



Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment

Caragh National school 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 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 [insert school name] 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 **Alan Hobbins**
- 3 The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is **Seán Corkery**
- 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 29th March 2022

This Child Safeguarding Statement was reviewed by the Board of Management on 29th March 2022

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 Caragh 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 [name of 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
Training of school personnel in Child Protection matters.	Harm not recognised or reported promptly	<p>Child Safeguarding Statement & DES procedures made available to all staff.</p> <p>DLP & DDLP to attend PDST face to face training. All school personnel are required view Tusla training module & any other online training offered by PDST.</p> <p>BOM records all records of staff and board training.</p>
Classroom teaching	Risk of harm by school personnel	All teachers are bound by the Code of Professional Conduct for teachers 2016.
One to one teaching	Harm by school personnel	School has policy in place for one to one teaching. Open doors. Glass in window in Sp. Ed. Policy.
Care of Children with special needs, including intimate care needs.	Harm by school personnel	Policy on Intimate Care.
Toilet area	Inappropriate behaviour	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Supervision policy. - Procedures on toilet use in classrooms.
Curricular Provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay safe.	Non-teaching of same	School implements SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe in full.

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
LGBT Children/Pupils perceived to be LGBT.	Risk of harm through Bullying	Anti-Bullying Policy Code of Behaviour
Recruitment of school personnel	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. - Garda Vetting Procedures implemented
Managing of challenging behaviour amongst pupils, including appropriate use of restraint.	Injury to pupil and staff	Restraint Policy Training Health & Safety Policy Code of Behaviour
Sports Coaches	Harm to pupil	Policy & Procedures in place through P.E. Policy + Swim Policy. Garda Vetting procedures
Students participating in work experience.	Harm to pupil	Work experience Policy Child Safeguarding Statement Garda vetting procedures
Volunteers/Parents	Harm to pupil	Vetting procedures Policy for parents/Volunteers.

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
Use of Information & Communication Technology by pupils in school.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Risk of harm due to pupils accessing inappropriate material. - Risk of harm caused by school personnel communicating with pupils inappropriately. - Bullying 	Acceptable Use Policy. ICT Policy. Anti-Bullying Policy. Code of Behaviour.
Daily Arrival and Dismissal of Pupil	Risk of harm due to inadequate Supervision	Supervision Policy with Rota for Arrival and Dismissal Supervision to ensure appropriate supports.
Recreation Breaks for Pupils		Supervision Policy with playground supervision Rota to include specific toilet area.
School Outings	Risk of harm by a member of school personnel, a member of staff of another organisation or person while child is participating in out of school activity.	The school has guidelines and clear procedures in respect of school tours/outings.
School trips involving overnight stay.		

School trips to swimming pool.		The school has guidelines and procedures in respect of swimming.
Administration of Medicine.	Risk of harm to pupil.	The school has an Administration of Medicine and Procedures Policy which is updated annually
Administration of First Aid		The school has a First Aid Policy in place and all staff are trained in Paediatric First Aid. First Aid.
Travelling to Matches.	Risk of harm to pupils by school personnel/others.	Policy Procedures – P.E. Policy Travel by Bus with 2 members of staff.
Training after school.		Procedures in place.
Use of Sensory room	Risk of harm by school personnel.	Sp. Ed. Policy. Policy on use of Sensory Room.
Movement of breaks for pupils		
Use of school premises by outside groups.	Risk of harm by others.	Licence Agreement including details of Garda Vetting.

Use of lift	Risk of harm by school personnel.	Procedures in place.
Music lessons/Band	Risk of harm by others.	Garda vetting procedures in place. No individual lessons.
Children attending Parish services as Altar Servers	Risk of harm by others	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Parish procedures in place with parental agreement. - Vetting procedures in place.
Early collection of pupils for appointments, medical reasons, medical appointments or other	Risk of harm by others	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Procedures in place following our supervision policy - Pupils will only be released for appointments into the care of a parent or designated adult over the age of 18yrs
Remote Teaching & Learning Use of Online Platforms; Google Classroom, Zoom, Seesaw etc	Risk of harm by others to staff and/or pupils	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Policy & Procedures in place

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.

