

Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment.

Child Safeguarding Statement

Gorthaganny National School is a primary school providing primary/post-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 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 Gorthaganny National School 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 Geraldine Collins
- 3 The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is Martina Kelly
- 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 _____

This Child Safeguarding Statement was reviewed by the Board of Management on _____ [most recent review date].

Signed: _____

Chairperson of Board of Management

Signed: _____

Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Date: _____

Date: _____

Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment

Written Assessment of Risk of Gorthaganny National 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 Gorthaganny National School

| 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 |
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| Training of school personnel in Child Protection matters | Harm not recognised or reported promptly | Child Safeguarding Statement & DES procedures made available to all staff All registered teaching staff are required to adhere to the Children First Act. 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 | Harm by school personnel | Glass in window In class support is the preferred model of support in our school. We endeavour to keep the withdrawal of pupils to a minimum. |
| Care of Children with special needs, including intimate care needs | Harm by school personnel | Policy on intimate care |
| Toilet areas | Inappropriate behaviour | Toileting section in our supervision policy |
| Curricular Provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay safe. | Non-teaching of same | School implements SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe in full. |

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| Daily arrival of pupils | Children arriving before official reception time | Supervision Policy Official times relayed to all parents |
| Daily dismissal of pupils | Harm from older pupils, unknown adults at the gate, cars | Dismissal supervised by Teachers Supervision Policy |
| Pupils returning to school after dismissal of pupils | Harm by school personnel | Official times relayed to all parents School doors to be locked after dismissal of pupils |
| Managing of challenging behaviour amongst pupils. | Injury to pupils and staff | Code of Behaviour Anti-Bullying Policy |
| Sports Activities | Harm to pupils | Supervision Policy Garda Vetting |
| Students participating in work experience | Harm by student | Work experience Policy Child Safeguarding Statement Insurance statement from school involved |
| Recreation breaks for pupils | Accidents, Unknown Adults Bullying | Supervision Policy Stay Safe Programme |
| Classroom teaching | Harm by School Personnel Bullying, Accidents | Supervision Policy Child Safeguarding Anti-Bullying Policy |
| Outdoor teaching activities | Harm by School Personnel Bullying, Accidents, Unknown Adults | Supervision Child Safeguarding Anti-Bullying |
| School outings/Sporting Activities | Accidents/Lost Pupils Unknown Adults Bullying, Online Safety | School Tours Policy Swimming Policy Supervision Policy Mobile Phone Policy |
| Annual Sports Day | Injuries | Code of Behaviour Policy Health & Safety Policy Supervision Policy |
| Fundraising events involving pupils | Parents/Visitors, Unknown Adults, Road Safety | Supervision Policy Health & Safety Policy Stay Safe Programme |

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| Use of off-site facilities for school activities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Church - Swimming Pool - Marian Hall | Road Safety Unknown Adults | School Tour Policy Code of Behaviour Policy Anti-Bullying Policy Supervision Policy Swimming Policy Health & Safety Policy Stay Safe Programme |
| After school activities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Spike Ball - Football Practice - Drama | Harm by School Personnel Bullying, Accidents, Road Safety | Code Of Behaviour Health & Safety Policy Anti Bullying Always 2 staff members on site |
| School transport arrangements (including use of bus escorts) | Bullying Misbehaviour Unknown Adult Entering Bus | Code Of Behaviour Anti Bullying Close contact maintained with bus operators and bus driver (regular communication), Bus Escort |
| Administration of Medicine Administration of First Aid | Reaction to Medicine Medicine Overdose/Mis-Use | Administrative Medicine Policy Substance Abuse Policy First Aid Policy |
| Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst pupils | Harm by Staff Personnel | Anti-Bullying Policy Discipline Policy Supervision Policy SPHE/Stay Safe Program |
| 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 | Discrimination Bullying Harm by Staff Personnel Racism | SEN Policy Safeguarding Policy Anti-Bullying Code of Behaviour Intercultural Policy |

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| 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 | 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 Visiting Contractors CPSMA/ DES Guidelines followed |
| Use of Information and Communication Technology by pupils in school | Cyber Bullying Bullying Seeing inappropriate material | ICT policy Anti-Bullying Policy Code of Behaviour Acceptable Usage Policy PDST Internet Filtering Service (Schools Broadband Program) Pupil Awareness/SPHE & Stay Safe Program |
| Application of sanctions under the school's Code of Behaviour including detention of pupils, confiscation of phones etc. | Risk to Pupils on their own in detention Harm by staff personnel/other pupils | Code Of Behaviour Policy Supervision Policy All Teachers, SNAs, Parents have access to the above policies New enrolling pupils' parents sign the Code of Behaviour Policy |
| Student teachers undertaking training placement in school | Harm by Staff Personnel | Vetting – DES Guidelines |
| Use of video/photography/other media to record school events | Distribution/Sharing of Images/Videos | Advice to Parents/Teachers Permission sought on enrolment No names on photos published in media |

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| After school use of school premises by other organisations | N/A | |
| Use of school premises by other organisation during school day | N/A | |