

Carlow National School

Church of Ireland National School

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Child Safeguarding Statement & Risk Assessment (Mandatory Template 1)

Part A – Child Safeguarding Statement

Carlow 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 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 Carlow 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 Mrs. Celina Dempsey**
- 3 **The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is Mrs. Hazel Smyth**
- 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.

Mandatory Template 1: Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment

DLP & DDLP change as of 06.01.23

Signed by Mr. Robert Kidd, Chair, BOM on 06.01.23

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.

Part B Risk Assessment

Written Assessment of Risk of Carlow NS

In accordance with section 11 of the Children First Act 2015 and with the requirements of Chapter 8 of the *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017*, the following is the Written Risk Assessment of Carlow NS.

1. List of school activities

A. ☐ Use of Information and Communication Technology by pupils in school

B. ☐ Outdoor teaching activities

☐ Sporting Activities

☐ School outings

☐ Annual Sports Day

C. ☐ Supervision of Pupils during wet days.

D. ☐ Recruitment of school personnel including -

- Teachers/SNA's

- Caretaker/Secretary/Cleaners

- External Tutors/Guest Speakers

- Volunteers/Parents in school activities

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

- Risk of harm due to children inappropriately accessing/using computers, social media, phones and other devices while at school
- 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
- Risk of harm due to inappropriate relationship/communications between child and another child or adult
- Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children in school
- 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

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

- 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 Stay Safe Programme
- The school implements in full the SPHE curriculum
- The school has an Anti-Bullying Policy which fully adheres to the requirements of the Department's *Anti-Bullying Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools*

- The school has in place an ICT policy in respect of usage of ICT by pupils
- The school has in place a mobile phone / mobile – electronic device policy in respect of usage of mobile phones by pupils
- The School uses Class DoJo as a learning platform / closed communication platform between home & school.
- The school has in place clear protocols in respect of school outings.
 - 2 children together to go anywhere (toilet etc) – outings & swimming
 - Teacher / staff member always present – outings & swimming
 - Bus Driver protocol Agreement – outings & swimming

- All helpers are Garda Vetted – outings & swimming
- Teacher goes swimming
- Teacher / helper NEVER enter changing rooms while children are dressing / undressing unless in a case of emergency & then only after giving the children a clear indication that teacher needs to enter dressing room. – swimming

-The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation and relevant DES circulars in relation to recruitment and Garda vetting

☑ The school has the following wet day supervision protocols in place.

- Children remain seated (unless going to the toilet) / in arranged groups on floor for playtime
- Same toilet protocol remains during break as during classtime
- Classroom door remains open
- Supervising teacher moves up / down the corridor throughout break.
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☑ The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation and relevant DES circulars in relation to recruitment and Garda vetting

☑ The school has a codes of conduct for school personnel (teaching and non-teaching staff)

☑ The school complies with the agreed disciplinary procedures for teaching staff

☑ The school –

- o Has provided each member of school staff with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement
- o Ensures all new staff are provided with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement
- o Encourages staff to avail of relevant training
- o Encourages board of management members to avail of relevant training
- o Maintains records of all staff and board member training

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.

SEPTEMBER 2021

The staff of Carlow NS have completed a review of the Risk Assessment during September 2021 review of the Covid Risk Assessment and we are satisfied with it.

Review presented to the BOM on 28/9/2021

Signed:

Mr. Robert Kidd
Chairperson, BOM

This Child Safeguarding Statement & Risk Assessment was reviewed by the Board of Management 8th Feb. 2022.

Signed: Mr. Robert Kidd
Chairperson of Board of Management
Date: 8th Feb., 2022

Signed: Mrs. Marie McDermott Walshe
Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management
Date: 8th Feb., 2022

This Child Safeguarding Statement & Risk Assessment was adopted by the Board of Management 27/9/2022.

Signed: Mr. Robert Kidd
Chairperson of Board of Management
Date: 27/9/22

Signed: Mrs. Marie McDermott Walshe
Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management
Date: 27/9/22

Updated 06.01.23 to reflect change to DLP & DDLP positions from 06th Jan. 2023.