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Gurraneasig N.S.

Kilbrittain,

Co. Cork

P72.YP78

## **Gurraneasig NS Child Safeguarding Statement 13th September 2022**

Gurraneasig 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 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 Gurraneasig 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: Mr. Conor Murray
- 3 The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is: Ms. Niamh McGrath
- 4 The Acting Deputy Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is Ms Laura White.
- 5 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. The school will adhere to the following principles of best practice in child protection and welfare.

The school will:

- a. recognise that the protection and welfare of children is of paramount importance, regardless of all other considerations
  - b. fully comply with its statutory obligations under the Children First Act 2015 and other relevant legislation relating to the protection and welfare of children
  - c. fully cooperate with the relevant statutory authorities in relation to child protection and welfare matters
  - d. 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
  - e. develop a practice of openness with parents and encourage parental involvement in the education of their children; and
  - f. fully respect confidentiality requirements in dealing with child protection matters
- 6 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:
  - i. Has provided each member of staff with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement
  - ii. Ensures all new staff are provided with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement
  - iii. Encourages staff to avail of relevant training
  - iv. Encourages Board of Management members to avail of relevant training
  - v. 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.
- 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

**Note:** The above is not intended as an exhaustive list.

7 This statement has been published on the school's website and has been provided to all members of school personnel, the Parents' Association 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.

8 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 reviewed and ratified by the Board of Management on:

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
Chairperson of BoM

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
Principal/Secretary to the BoM

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# Child Safeguarding Statement & Risk Assessment

List of School Activities	Risk Level	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	High	Harm not recognised or reported promptly	Child Safeguarding Statement & DES procedures made available to all staff DLP & DDLP to complete updated PDST training  All Staff viewed Túsia training module & any other online training offered by PDST  BOM records all records of staff and board training
One to one teaching	High	Harm by school personnel	School has policy in place 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	Med	Harm by school personnel	Policy on intimate care
Toilet areas	High	Inappropriate behaviour	Adequate supervision Toilet facilities located within classroom One at a time Policy Single Gender Toilets
Curricular Provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay safe.	Med	Non-teaching of same	School implements SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe in full see SPHE Plan
Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils	Med	Harm from older pupils, unknown adults on the playground	Arrival and dismissal supervised by Teachers Stay Safe Programme Staggered Collections No adults allowed on school grounds without permission
Managing of challenging behaviour amongst pupils,	High	Injury to pupils and staff	Restraint Policy, Health & Safety Policy Code Of Behaviour Sensory Breaks
Sports Coaches & external teachers supplementing the curriculum	Med	Harm to pupils	Procedures in place Class Teacher Present
Students participating in work experience	Med	Harm by student	Work Experience Policy Child Safeguarding Statement. Supervisor from secondary school/college
Recreation breaks for pupils	High	Harm to student	Supervision Policy Health & Safety Code of Behaviour Anti- Bullying Policy SPHE Programme
Classroom teaching	Low	Harm by school personnel	Child Safeguarding Statement Professional Code of Conduct

## Child Safeguarding Statement & Risk Assessment

Outdoor Teaching Activities	Med	Inadequate supervision Harm to student	BOM approves all organised, supervised outings Health & Safety Policy Anti-Bullying Policy Code of Behaviour Professional Code of Conduct Adequate Supervision
Sporting Activities	Med	Inadequate supervision Harm to student	Policy and procedures in place for the use of external sports coaches
School outings	High	Inadequate supervision Harm to student Bullying	BOM approves all organised, supervised outings Code of Behaviour Anti-Bullying Policy
Use of toilet/changing areas in schools	High	Inadequate supervision Harm to student	Supervision Policy Code of Behaviour Anti-Bullying Policy
Annual Sports Night	High	Harm to student by visitors to school/ school personnel/ other students	Child Safeguarding Statement Code of Behaviour Anti Bullying Policy
Fundraising events involving pupils	Med	Inadequate supervision Harm to student	BOM approves all organised, supervised events Supervision Policy
Use of off-site facilities for school activities	High	Inadequate supervision Harm to student	BOM approves all organised, supervised outings Supervision Policy

School transport arrangements including use of bus	High	Inadequate supervision Harm to student Harm by transport personnel	BOM approves all organised, supervised outings Child Safeguarding Statement Supervision Policy
Administration of Medicine	Med	Harm to child by person administering of medicine	Policy and procedures in place for the administration of medicine
Administration of First Aid	Med	Harm to child by person administering of First Aid	Policy and procedures in place for the administration of First Aid
Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst pupils	High	Bullying Harm to student	Anti-Bullying Policy Code of Behaviour SPHE Programme
Care of pupils with specific vulnerabilities/ needs such as -Students from ethnic minorities/migrants -Members of the Traveller community -Lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender (LGBT) -Students perceived to be LGBT -Students of minority religious faiths -Children in Care -Children on Child Protection Notification System (CPNS)	High	Bullying Harm to student	Anti-Bullying Policy Code of Behaviour Professional code of conduct SPHE Programme Liaise with NEPS Code of Professional Conduct
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	High	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  Vetting Procedures  Child Safeguarding Statement

# Child Safeguarding Statement & Risk Assessment

school hours -Visitors/contractors present during after school activities			
Use of ICT/ Internet by pupils in school	High	Bullying Harm to child	AUP Policy Digital Learning Plan Develop Safe & Responsible Behaviours SPHE Programme
Use of ICT/Internet by pupils through Distance Learning	High	Bullying Harm to Child	AUP Policy Digital Learning Plan Develop Safe & Responsible Behaviours Zoom Etiquette Policy Code of Behaviour
Use of video / photography / other media to record school events	High	Harm to child	Enrolment Policy Child Safeguarding Statement Data Protection Policy AUP Policy
Past pupils visiting the school for full or partial days	Med	Supervising Children who are not part of the school community / not insured	Insurance Policy  Health & Safety Statement
Security/access to school	Med	Harm to child	Health & Safety Statement Sign out Book Maglock Door & Keypad
Pupils being collected early from school	Med	Harm to child	Sign out Book Advance Notice

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 will be reviewed as annually.

Signed Mary O'Driscoll Signed Maive Tighe

Date 13/09/2022 Date 13/09/2022

Chairperson, Board of Management Principal/Secretary to the BoM

- Risk Analysis was conducted using the guidelines as set out in **Organisational Risk Management; Policy and Procedure by Tulsa** ( [https://www.tusla.ie/uploads/content/QA\\_Org\\_Risk\\_Management.pdf](https://www.tusla.ie/uploads/content/QA_Org_Risk_Management.pdf))

