to children inappropriately accessing /using computers, social media, phones and other devices while at school</p> <p>Risk of harm due to bullying of child</p> <p>Risk of harm due to inappropriate relationship</p>	<p>Digital Learning Plan</p> <p>Anti-Bullying Policy</p> <p>Code of Behaviour re Mobile Phones</p> <p>Acceptable Use Policy, including section on remote learning.</p> <p>SPHE lessons on use of internet.</p> <p>Parental guidance on Internet Safety(provided by PA)</p>

		/communications between child and another child or adult Accessing inappropriate websites	
Use of video / photography/other media to record school events	H	Risk of harm caused by member of school personnel accessing/circulating inappropriate material via social media, texting, digital device or other manner	Digital Learning Plan Anti-Bullying Policy Code of Behaviour Acceptable Use 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 2017*.

In undertaking this risk assessment, the BoM 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.

The Board of Management completed this risk assessment on 5-02-2018. It shall be reviewed as part of the school’s annual review of its Child Safeguarding Statement.

This combined Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment was adopted by the Board of Management on 22nd March 2022

Signed: _____ Chairperson of BoM Date: _____

Signed: _____ Principal Date: _____