

Castleblakeney National School

Castleblakeney, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway Tel. No. 090 9678433

U.R. 164641

Mandatory Template 1 Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment

Child Safeguarding Statement

Castleblakeney N.S. 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 Castleblakeney N.S. 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. Anna Maher**
3. The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is **Mrs. Michelle Walsh**
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

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- 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.

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

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- 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.

This statement has been published on the school's website and has been provided to all members of school personnel 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 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 13/12/2021.

This Child Safeguarding Statement was reviewed by the Board of Management on_____.

Signed: _____

Chairperson of Board of Management

Date: 13/12/21

Signed: _____

Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Date: 13/12/21

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Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment

Written Assessment of Risk of Castleblakeney 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 Castleblakeney National School.

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	Harm not recognised or reported promptly	Child Safeguarding Statement & DES procedures made available to all staff.
One to One Teaching	Harm by school personnel	School has set guidelines in Additional Support Guidelines for one to one teaching. Open doors Table between teacher and pupil Glass in window
Care of Children with Special Needs including intimate care needs.	Harm by school personnel	Policy on Toileting and Intimate Care Needs
Curricular Provision in respect of SPHE, RSE Stay Safe	Non teaching of same	School implements SPHE every year and RSE, Stay Safe in full every alternate year.
LGBT Children/ Pupil perceived to be LGBT	Bullying	Anti-Bullying Policy Code of Behaviour

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Daily Dismissal of pupils	Unknown adults circulating pick up area	Dismissal supervised by Teachers and SNAs
Managing of challenging behaviour amongs pupils, including appropriate use of restraint.	Injury to pupils and staff	Health and Safety Policy Code of Behaviour Policy on Physical Intervention with Pupils.
Sports Coaches	Harm to pupils	Coaches Garda Vetted Coaching Sessions supervised by teacher- Supervision Policy
Students participating in work experience	Harm by student	Supervision Policy Child Safeguarding Statement
Recreation Breaks for Children	Bullying behaviour among pupils	Supervision Policy
Classroom teaching	Harm by school personnel	Code of Professional Conduct Teaching Council
Outdoor Teaching Activities	Harm by school personnel	Code of Professional Conduct Teaching Council Supervision Policy
Sporting Activities	Harm by school personnel	Code of Professional Conduct Teaching Council Supervision Policy
School Outings	Harm by school personnel Harm by tour guides/instructors	Code of Professional Conduct Teaching Council Supervision Policy Ensure tour venue is fit for purpose and instructors are properly trained and vetted
Use of toilet/changing areas in schools	Harm by school personnel Harm by other children	Policy on Toileting and Intimate Care Needs Supervision Policy

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Annual Sports Day	Harm by school personnel Harm by other children	Code of Professional Conduct Teaching Council Supervision Policy
Use of off site facilities for school activities	Harm by school personnel Harm by other users of the facility	Supervision Policy Avoid using Ashfield Pitch while it is in use by another group. Check changing areas prior to permitting children to enter.
Remote Learning Online	Harm by School Personnel Harm by Online Predators Online bullying by Peers or Strangers	Code of Professional Conduct Use of Reputable online learning platforms- Seesaw and Google Classroom Anti – Bullying Policy Code of Behaviour ICT Policy
School Transport to Events/Competitions	Harm by school personnel Harm by bus driver	Supervision Policy
Administration of Medicine Administration of First Aid	Harm by School Personnel	Administration of Medicine Policy Accident Injury Policy
Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst pupils	Lack of supervision	Supervision Policy Anti- Bullying Policy
Training of School Personnel in Child Protection matters	Failure to provide training	Allocate Croke Park time for training Avail of PDST training when required Make documents available to staff in hard and soft copy.
Use of external personnel to supplement curriculum	Harm by External Personnel	Code of Conduct for External Agencies in the Sports and Arts

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<p>Care of Pupils with Specific Vulnerabilities/Needs such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pupils from ethnic minorities/migrants • Members of the Traveller Community • Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual or transgender children • Pupils perceived to be LGBT • Pupils of minority religious faiths • Children in care • Children on CPNS(Child Protection Notice Scheme) 	<p>Harm by school personnel Harm by peers</p>	<p>Anti- Bullying Policy Supervision Policy</p>
<p>Recruitment of school personnel including- Teachers SNAs 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</p>	<p>Harm not recognised or promptly reported</p>	<p>Child Safeguarding Statement & DES procedures made available to all staff. Staff to view Tusla training module & any other online training offered by PDST Vetting Procedures Code of Conduct for External Agencies for Sports and Arts.</p>

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Use of Information and Communication Technology by pupils in school	Bullying	ICT Policy Anti Bullying Policy Code of Behaviour
Application of sanctions under the school's Code of Behaviour including detention of pupils, confiscation of phones etc	Harm by school personnel	Supervision Policy
Student Teachers participating in work experience/teaching practice in the school.	Harm by Students on Work Experience/Teacher training	Supervision Policy
Use of video/photography/other media to record school events	Inappropriate use of material	Acceptable Use Policy Reminder to parents prior to attendance of school event about acceptable use policy.
After School use of school premises by other organisations.	Harm by external personnel	Submission of Garda Vetting prior to granting of premises.
Use of Isolation Area in the event of suspicion of COVID 19	Harm by school personnel	Code of Professional Conduct Teaching Council

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 the general health & 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 has been completed by the Board of Management on 13/12/21. It shall be reviewed as part of the school's annual review of its Child Safeguarding Statement.

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