**Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment**

**of Ballyboughal National School**

Ballyboughal 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](http://www.irishstatutebook.ie/eli/2015/act/36/enacted/en/pdf), [Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children 2017](https://assets.gov.ie/25844/b90aafa55804462f84d05f87f0ca2bf6.pdf), [the Addendum to Children First (2019)](https://assets.gov.ie/25819/c9744b64dfd6447985eeffa5c0d71bbb.pdf), the [Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools 2017](https://www.gov.ie/pdf/?file=https://assets.gov.ie/45063/2d4b5b3d781e4ec1ab4f3e5d198717d9.pdf#page=1) and [Tusla Guidance on the preparation of Child Safeguarding Statements](https://www.tusla.ie/uploads/content/4214-TUSLA_Guidance_on_Developing_a_CSS_LR.PDF), 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 Maeve O’Doherty
3. The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is Philomena Manson
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.

1. 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](https://revisedacts.lawreform.ie/eli/2012/act/47/revised/en/pdf) 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 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.

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.

This updated Child Safeguarding Statement was adopted by the Board of Management on the 7th March 2022. It will be reviewed annually or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which this statement refers.

The Child Safeguarding Statement and the Risk Assessment of Ballyboughal N.S. were reviewed at a meeting of the Board of Management on 4th May 2022.

Signed: Brigid Manton Signed: Maeve O’Doherty

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

Date: 4th May 2022 Date: 4th May 2022

## **Written Assessment of Risk of Ballyboughal 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 Ballyboughal National School.

1. **List of school activities**

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| Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils  Recreation breaks for pupils  Classroom teaching  Group teaching  One-to-one teaching  Outdoor teaching activities  Use of off-site facilities for school activities  Sporting activities  School outings  Use of toilets in the school  Care of children with special educational needs  Care of pupils with specific vulnerabilities  Intimate care, when needed  Management of challenging behaviour amongst pupils  Administration of First Aid  Administration of Medication  Curricular provision in respect of SPHE  Prevention of and dealing with bullying amongst pupils  Recruitment of school personnel  Training of school personnel in Child Protection matters  Use of external personnel to supplement the curriculum  Use of external personnel to support extra-curricular activities  Volunteers/parents involvement in school activities  Participation by pupils in religious ceremonies external to the school  Visitors to the school  Contractors in the school  Use of Information and Communication Technology by pupils in the school  Use of video/photography/other media to record school events  Use of school premises by other organisation during the school day  Use of school premises by other organisations after the school day  Application of sanctions under the school’s Code of Behaviour  Students participating in work experience in the school  Student teachers undertaking placement in the school |

1. **The school has identified the following risk of harm in respect of its activities -**

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| Risk of harm not being recognised by school personnel  Risk of harm not being reported properly and promptly by school personnel  Risk of child being harmed in the school by a member of school personnel  Risk of child being harmed in the school by another child  Risk of child being harmed in the school by volunteer or visitor to the school  Risk of child being harmed by a member of staff of other organisation or other person while c participating in out-of-school activities  Risk of child being harmed by a member of staff or other adult using social media inappropriately  Risk of harm due to bullying of child  Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children  Risk of harm due to inadequate Code of Behaviour  Risk of harm due to inappropriate relationship/communications between child and another  child or adult  Risk of harm due to children inappropriately accessing/using computers, social media and other devices while at school  Risk of harm to children with SEN or particular vulnerabilities  Risk of harm during one-to-one teaching |

1. **The school has the following procedures in place to address the risks of harm identified in this assessment -**

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| All school personnel are provided with a copy of the school’s Child Safeguarding Statement.  The *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017* are made available to all school personnel.  School personnel are required to adhere to the *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post*-*Primary Schools 2017* and all registered teaching staff are required to adhere to the *Children First Act* *2015.*  The school implements in full the SPHE curriculum.  The school implements in full the Stay Safe Programme.  The school has an Anti-Bullying Policy which fully adheres to the Department’s *Anti-Bullying* *Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools.*  The school has a Supervision Policy to ensure appropriate supervision of children during assembly, dismissal and breaks and in respect of specific areas such as toilets.  The school has in place clear procedures in respect of school outings.  The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation and relevant DES circulars in relation to recruitment and Garda vetting.  The school complies with the agreed disciplinary procedures for teaching staff.  The School has a Special Educational Needs Policy.  The school has procedures in place to deal with issues of intimate care, when required.  The school has procedures in place for the administration of medicine to pupils.  The school has procedures in place for the administration of First Aid.  The school has in place a Code of Behaviour for pupils.  The school has in place procedures for the usage of ICT by pupils.  The school has in place a Mobile Phone Policy.  The school has in place a Critical Incident Management Plan.  The school has in place procedures for the use of external sports coaches and for the use of external persons to supplement delivery of the curriculum.  The school has in place procedures in respect of student teacher placements and work experience placements.  The school has in place clear procedures for one-to-one teaching activities.  The school has provided each member of school staff with a copy of the school’s Child Safeguarding Statement.  The school ensures all new staff members are provided with a copy of the school’s Child Safeguarding Statement.  The school encourages staff to avail of relevant training and maintains records of all staff training.  The school encourages members of the Board of Management to avail of relevant training. |

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| **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.

This risk assessment was completed by the Board of Management on 20th March 2018. It shall be reviewed as part of the school’s annual review of its Child Safeguarding Statement. The most recent review was carried out on 4th May 2022.

Signed: Brigid Manton Date: 4th May 2022

Chairperson, Board of Management

Signed: Maeve O’Doherty Date: 4th May 2022

Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management