



## Child Safeguarding Statement

Kill 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 \(revised 2023\)](#), the [Child Protection and Safeguarding Procedures for Boarding Facilities associated with Recognised Schools 2023](#) and [Tusla Guidance on the preparation of Child Safeguarding Statements](#), the board of management of Kill 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 Derry O'Connor
- 3 The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is Deirdre Kavanagh
- 4 The Relevant Person is Derry O'Connor  
*(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. This person can also be the DLP)*
- 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 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 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 \_\_\_\_\_.

This Child Safeguarding Statement was reviewed by the Board of Management on \_\_\_\_\_.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Chairperson of Board of Management

Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

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

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

## Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment

### Written Assessment of Risk of Kill National School

In accordance with section 11 of the Children First Act 2015 and with the requirement of Chapter 8 of the *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools (revised 2023)*, the following is the Written Risk Assessment of Kill National School.

<b>Risk/School Activities</b>	<b>Risk Of Harm</b>	<b>Managing the Risk</b>	<b>Ranking the Risk</b>
Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Risk of harm to child of parent/collector not being recognised by school personnel</li> <li>- Abduction/absconding</li> <li>- Risk of harm not being reported promptly by school personnel</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Remind parents/guardian annually about start/finish time</li> <li>- Staff supervision at 2pm and 3pm when pupil dismissal takes place in the front yard</li> <li>- Parents must notify the school if children are going home differently than usual, so that teachers are aware</li> </ul>	LOW
Recreation breaks for pupils	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Risk of a child being harmed by another child</li> <li>- Abduction/absconding</li> <li>- Bullying</li> <li>- Inadequate supervision</li> <li>- Tripping/falling/injuries</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Adequate yard supervision at all times by school personal</li> <li>- See Anti Bullying Policy</li> <li>- Accident Report Book</li> <li>- See Accident &amp; Injury Policy</li> </ul>	MEDIUM



Classroom Teaching – potential for abuse by employee/volunteer/parent	- Risk of harm to a child caused by a member of school personnel or another person present during classroom teaching (physical and emotional)	- All teachers are bound by the Teaching Council Code of Behaviour/Ethics - Garda Vetting	LOW
One-to-one teaching	-Risk of harm to a child with SEN who may have weakness vulnerabilities -Risk of harm in one-to-one teaching	- See S.E.N. Policy and an open door policy as part of S.E.N.	LOW
Outdoor teaching activities	-Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children while attending outdoor school activities	- See School Tour and Excursions Policy	MEDIUM
Sporting Activities – swimming, soccer, GAA	- 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 e.g. swimming lessons, GAA	- See School Sporting Activities Policy - Garda Vetting of external coaches	LOW
School tours/outings	-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 e.g. school tours/outings	- See School Sporting Activities Policy	MEDIUM
Use of toilet/changing areas in school	-Risk of harm from school personnel and other children while using toilet or changing for a game/match	- Appropriate school personnel supervision outside of the toilet/changing areas when it is taking place	LOW
Annual Sports Day	-Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of child -Falling/tripping/injuries -Risk of harm from spectators/volunteers	- See School Sporting Activities Policy - See Accident & Injury Policy	LOW
Fundraising events involving pupils	-Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of child while attending out of school activities	- Adequate supervision at all times - Appropriate Garda Vetting in place for all personnel involved with the children	LOW



Care of children with Special Education Needs, including intimate care where needed	-Risk of harm to a child while a child is receiving intimate care -Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision	- See Toileting and Intimate Care Policy	HIGH
Management of challenging behaviour amongst pupils, including appropriate use of restraints where required	-Risk of harm to inadequate code of behaviour	- See Code of Behaviour Policy	HIGH
Administration of Medicine	-Risk of child being harmed by a member of school personnel	- See Administration of Medicines Policy	LOW
Administration of First Aid	-Risk of harm to child is receiving first aid	- See Accident and Injury Policy	LOW
Curricular provision in respect of SPHE, RSE and Stay Safe	-Risk of bullying -Risk of harm due to inappropriate relationship/communications between child and another child or adult -Risk of harm due to external personnel e.g. nurse	- The school implements in full the Stay Safe Programme, the SPHE curriculum and the RSE Policy as part of our Plean Scoile	LOW
Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst pupils	- Risk of harm due to emotional and physical bullying from another child	- See Code of Behaviour Policy - See Anti Bullying Policy	MEDIUM
Training of school personnel in child protection matters	- Risk of harm to child due to being inadequate trained or not knowing what to do appropriately in a situation	- All staff will partake in training when it arises - B.O.M. will be encouraged to attend training - All staff were involved in Risk Assessment and Safe Guarding Statement	LOW
Use of external personnel to support and supplement curricular, sports and other extra-curricular activities	-Risk of harm to child due to a member of another organisation while a child is participating in a range of activities	- See Visitor to School Policy - Garda Vetting	LOW
Care of pupils with specific vulnerabilities/needs e.g. LGBT, children in care and religious minorities	-Risk of bullying from another child -Risk of child being harmed in the school from another child -Risk of harm not being recognised by school personnel	- See Anti Bullying Policy	LOW
Recruitment of school personnel/staff e.g. teachers/SNA,	-Risk of harm to a child by member of school personnel	- Garda Vetting - References sought where applicable	LOW



volunteers/parents in school activities	or volunteer/parent in the school	- Recruitment of staff procedure followed correctly	
Participation by pupils in religious ceremonies/religious instruction external to the school	-Risk of child being harmed by a member of another organisation/the public while the child is attending activities external to the school	- See Religion Policy - Garda Vetting - Appropriate supervision in place	LOW
Use of ICT by pupils in the school	-Risk of harm due to bullying online -Risk of harm caused by a member of school personnel with pupils in appropriate manner via social media, texting, emails	- See ICT Policy - See Anti Bullying Policy - See Mobile Phone Policy – AUP - Internet filtering on schools broadband	MEDIUM
Application of sanctions under the schools Code of Behaviour including detention of pupils, confiscation of phones etc.	-Risk of harm due to an inadequate Code of Behaviour	- See Code of Behaviour	LOW
Students participating in work experience in the school e.g. secondary transition year students	-Risk of a child being harmed in the school by a student or visitor to the school	- Garda Vetting	LOW
Substitute/student teachers undertaking training/placement in school	- Risk of a child being harmed in the school by a student or visitor to the school	- Garda Vetting - Statutory Declaration - Teaching Council Number	MEDIUM
Use of video/photography/other media to record school events	-Risk of bullying of a child -Risk of harm caused by a member of the public (adult) accessing and circulating material of a sensitive nature via social media, texting, digital drive or other manner	- See ICT Policy - All parents/members of the public informed prior to events that the use of video/photography is not permitted without prior consent from the Principal or teacher in charge - See Anti Bullying Policy	MEDIUM
Online Training – Remote Learning	-Risk of harm due to bullying online -Risk of harm caused by member of school personnel with pupils via inappropriate manner via social media, texting and emails	- ICT Policy - AUP - Only agreed online learning platforms to be used	LOW



**The following apply to all of the above for managing the risk of harm:-**

1. All school personnel are provided with a copy of the school's *Child Safeguarding Statement*
2. The *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools (revised 2023)* are made available to all school personnel.
3. School personnel are required to adhere to the *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools (revised 2023)* and all registered teaching staff are required to adhere to the *Children First Act 2015* and its Addendum (2019)
4. The school has a Health and Safety Policy
5. The school has in place a Critical Incident Management Plan

**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.

It is acknowledged that schools already have in place a range of policies, practices and procedures to mitigate the risk of harm to children while they are participating in the activities of the school and that some school activities will carry low or minimal risks of harm compared to others. In the context of the risk assessment that must be undertaken by schools, the Children First Act, 2015 refers to risk as "any potential for harm". Therefore, it is important that, as part of its risk assessment process, each school lists and reviews all of its various activities (which shall include identifying those that may carry low risk of harm as well as those that carry higher risks of harm). Doing so will help the school to (1) identify, as required under the Children First Act, 2015, any risks of harm that may exist in respect of the school's activities, (2) identify and assess the adequacy of the various procedures already in place to manage those risks of harm and (3) identify and put in place any such additional procedures as are considered necessary to manage any risk identified.

The Addendum to *Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children* published in January 2019 clarifies that organisations providing relevant services to children should consider the specific issue of online safety when carrying out their risk assessment and preparing their Child Safeguarding Statement.

The Guidance on Continuity of Schooling for primary and post-primary schools (April 2020) advises of the importance of teachers maintaining the safe and ethical use of the internet during distance learning and assisting parents and guardians to be aware of their role also. Schools should ensure that their Acceptable Use Policy (AUP) informs and guides remote or distance learning activity.

**Kill National School**  
**Kill**  
**Co Waterford**  
**Roll No: 16748W**



This risk assessment has been completed by the Board of Management on \_\_\_\_\_ .

It shall be reviewed as part of the school's annual review of its Child Safeguarding Statement.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Chairperson, Board of Management

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management



## Checklist for Review of the Child Safeguarding Statement

The [Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools \(revised 2023\)](#) require that the Board of Management must undertake a review of its Child Safeguarding Statement and that the following checklist shall be used for this purpose. **The review must be completed every year or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which the Child Safeguarding Statement refers.** Undertaking an annual review will also ensure that a school also meets its statutory obligation under section 11(8) of the Children First Act 2015, to review its Child Safeguarding Statement every two years.

The checklist is designed as an aid to conducting this review and is not intended as an exhaustive list of the issues to be considered. Individual Boards of Management shall include other items in the checklist that are of relevance to the school in question.

As part of the overall review process, Boards of Management should also assess relevant school policies, procedures, practices and activities vis a vis their adherence to the principles of best practice in child protection and welfare as set out in the school's Child Safeguarding Statement, the Children First Act 2015, the Addendum to Children First (2019) and the *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools (revised 2023)*.

	Yes/No
1. Has the Board formally adopted a Child Safeguarding Statement in accordance with the <i>Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools (revised 2023)</i> ?	
2. Is the Board satisfied that the Child Safeguarding Statement is displayed in a prominent place near the main entrance to the school?	
3. As part of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement, has the Board formally adopted, without modification, the <i>Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools (revised 2023)</i> ?	
4. Does the school's Child Safeguarding Statement include a written assessment of risk as required under the Children First Act 2015? (This includes considering the specific issue of online safety as required by the Addendum to Children First)	
5. Has the Board reviewed and updated where necessary the written assessment of risk as part of this overall review?	
6. Has the Risk Assessment taken account of the risk of harm relevant to online teaching and learning remotely?	
7. Has the DLP attended available child protection training?	
8. Has the Deputy DLP attended available child protection training?	
9. Have any members of the Board attended child protection training?	
10. Has the school appointed a DLP and a Deputy DLP?	
11. Are the relevant contact details (Tusla and An Garda Síochána) to hand?	
12. Has the Board arrangements in place to communicate the school's Child Safeguarding Statement to new school personnel?	
13. Is the Board satisfied that all school personnel have been made aware of their responsibilities under the <i>Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools (revised 2023)</i> and the Children First Act 2015?	
14. Has the Board received a Principal's Child Protection Oversight Report (CPOR) at each Board meeting held since the last review was undertaken?	
15. Since the Board's last review, did each CPOR contain all of the information required under each of the 4 headings set out in sections 9.5 to 9.8 inclusive of the procedures?	
16. Since the Board's last review, has the Board been provided with and reviewed all records relevant to the CPOR?	



17. Is the Board satisfied that the records provided are anonymised and redacted as necessary to ensure that the identities of children and any other parties, including school personnel, to whom the concern or report relates are not disclosed?	
18. Since the Board's last review, have the minutes of each Board meeting appropriately recorded the records provided to the Board as part of CPOR?	
19. Have the minutes of each Board meeting appropriately recorded the CPOR?	
20. Is the Board satisfied that the child protection procedures in relation to the making of reports to Tusla/An Garda Síochána were appropriately followed in each case reviewed?	
21. Is the Board satisfied that, since the last review, all appropriate actions are being or have been taken in respect of any member of school personnel against whom an allegation of abuse or neglect has been made?*	
22. Where applicable, were unique identifiers used to record child protection matters in the Board minutes?	
23. Is the Board satisfied that all records relating to child protection are appropriately filed and stored securely?	
24. Has the Board been notified by any parent in relation to that parent not receiving the standard notification required under section 5.6 of the <i>Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools (revised 2023)</i> ?	
25. In relation to any cases identified at question 20 above, has the Board ensured that any notifications required under section 5.6 of the <i>Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools (revised 2023)</i> were subsequently issued by the DLP?	
26. Has the Board ensured that the Parents' Association (if any), has been provided with the school's Child Safeguarding Statement?	
27. Has the Board ensured that the patron has been provided with the school's Child Safeguarding Statement?	
28. Has the Board ensured that the school's Child Safeguarding Statement is available to parents on request?	
29. Has the Board ensured that the Stay Safe programme is implemented in full in the school? (applies to primary schools)	
30. Has the Board ensured that the Wellbeing Programme for Junior Cycle students is implemented in full in the school? (applies to post-primary schools)	
31. Has the Board ensured that the SPHE curriculum is implemented in full in the school?	
32. Is the Board satisfied that the statutory requirements for Garda Vetting have been met in respect of all school personnel (employees and volunteers)? *	
33. Is the Board satisfied that the Department's requirements in relation to the provision of a child protection related statutory declaration and associated form of undertaking have been met in respect of persons appointed to teaching and non-teaching positions?*	
34. Is the Board satisfied that, from a child protection perspective, thorough recruitment and selection procedures are applied by the school in relation to all school personnel (employees and volunteers)?*	
35. Has the Board considered and addressed any complaints or suggestions for improvements regarding the school's Child Safeguarding Statement?	
36. Has the Board sought the feedback of parents in relation to the school's compliance with the requirements of the child safeguarding requirements of the <i>Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools (revised 2023)</i> ?	
37. Has the Board sought the feedback of pupils in relation to the school's child safeguarding arrangements?	
38. Is the Board satisfied that the ' <i>Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools Post-Primary Schools (revised 2023)</i> ' are being fully and adequately implemented by the school?	
39. Has the Board identified any aspects of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement and/or its implementation that require further improvement?	



40. Has the Board put in place an action plan containing appropriate timelines to address those aspects of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement and/or its implementation that have been identified as requiring further improvement?	
41. Has the Board ensured that any areas for improvement that were identified in any previous review of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement have been adequately addressed?	

\*In schools where the ETB is the employer, the responsibility for meeting the employer's requirements rests with the ETB concerned. In such cases, this question should be completed following consultation with the ETB.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Chairperson, Board of Management

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

**Note:** Where a school is undertaking its first review, references in this checklist to the "last review" shall be taken to refer to the date on which the Child Safeguarding Statement was first put in place.



## Notification regarding the Board of Management's review of the Child Safeguarding Statement

To: \_\_\_\_\_

The Board of Management of Kill National School wishes to inform you that:

- The Board of Management's annual review of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement was completed at the Board meeting of \_\_\_\_\_.
- This review was conducted in accordance with the "Checklist for Review of the Child Safeguarding Statement" published on the Department's 'website [www.education.ie](http://www.education.ie)

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Chairperson, Board of Management

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management