



Athy College Kildare

Child Safeguarding & Risk Assessment

Signed: _____

Chairperson of Board of Management

Approval Date: _____

Signed: _____

Principal

Approval Date: _____

Child Safeguarding Statement

Athy College is a secondary school providing post-primary education to students from First Year to Sixth Year. 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 Athy College 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 **Mr Richard Daly**
3. The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is **Mr Patrick Maguire**.
4. The Board of Management recognises that child protection and welfare considerations permeate all aspects of school life and must be reflected in all school's policies, procedures, practices and activities.

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
- fully respect confidentiality requirements in dealing with child protection matters.

5. The school will also adhere to the above principles in relation to any adult student with a special vulnerability or need. 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 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 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.

Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment

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 Athy College.

List of school activities

1. Daily arrival and departure of students to/from school.
2. Recreational breaks for students.
3. Classroom teaching.
4. One-to-one teaching.
5. One-to-one counselling.
6. Outdoor teaching activities/ extra-curricular activities.
7. School outings.
8. School trips involving overnight stay.
9. School trips involving foreign travel.
10. Use of toilet/changing/shower areas in schools.
11. Annual Sports Day.
12. Fundraising events involving students. E.g. fundraising for school musical/ sports etc.
13. Use of off-site facilities for school activities
14. School transport arrangements including use of bus/taxi escorts.
15. Care of children with special educational needs.
16. Management of challenging behaviour amongst students, including appropriate use of restraint where required.
17. Administration of Medicine – Medical Consent Form.
18. Administration of First Aid.
19. Curricular provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Guidance and Wellbeing.
20. Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst students.
21. Training of school personnel in child protection matters – HSE and / TUSLA
22. Care of students with specific vulnerabilities/ needs such as students from ethnic minorities/migrants – EAL/ESOL
23. Children in care.
24. Recruitment of school personnel including –
 - 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
25. Use of Information and Communication Technology by students in school.
 26. Application of sanctions under the school's Code of Behaviour including detention of students, confiscation of phones etc.
 27. Students participating in work experience in the school.
 28. Students from the school participating in work experience elsewhere.
 29. Student teachers undertaking training placement in school.
 30. Use of video/photography/other media to record school events.
 31. After school use of school premises by other organisations.
 32. Use of school premises by other organisation during school day.
 33. Homework club/ Supervised evening study.

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

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

1. Risk of harm not being recognised by school personnel.
2. Risk of harm not being reported properly and promptly by school personnel.
3. Risk of child being harmed in the school by a member of school personnel.
4. Risk of child being harmed in the school by another child.
5. Risk of child being harmed in the school by volunteer or visitor to the school.
6. 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.
7. Risk of harm due to bullying of child.
8. Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children in school.
9. Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children while attending out of school activities.
10. Risk of harm due to inappropriate relationship/communications between child and another child or adult.
11. Risk of harm due to children inappropriately accessing/using computers, social media, phones and other devices while at school.
12. Risk of harm to children with SEN who have particular vulnerabilities.
13. Risk of harm due to inadequate code of behaviour.
14. Risk of harm in one-to-one teaching/counselling.

15. Risk of harm caused by member of school personnel communicating with students in appropriate manner via social media, texting, digital device or other manner.
16. Risk of harm caused by member of school personnel accessing/circulating inappropriate material via social media, texting, digital device or other manner.

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

1. All school staff as mandated persons are provided with a copy of the school's *Child Safeguarding Statement*.
2. The *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017* are made available to all school personnel (via email).
3. 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*.
4. The school implements in full the SPHE curriculum.
5. The school implements in full the Wellbeing Programme at Junior Cycle.
6. 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*.
7. The school has in place a policy and clear procedures in respect of school trips.
8. The school has a Health and Safety policy.
9. The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation and relevant DES circulars in relation to recruitment and Garda vetting.
10. The school has a code of conduct for school personnel – See KWETB professional code of conduct.
11. The school complies with the agreed disciplinary procedures for teaching staff.
12. The school has a Special Educational Needs policy.
13. The school has a care policy/plan in respect of students who require such care.
14. The school has in place a policy and procedures for the administration of medication to students.
15. The school –
 - Has provided each member of school 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 – TUSLA/ Legal Island training to be provided.
 - Maintains records of all staff training.

16. The school has in place a policy and procedures for the administration of First Aid.
17. The school has in place a code of behaviour.
18. The school has in place an ICT/Appropriate Usage Policy in respect of usage of ICT by students
19. The school has in place a mobile phone policy in respect of usage of mobile phones by students.
20. The school has in place a Critical Incident Management Plan.
21. The school has in place a policy and clear procedures for one-to-one teaching activities.
22. The school has in place a policy and procedures for one-to-one counselling – See Guidance Plan.
23. The school has in place a policy and procedures in respect of student teacher placements.
24. The school has in place a policy and procedures in respect of students undertaking work experience in the school.
25. The school has in place a policy and procedures in respect of students of the school undertaking work experience in external organisations.

Examples of activities, risks and procedures

The examples listed in this document are provided to assist schools in undertaking their risk assessment under the Children First Act, 2015. Schools should note that this list of examples is not intended to be exhaustive. It is the responsibility of each school to ensure, as far as possible, that any other risks and procedures that are relevant to its own particular circumstances are identified and specified in the written risk assessment and that adequate procedures are in place to address all risks identified.

It is acknowledged that schools already have in place a range of policies, practices and procedures to mitigate the risk of harm to children while they are participating in the activities of the school and that some school activities will carry low or minimal risks of harm compared to others. In the context of the risk assessment that must be undertaken by schools, the Children First Act, 2015 refers to risk as "any potential for harm". Therefore, it is important that, as part of its risk assessment process, each school lists and reviews all of its various activities (which shall include identifying those that may carry low risk of harm as well as those that carry higher risks of harm). Doing so will help the school to (1) identify, as required under the Children First Act, 2015, any risks of harm that may exist in respect of the school's activities,

(2) identify and assess the adequacy of the various procedures already in place to manage those risks of harm and (3) identify and put in place any such additional procedures as are considered necessary to manage any risk identified

The Addendum to Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children published in January 2019 clarifies that organisations providing relevant services to children should consider the specific issue of online safety when carrying out their risk assessment and preparing their Child Safeguarding Statement.

The Guidance on Continuity of Schooling for primary and post-primary schools (April 2020) advises of the importance of teachers maintaining the safe and ethical use of the internet during distance learning and assisting parents and guardians to be aware of their role also. Schools should ensure that their Acceptable Use Policy (AUP) informs and guides remote or distance learning activity.

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.

Checklist for Review of the Child Safeguarding Statement

The Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017 require that the Board of Management must undertake a review of its Child Safeguarding Statement and that the following checklist shall be used for this purpose. The review must be completed every year or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which the Child Safeguarding Statement refers. Undertaking an annual review will also ensure that a school also meets its statutory obligation under section 11(8) of the Children First Act 2015, to review its Child Safeguarding Statement every two years.

The checklist is designed as an aid to conducting this review and is not intended as an exhaustive list of the issues to be considered. Individual Boards of Management shall include other items in the checklist that are of relevance to the school in question.

As part of the overall review process, Boards of Management should also assess relevant school policies, procedures, practices and activities vis a vis their adherence to the principles of best practice in child protection and welfare as set out in the school's Child Safeguarding Statement, the Children First Act 2015, the Addendum to Children First (2019) and the Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017.

	Yes/No
1. Has the Board formally adopted a Child Safeguarding Statement in accordance with the 'Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools 2017'?	
2. Is the Board satisfied that the Child Safeguarding Statement is displayed in a prominent place near the main entrance to the school?	
3. As part of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement, has the Board formally adopted, without modification, the 'Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools 2017'?	
4. Does the school's Child Safeguarding Statement include a written assessment of risk as required under the Children First Act 2015? (This includes considering the specific issue of online safety as required by the Addendum to Children First)	
5. Has the Board reviewed and updated where necessary the written assessment of risk as part of this overall review?	
6. Has the Risk Assessment taken account of the risk of harm relevant to online teaching and learning remotely?	
7. Has the OLP attended available child protection training?	

8. Has the Deputy OLP attended available child protection training?	
9. Have any members of the Board attended child protection training?	
10. Are there both a OLP and a Deputy OLP currently appointed?	
11. Are the relevant contact details (Tusla and An Garda Síochána) to hand?	
12. Has the Board arrangements in place to communicate the school's Child Safeguarding Statement to new school personnel?	
13. Is the Board satisfied that all school personnel have been made aware of their responsibilities under the 'Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools 2017' and the Children First Act 2015?	
14. Has the Board received a Principals Child Protection Oversight Report (CPOR) at each Board meeting held since the last review was undertaken?	
15. Since the Board's last review, did each CPOR contain all of the information required under each of the 4 headings set out in sections 9.5 to 9.8 inclusive of the procedures?	
16. Since the Board's last review, has the Board been provided with and reviewed all documents relevant to the CPOR?	
17. Since the Board's last review, have the minutes of each Board meeting appropriately recorded the records provided to the Board as part of CPOR report?	
18. Have the minutes of each Board meeting appropriately recorded the CPOR report?	
19. Is the Board satisfied that the child protection procedures in relation to the making of reports to Tusla/An Garda Síochána were appropriately followed in each case reviewed?	
20. Is the Board satisfied that, since the last review, all appropriate actions are being or have been taken in respect of any member of school personnel against whom an allegation of abuse or neglect has been made?	
21. Where applicable, were unique identifiers used to record child protection matters in the Board minutes?	
22. Is the Board satisfied that all records relating to child protection are appropriately filed and stored securely?	

23. Has the Board been notified by any parent in relation to that parent not receiving the standard notification required under section 5.6 of the 'Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools 2017'?	
24. In relation to any cases identified at question 20 above, has the Board ensured that any notifications required under section 5.6 of the 'Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools 2017' were subsequently issued by the OLP?	
25. Has the Board ensured that the Parents' Association (if any), has been provided with the school's Child Safeguarding Statement?	
26. Has the Board ensured that the patron has been provided with the school's Child Safeguarding Statement?	
27. Has the Board ensured that the school's Child Safeguarding Statement is available to parents on request?	
28. Has the Board ensured that the Stay Safe programme is implemented in full in the school? (applies to primary schools)	
29. Has the Board ensured that the Wellbeing Programme for Junior Cycle students is implemented in full in the school? (applies to post- primary schools)	
30. Has the Board ensured that the SPHE curriculum is implemented in full in the school?	
31. Is the Board satisfied that the statutory requirements for Garda Vetting have been met in respect of all school personnel (employees and volunteers)?	
32. Is the Board satisfied that the Department's requirements in relation to the provision of a child protection related statutory declaration and associated form of undertaking have been met in respect of persons appointed to teaching and non-teaching positions?	
33. Is the Board satisfied that, from a child protection perspective, thorough recruitment and selection procedures are applied by the school in relation to all school personnel (employees and volunteers)?	
34. Has the Board considered and addressed any complaints or suggestions for improvements regarding the school's Child Safeguarding Statement?	

35.Has the Board sought the feedback of parents in relation to the school's compliance with the requirements of the child safeguarding requirements of the 'Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools 2017'?	
36.Has the Board sought the feedback of pupils in relation to the school's child safeguarding arrangements?	
37. Is the Board satisfied that the 'Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools 2017' are being fully and adequately implemented by the school?	
38. Has the Board identified any aspects of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement and/or its implementation that require further improvement?	
39.Has the Board put in place an action plan containing appropriate timelines to address those aspects of the school's Child Safeguarding	
40. Has the Board ensured that any areas for improvement that were identified in any previous review of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement have been adequately addressed?	