

Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment 2026

Child Safeguarding Statement

Killarney Community National School 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 (revised 2023) and Tusla Guidance on the preparation of Child Safeguarding Statements, the Board of Management of Killarney Community National School 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 Catherine Barry
- 3 The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is Aoife Tarrant
- 4 The Relevant Person is Catherine Barry
(The relevant person is one who can provide information in respect of how the child safeguarding statement was developed and will be able to provide the statement on request. In a school setting the relevant person shall be the designated liaison person.)
- 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 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.

- 7 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.
- 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 adopted by the Board of Management on _____ [date].

This Child Safeguarding Statement was reviewed by the Board of Management on _____ [most recent review date].

Signed: Pádraig O'Donnachais

Chairperson of Board of Management

Date: 20/4/26

Signed: Catherine Barry

Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Date: 20/4/26

Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment

Written Assessment of Risk of Killarney Community National School

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 [name of school].

1. List of school activities

Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils.

Recreation breaks for pupils.

Classroom teaching.

Group teaching.

One to one teaching.

Outdoor teaching activities.

Extra-curricular activities.

School trips.

Swimming

Sports Day.

School bus.

Prevention of and dealing with bullying.

In-service training of staff in curricular areas.

In-service and training of staff in Child Protection matters.

Students from colleges participating in work placement in the school.

Use of cameras to record school events.

School concerts/assemblies.

Administration of First Aid.

Visiting speakers/workshops.

Management of challenging behaviour amongst pupils.

Use of external personnel to support sports and other extra-curricular activities

Care of pupils with specific vulnerabilities/ needs such as

Pupils from ethnic minorities/migrants

Members of the Traveller community

Lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender (LGBT) children
Pupils perceived to be LGBT
Children with medical needs
Use of Information and Communication Technology by pupils in school, including social media.
Student teachers undertaking training placement in school

2. The school has identified the following risk of harm in respect of its activities -

Risk of harm not being recognised by school personnel.
Risk of harm not being reported properly and promptly by school personnel.
Risk of child being harmed by another child.
Risk of child being harmed by a volunteer or visitor to the school.
Risk of child being harmed by a member of school personnel, a member of staff of another organisation or other person while child participating in out of school activities, (eg) school trip, swimming.
Risk of harm due to bullying of child.
Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children in school.
Risk of harm due to inappropriate use of online remote teaching and learning communication platform such as an uninvited person accessing the lesson link.
Risk of harm due to racism.
Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children in school.
Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children while attending out of school activities.
Risk of harm due to inappropriate relationship/communications between child and another child or adult.
Risk of harm due to children inappropriately accessing/using computers, social media, phones and other devices while at school.
Risk of harm to children with SEN who have particular vulnerabilities, including medical vulnerabilities.
Risk of harm to child while a child is receiving intimate care.
Risk of harm in one-to-one teaching.
Risk of harm due to inadequate code of behaviour

3. The school has the following procedures in place to address the risks of harm identified in this assessment -

The Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools are made available to all school personnel.

School Personnel are required to adhere to the *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017* and all registered teaching staff are required to adhere to the *Children First Act 2015* and its Addendum (2019)

The school –

Has provided each member of school 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

Maintains records of all staff and board member training

The school implements in full the Stay Safe programme.

The school implements in full the SPHE curriculum.

The school has an anti-bullying policy and fully adheres to the requirements of the DES Anti-Bullying Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools.

The school has a Remote Learning Plan and an Acceptable Use Policy.

The school has a Health and Safety Policy.

The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation and relevant DES circulars in Relation to recruitment and Garda vetting.

The school complies with the agreed disciplinary procedures for teaching staff.

The school undertakes anti-racism awareness initiatives.

The school has a Special Educational Needs policy

The school has in place a policy and procedures for the administration of medication to pupils

The school has in place a policy and procedures for the administration of First Aid

The school has in place a Code of Behaviour for pupils.

The school has in place a Critical Incident Management Plan.