

**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.

1. The Designated Liaison Person (DLP) is:Mr. Conor Murray

1. The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is: Ms. Niamh McGrath

1. The  Acting Deputy Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is Ms Laura White.

1. 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:

1. recognise that the protection and welfare of children is of paramount importance, regardless of all other considerations
2. fully comply with its statutory obligations under the Children First Act 2015 and other relevant legislation relating to the protection and welfare of children
3. fully cooperate with the relevant statutory authorities in relation to child protection and welfare matters
4. 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
5. develop a practice of openness with parents and encourage parental involvement in the education of their children; and
6. fully respect confidentiality requirements in dealing with child protection matters

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 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:

1. Has provided each member of staff with a copy of the school’s Child Safeguarding Statement
2. Ensures all new staff are provided with a copy of the school’s Child Safeguarding Statement
3. Encourages staff to avail of relevant training
4. Encourages Board of Management members to avail of relevant training
5. 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.

1. 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.

1. 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: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Signed: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Chairperson of BoM                                             Principal/Secretary to the BoM

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

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| **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 Túsla 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 |
| 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 |

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| 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 school hours  -Visitors/contractors present during after school activities | 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 |
| 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 |

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| 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 |
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| 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 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Signed \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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)**