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Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment

For:	**St. Kevin's Community College**	*(School Name)*
At:	**Dunlavin, Co. Wicklow, W91 R971.**	*(School Address)*

This school is a: (tick appropriate) ☐primary ☒post-primary ☐ special school

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) and 2025, Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025 and Child Safeguarding: A Guide for Policy, Procedure and Practice, 2nd ed. (Tusla, 2024), the board of management has adopted the Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment set out in this document.

The board of management has adopted and will implement fully and without modification the department's Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025 as part of this overall Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment.

Name of the Designated Liaison Person (DLP):

Brian Doran

Name of the Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP/DDLP):

Deirdre Murphy

In the absence of the DLP, the Deputy DLP shall assume responsibilities of the DLP

Name of Relevant Person

Brian Doran

(In schools this person is the DLP)

Relevant Person can be contacted on:

045406000	briandoran@kwetb.ie

Under the Children First Act 2015 Relevant Person means a person who is appointed by a provider of a relevant service to be the first point of contact in respect of the Child Safeguarding Statement. This person is nominated by the board of management to manage and provide oversight of child protection concerns/allegations of child abuse.

Name of Chairperson of the board of management, or in an ETB school the Chief Executive or their delegate:

Deirdre Keyes

In the event that both DLP and DDLP are absent and unavailable, and where there is no staff member formally acting in their role, the chairperson of the board of management, or in an ETB school the chief executive or their delegate, assumes the role of DLP.

The board of management recognises that child protection and safeguarding permeate all aspects of school life and must be reflected in all of the school's policies, procedures, practices and activities. In all of these, 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 happening to children and protect members of school personnel from the necessity to take unnecessary risks that may leave themselves open to accusations of child abuse.
- ☒ Develop a practice of openness with parents and encourage parental involvement in the education of their children.
- ☒ Fully respect confidentiality requirements as set out in the Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025 in dealing with child protection matters.
- ☒ Adhere to the above principles in relation to any vulnerable adult.

Procedures and Measures in Place

Our Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment has been developed in line with requirements under the Children First Act 2015, the *Children First: National Guidance 2017*, and *Child Safeguarding: A Guide for Policy, Procedure and Practice, 2nd ed. (Tusla, 2024)*, and the *Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025*. In addition to the procedures listed in our risk assessment, the following procedures support our intention to safeguard children while they are availing of our service:

> Procedure for the Management of Allegations of Abuse or Misconduct against School Personnel Relating to a Child Availing of Our Service

~ Where any member of school personnel is the subject of any investigation in respect of any act, omission or circumstance in relation to a child attending the school, the school is required to adhere to the relevant procedures set out in Chapter 7 of *the Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025* and to the relevant agreed disciplinary procedures for school staff which are published on the gov.ie website.

> Procedure for the Safe Recruitment and Selection of School Personnel to Work With Children

~ The school is required to adhere to the requirements of the Vetting Act. The selection or recruitment of staff and their suitability to work with children, requires the school to adhere 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 Youth and available on the gov.ie website and as outlined in Chapter 10 of the procedures.

~ A written protocol is in place authorising immediate action for cases which require an employee to be immediately absented from school for child safeguarding reasons.

> Procedure for Provision of and Access to Child Safeguarding Training and Information, Including the Identification of the Occurrence of Harm

~ The school provides information and training to members of school personnel in relation to the identification of the occurrence of harm (as defined in the 2015 Act) as follows:

~ The school has provided each member of school personnel, including any new members of school personnel, (employees and volunteers, board of management members, student teachers and those on work experience) with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment.

~ The school ensures that members of school personnel have availed of relevant training and completed child protection training.

~ The school encourages board of management members to avail of any relevant training and complete child protection training.

~ The board of management ensures that records of all staff and board member child protection training are maintained.

> Procedure for the Reporting of Child Protection or Welfare Concerns to Tusla

~ All members of school personnel are required to adhere to the procedures set out in the *Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025*, in relation to reporting of child protection concerns to Tusla. Mandated reporting applies to all registered teachers and any other mandated person who may be employed by the school, for example a chaplain or nurse. A full list of those people who are mandated persons is set out in Appendix 1 procedures.

> Procedure for Maintaining a List of the Persons (if any) in the Relevant Service Who Are Mandated Persons

~ There is a procedure in place to maintain a list of mandated persons. Schools may on occasion employ additional staff who are mandated by virtue of their profession. This list will include all registered teachers and identify additional employees that are not registered teachers.

> Procedure for Appointing a Relevant Person (In schools this person is the DLP)

~ There is a procedure in place for appointing a relevant person.

The various procedures referred to in this Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment can be accessed via the school's website, the gov.ie website or will be made available on request by the school.

In accordance with the Children First Act 2015, the Addendum to Children First 2019 and 2025, and the *Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025,* the board of management 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.

Note: The procedures and measures in place outlined above, are not intended as exhaustive list. Individual boards of management shall also include in this section such other procedures and measures that are of relevance to the school.

This statement has been published on the school's website or will be made available on request by the school. It has been provided to all members of school personnel, the parents' association (if any), the patron and parents. A copy of this statement and risk assessment will be made available to Tusla and the department if requested.

This Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment 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

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
1.	Daily arrival & departure of pupils	Inadequate supervision; harm from other students/adults	Supervision rota; Code of Behaviour; Child Protection Procedures provided to all staff; Bí Cineálta Policy
2.	Classroom teaching	Harm by staff/other students; inappropriate communication; unrecognised/reported harm	Child Safeguarding Statement distributed to all staff; Adherence to Child Protection Procedures; Adherence to Children First Act 2015 and its Addendum (2019); Teaching staff are mandated persons; SPHE/Wellbeing; Code of Behaviour, S&S policy, AEN policy.
3.	One-to-one teaching	Inappropriate behaviour or communication; risk of harm in closed setting	One-to-one Teaching/counselling Policy; adherence to Child Protection Procedures; supervision guidelines, transparent procedures.
4.	One-to-one counselling	Risk of harm, inappropriate communication	Whole School Guidance Policy; adherence to Children First Act; secure, transparent procedures.
5.	Outdoor teaching activities	Inadequate supervision; harm by others; accidents	Supervision rota; Planning and oversight; Health & Safety Policy, Critical Incident Policy
6.	Use of external personnel for curriculum	External adult harming student; inappropriate communication	Supervision by staff; adherence to DES/Garda vetting circulars
7.	Morning & lunch breaks	Bullying; physical/ verbal abuse; inadequate supervision	Supervision rota; Bí Cineálta Policy; Code of Behaviour
8.	Sporting activities (on-site or off-site)	Harm from coaches/other students; inadequate supervision; inappropriate changing environments	Vetting of coaches; supervision procedures; first aid trained teachers, Critical Incident Policy
9.	Curricular events (Art exhibitions, enterprise days, etc.)	Public/visitor contact; risk of harm from adults	Visitor/contractor protocols; staff supervision; Garda vetting for regular personnel
10.	Application of sanctions (detention,	Risk of inappropriate interaction; allegations	Code of Behaviour; staff training; supervision protocols

	confiscation of phones)		
11.	Academic/behaviour/wellbeing conversations (group or one-to-one)	Inappropriate communication; harm in one-to-one settings	Child Protection Procedures; one-to-one guidance; staff training
12.	School outings	Inadequate supervision; harm by external adults; accidents	Planning and oversight; supervision plan; Garda vetting where required, Critical Incident Policy
13.	Overnight trips / foreign travel	Increased risk due to extended access; supervision challenges	Planning and oversight; vetting; supervision rota; parental consent; adherence to national child protection procedures, Critical Incident Policy
14.	Use of toilets, changing rooms, showers	Bullying; inappropriate behaviour; inadequate supervision	Supervision rota; safeguarding procedures; privacy and safety measures
15.	Annual or occasional sports day	Visitors onsite; inadequate supervision	Event supervision plan; visitor management procedures
16.	Fundraising events	Interaction with external adults; student exposure	Supervision; staff oversight
17.	Use of off-site facilities	Harm by external adults; inadequate supervision	Planning and oversight; staff supervision; external facility guidelines
18.	School transport (training, tours, activities)	Harm by transport company personnel; inadequate supervision	Vetting of drivers where required; supervision; approved transport providers, Critical Incident Policy
19.	Care of students with AEN / medical needs	Vulnerability; intimate care risks; inadequate support	AEN Policy; Care Plan; trained staff
20.	Management of challenging behaviour	Physical harm; inappropriate restraint	Positive Code of Behaviour; staff training; AEN supports
21.	Administration of First Aid / Medicine	Incorrect or inappropriate administration; harm	Trained personnel
22.	SPHE, RSE, Wellbeing structured lessons	Sensitive discussions; risk of disclosures not handled correctly	Full implementation of SPHE/RSE; adherence to reporting procedures

23.	Bullying prevention and response	Harm from bullying (verbal, physical, online, racist)	Bí Cineálta Policy; reporting procedures; supervision, Critical Incident Policy
24.	Training of personnel in child protection	Harm not recognised or reported	Mandatory staff training; record keeping; distribution of safeguarding statement
25.	Use of external personnel for extracurricular activities	Inappropriate behaviour or communication	Vetting; Staff supervision
26.	Care of pupils with vulnerabilities	Discrimination; bullying; emotional harm	Bí Cineálta Policy; SPHE; Wellbeing; equality awareness, anti-racism awareness initiatives
27.	Instruction off-site	Harm by external adults; supervision risk	Planning and oversight; supervision plan; communication with external organisers
28.	Teacher-student communication (verbal, written, electronic)	Inappropriate interactions; digital misuse	ICT and Acceptable Use Policy; Mobile Phone Policy; Code of Behaviour; Child Protection Procedures
29.	Use of ICT (computers, phones, devices)	Access to inappropriate material; cyberbullying	ICT and Acceptable Use Policy; supervision; Mobile Phone Policy, Critical Incident Policy
30.	Work experience (in school or externally)	Harm from adults in external settings	Work Experience Policy; vetting where applicable
31.	Student teachers on placement	Risk from adult trainee	Vetting; Colleges Placement Policy; Staff supervision; Teaching Council Code of Practice
32.	Exams, portfolios, assessments	Stress; one-to-one interaction risk	Supervision; safeguarding procedures
33.	Use of video, photography, media	Images misused; privacy concerns	ICT and Acceptable Use Policy; parental consent; secure storage
34.	After-school use of premises by external organisations	Interaction with unknown adults; poor supervision	Visitor/Contractor Protocols; vetting (where required); premises hire procedures, Critical Incident Policy
35.	Canteen facilities	Bullying; harm in crowded spaces	Supervision rota; Bí Cineálta Policy
36.	After-school study; holiday study;	Reduced supervision; student vulnerability	Supervision arrangements; safeguarding procedures

	Homework club, etc		
37.	Musicals, events, exhibitions	Public contact; photography risks	Event supervision plan; ICT and Acceptable Use Policy; visitor management
38.	Recruitment (teachers, SNAs, caretakers, coaches, volunteers)	Unsuitable adults gaining access to children	Garda vetting; recruitment policies; reference checks
39.	Online Teaching/Remote learning	Inappropriate communication/grooming; cyberbullying; access to inappropriate material; recording/sharing of images without consent.	Acceptable Use Policy; Code of Behaviour; Critical Incident Management Policy; Child Protection Procedures.
40.	Visitors/contractors present in school hours or during after school activities	Inappropriate behaviour or communication	Vetting (where required by KWETB); Staff supervision
41.	Use of school premises by other organisation during the school day (eg HSE vaccinations)	Inappropriate behaviour or communication	Visitor management procedures; Organisations own Child Protection procedures

In accordance with Section 11 of the Children First Act 2015 and with the requirements of Chapter 9 of the Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025, the following is the written Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment.

In undertaking this Child Safeguarding Statement and 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 Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment was reviewed by the board of management on 1st September 2026.

Signed:*	CTR. Chair B.O.M.	**Date:** 1/9/2026

Chairperson of the board of management

Signed:*		**Date:** 1/9/2026

Principal/Secretary to the board of management

This Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment is expected to be reviewed again in September 2027.

Appendix - Location of copies of the Child Protection Procedures and Children First Guidance

Copies of the Child Protection Procedures and Children First Guidance may be located as follows:

Department of Education and Youth website www.gov.ie/childprotectionschools

Children First National Guidance 2017.pdf

School Website: St Kevins Community College

Hard copy available at the main entrance.