Castleplunkett N.S.

Mol an Óige

Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment

Child Safeguarding Statement

Castleplunkett 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 Castleplunkett 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 **Ms.Deirdre Hannon**

3 The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is **Ms.Aoife Feely/Ms Sheila Connaughton**

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 school's 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.

6 This statement has been published on the school's website and has been provided to all members of school personnel, the Parents' Association 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 _____.

Signed: _____ Signed: _____

Chairperson of Board of Management **Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management**

Date: _____ Date: _____

Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment

Written Assessment of Risk of Castleplunkett N.S.

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 **Castleplunkett NS.**

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	• Risk of harm not recognised by school personnel	• All school personnel are provided with a copy of the schools Child's Safeguarding statement. • The Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools 2017are made available to all school personnel • DLP and DDLP to attend face to face training when training becomes available • BOM records all records of staff and board training. • CPD
• One to one teaching	• Risk of child being harmed in the school by school personnel.	• Classroom not in isolated area: SET is adjacent to classroom • Table between teacher and pupil
• Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils	• Harm from older pupils, unknown adults in the playground	• Arrival and dismissal supervised by teachers • Access to school is restricted by buzzer. Buzzer system is responded to by a member of staff only

		• Doors locked after pupils enter school • The school has a playground supervision rota to ensure appropriate supervision of pupils during these times.
• Recreation breaks for pupils	• Risk of harm to pupils by pupils	• The school has an Anti-Bullying Policy which fully adheres to the requirements of the Departments Anti Bullying Procedures for Primary • Health and Safety Statement • Code of Behaviour policy • Supervision rota of pupils by teachers • Designated areas of play for different age groups • First Aid procedures.
• Classroom teaching	• Risk of child been harmed by other class members	• Supervision of pupils while in class • Classroom rules • Code of Behaviour policy • Anti-Bullying Policy • Cultivating an inclusive classroom environment. • Implementation of the SPHE/Stay Safe/RSE programmes in class.
• Outdoor teaching activities	• Risk of harm to pupils by pupils • Risk of harm to pupils	• Health and Safety Statement • Age appropriate activities • PE Policy • Adequate supervision of pupils during activities by school personnel.

• Sporting Activities • Annual Sports Day	• Risk of harm to pupils by pupils, by a member of another organisation unknown to the pupils while participating in an out of school activity.	• PE Policy • Garda Vetting • Health and Safety Statement • First Aid Procedures • Age appropriate activities • Adequate supervision of pupils during activities by school personnel.
• School Outings	• Risk of harm to pupils by school personnel	• Adequate supervision to/from and during activities by authorised personnel • Health and Safety Statement • Age appropriate activities • School Tour/Outings Policy
• Care of Children with Special Needs, including intimate care needs	• Risk of harm to pupils by other pupils	• SEN Policy • Garda vetting • SNA assigned to pupil with care needs has appropriate training and knowledge
• Toilet areas	• Risk of harm to pupils	• Supervised toilet breaks • During class time limited access to toilets and only one pupils at a time
• Administration of Medicine • Administration of First Aid	• Risk of harm to pupils with non-teaching of SPHE, RSE and Stay Safe programmes.	• Administration of Medicine Policy • First Aid Procedures • First Aid training • Health and Safety Statement
• Curricular provision in respect of SPHE, RSE and Stay Safe		• SPHE Policy • RSE Policy • Stay Safe Policy

• Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst pupils	• Risk of harm to pupils by pupils	• school implements SPHE, RSE and Stay Safe in full • Inclusion of home/school links • Letter to inform parents of the teaching of RSE/Stay Safe • Garda vetting of outside guest speakers.
	• Risk of harm to pupils by external personnel	• Anti-bullying Policy • Cultivation and promotion of a positive inclusive environment • Curricular teaching: SPHE RSE Stay Safe programmes.
• Use of external personnel to supplement curriculum.	• Risk of harm to pupils by external personnel	• Garda Vetting of external personnel • Supervised by Class teachers • Check references and qualifications • Adhere to Child Safeguarding Statement
• Use of external personnel to support sports and other extra-curricular activities	• Risk of harm to pupils by external students	• Garda Vetting of external personnel • Supervised by Class teachers • Check references and qualifications • Adhere to Safeguarding Statement • PE Policy • Health and Safety Statement • Code of Behaviour
• Students participating in work experience in the school	• Risk of harm to pupils by teaching practice personnel	• Garda vetting/TY vetting • Adhere to Child Safeguarding Statement • Teacher observation and supervision

• Students teachers undertaking training placement in the school	• Risk of harm to pupils by the substitute teacher	• Garda Vetting • Supervised by Class teacher • Adhere to Safeguarding Statement
• Substitute teachers working in the school on an infrequent basis.	• Risk of harm to pupils by internal or external personnel	• Garda Vetting • Valid recommendations from other colleagues in other schools • Adhere to Child Safeguarding Statement. • Class teachers within the school discuss any matters needed for the day on arrival.
• Recruitment of school personnel including: 1. Teachers 2. SNA's 3. Caretaker/Secretary/Cleaner 4. Sport coaches 5. External Tutors/Guest Speakers 6. Volunteers/Parents in school activities 7. Visitors/Contractors present in school during school hours 8. Visitors/Contractors present during after school activities	• Risk of harm to pupils by other pupils or online sources	• All school personnel are provided with a copy of the schools Child Safeguarding Statement. • The Child Protection Procedures for Primary Schools and Post Primary schools 2017are made available to all school personnel. • School Personnel are required to adhere to the Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools 2017and all registered teaching staff are required to adhere to the Children's First Act 2015. • Staff participate in online training • Garda vetting procedures • Supervision by class teachers of all activities carried out by external staff.
• Use of information and Communication Technology by the pupils in school		• Acceptable Use Policy – includes provision for online teaching and learning remotely,

	• Risk of harm to pupils by external personal • Risk of harm to pupils by other pupils	and this policy has been communicated to parents. • Anti-bullying Policy • Code of Behaviour Policy • Constant supervision of internet usage • Awareness and training for parents of ICT • Use of resources from Webwise • Awareness and participation in Internet Safety Day • PDST filtering of sites
• Participation by pupils in religious ceremonies/religious instruction external to the school		• Written permission from Parents • Contact with coordinator for event • Pick up and drop off by parent • Serving Mass consent form • Adhere to Child Safeguarding Statement
• Care of pupils with specific vulnerabilities/needs such as: 1. Pupils from ethnic minorities/migrants 2. Members of the Traveller Community 3. Lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender (LGBT) children 4. Pupils perceived to be LGBT 5. Pupils of minority religious faiths 6. Children in Care 7. Children on CPNS		• Adhere to Child Safeguarding Statement • Code of Behaviour policy • SPHE Policy • RSE Policy • Stay Safe Policy • Awareness for all staff of vulnerabilities within the school context.

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 genera 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.