



Kennedy College

Child Safeguarding Statement

Kennedy College is a post-primary school providing post-primary education to pupils from First Year to Sixth Year. Kennedy College is under the authority of Waterford and Wexford Education Board.

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 \(revised 2023\)](#) and [Tusla Guidance on the preparation of Child Safeguarding Statements](#), the Board of Management of Kennedy 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 (revised 2023) as part of this overall Child Safeguarding Statement.
2. The Designated Liaison Person (DLP) is **Sarah Roche, Principal**
3. The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is **Mary Whelan, Deputy Principal**
4. The relevant person is Sarah Roche.
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. 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.

The school will also adhere to the above principles in relation to any adult pupil with a special vulnerability.

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 (revised 2023)* and to the relevant agreed disciplinary procedures for school staff which are published on the gov.ie 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



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and recruitment circulars published by the Department of Education and available on the gov.ie 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 (revised 2023)*, including in the case of registered teachers, those in relation to mandated reporting under the Children First Act 2015.
- 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 gov.ie 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.

- 1 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.
- 2 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 01-09-2019

This Child Safeguarding Statement was reviewed by the Board of Management on 01-09-2026.

Signed: 
Chairperson of Board of Management

Date: 1-9-2026

Signed: 
Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Date: 1-9-2026



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Child Safeguarding Written Risk Assessment

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 (revised 2023), the following is the Written Risk Assessment of Kennedy College.

1. List of Kennedy College activities

- Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils.
- Recreation breaks for pupils.
- Classroom teaching.
- One-to-one teaching.
- One-to-one counselling.
- SNA support.
- Outdoor teaching activities.
- Sporting Activities.
- College outings.
- College trips involving an overnight stay.
- College trips involving foreign travel.
- Use of toilet/changing/shower areas.
- Fundraising events involving pupils.
- Use of off-site facilities for college activities.
- College transport arrangements including the use of bus escorts.
- Care of children with special educational needs, including intimate care where needed.
- Management of challenging behaviour amongst students.
- Administration of Medication.
- Administration of First Aid.
- The curricular provision in respect of SPHE and RSE.
- Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst students.
- Training of Kennedy College personnel in child protection matters.
- Use of external personnel to supplement the curriculum.
- Use of external personnel to support sports and other extra-curricular activities.
- 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) children.
 - Students perceived to be LGBT.
 - Students of minority religious faiths.
 - Students in care.
 - Students on the TUSLA Child Protection Notification System.



- Recruitment of Kennedy College personnel including -
 - Teachers/SNAs.
 - Caretaker/Secretary/Cleaners.
 - Sports coaches.
 - External Tutors/Guest Speakers.
 - Volunteers/Parents in college activities.
 - Visitors/contractors present in college during school hours.
 - Visitors/contractors present during after college activities.
 - Use of Information and Communication Technology by students in college.
 - Application of sanctions under the Kennedy College Code of Behaviour including detention of students during lunch time or after school, confiscation of phones, etc.
 - Students from Kennedy College participating in work experience elsewhere.
 - Students from Kennedy College participating in work experience in school.
 - Student teachers that are undertaking training placement in Kennedy College.
 - Use of video/photography/other media to record Kennedy College events.
 - After school use of Kennedy College premises by other organisations.
 - Use of Kennedy College premises by other organisations during school times.
 - Canteen provision.
 - Homework club.
 - Evening study.
 - Deliveries to the school.
 - Parents/Guardians visiting the school.
 - Staff members working in shared centres.
2. The college has identified the following risk of harm in respect of its activities
- Risk of harm not being recognised by Kennedy College personnel.
 - Risk of harm not being reported properly and promptly by Kennedy College personnel.
 - Risk of child being harmed in Kennedy College by a member of Kennedy College personnel.
 - Risk of child being harmed in Kennedy College by another student or adult learner.
 - Risk of child being harmed in Kennedy College by volunteer or visitor to the school.
 - Risk of child being harmed by a member of Kennedy College personnel, a member of staff of another organisation or other person while child participating in out of school activities, e.g. school trip, sporting activities.
 - Risk of harm due to the bullying of a student.
 - Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of students in Kennedy College.
 - Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of students while attending out of school activities.
 - Risk of harm due to inappropriate relationship/communications between a student and another student or adult.
 - Risk of harm due to students inappropriately accessing/using computers, social media, phones and other devices while at college.



- Risk of harm to children with SEN who have particular vulnerabilities.
 - Risk of harm due to inadequate application of the Kennedy College Code of Behaviour.
 - Risk of harm in one-to-one teaching, counselling, coaching situation.
 - Risk of harm caused by a member of Kennedy College personnel communicating with students in an inappropriate manner via social media, texting, digital device or any other means.
 - Risk of harm caused by an adult learner registered in Kennedy College communicating with students in an inappropriate manner via social media, texting, digital device or any other means.
 - Risk of harm caused by a member of Kennedy College personnel accessing/circulating inappropriate material via social media, texting, digital device or another manner.
3. The college has the following procedures in place to address the risks of harm identified in this assessment
- All college personnel are provided with a copy of the college's Child Safeguarding Statement.
 - The Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Colleges 2017 are made available to all college personnel.
 - Kennedy College personnel are required to adhere to the Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Colleges 2023 and all registered teaching staff are required to adhere to the Children First Act 2015.
 - Kennedy College implements in full the SPHE curriculum.
 - Kennedy College implements in full the Wellbeing Programme at Junior Cycle.
 - Kennedy College has an Anti-Bullying Policy which fully adheres to the requirements of the Department's Anti-Bullying Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Colleges.
 - Kennedy College has a supervision roster to ensure appropriate supervision of students during assembly, dismissal and breaks and in respect of specific areas such as toilets, changing rooms etc.
 - Kennedy College has in place clear procedures in respect of school outings.
 - Kennedy College has a Health and safety policy.
 - WWETB and Kennedy College adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation and relevant DES circulars in relation to recruitment and Garda vetting.
 - WWETB has codes of conduct for Kennedy College personnel (teaching and non-teaching staff).
 - WWETB and Kennedy College complies with the agreed disciplinary procedures for teaching staff.
 - Kennedy College has a Special Educational Needs policy
 - Kennedy College has an intimate care policy/plan in respect of students who require such care.
 - Kennedy College has in place procedures for the administration of medication to pupils.



- Kennedy College has provided each member of college staff with a copy of the college's Child Safeguarding Statement.
- Ensures all new staff are provided with a copy of the college's Child Safeguarding Statement.
- Encourages staff to avail of relevant training.
- Encourages board of management members to avail of relevant training
- Maintains records of all staff and board member training.
- Kennedy College has in place a policy and procedures for the administration of First Aid.
- Kennedy College has in place a code of behaviour for students.
- Kennedy College has in place an ICT policy in respect of usage of ICT, including mobile phones by students.
- Kennedy College has in place a Critical Incident Management Plan.
- Kennedy College operates the Home School Liaison role in line with best practice.
- Kennedy College has in place procedures for the use of external persons to supplement the delivery of the curriculum.
- Kennedy College has in place procedures for the use of external sports coaches.
- Kennedy College has in place a policy and clear procedures for one-to-one teaching activities.
- Kennedy College has in place a policy and procedures for one-to-one counselling.
- Kennedy College has in place a policy and procedures in respect of students of the college undertaking work experience in external organisations.

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 (revised 2023)*

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 16-01-2020. It shall be reviewed as part of the college's annual review of its Child Safeguarding Statement.

Signed: _____

Chairperson of Board of Management

Date: 01-09-2026

Signed: _____

Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Date: 01-09-2026