

Child Safeguarding Statement

Leighlinbridge NS

Leighlinbridge N.S. is a rural mixed vertical primary school under the patronage of the Bishop of Kildare and Leighlin. It has seven mainstream classes and two Special Education Teachers. There are 2 SNAs working in the 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 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 Leighlinbridge N.S. 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
- 2 The Designated Liaison Person (DLP) is: Órfhlaith Mealy
- 3 The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is: Lucy O Connor
- 4 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.

- 5 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-
 - 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 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 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 this statement.
 - 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.
- 6 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.
- 7 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 28th February 2018.

Signed: *Barbara Kinsella*

Chairperson, Board of Management

Date: 07/03/2018

Signed: *Óshlaith Mealy*

Principal/Secretary, Board of Management

Date: 07/03/2018

Appendix 1: Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment**Written Assessment of Risk in Leighlinbrigde National School, Leighlinbridge, Co Carlow.**

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 2017, the following is the Written Risk Assessment of Leighlinbridge NS, Leighlinbridge, Co Carlow

List of School Activities	The School has identified the following Risk of Harm	The School has the following Procedures in place to address risk identified in this assessment	Risk Level
Training of school personnel in Child Protection matters	Harm not recognised or reported promptly	Child Safeguarding Statement, DES procedures and Circular 81/2017 made available to all staff School personal 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 DLP& DDLP to attend PDST face to face training All Staff to view Tusla training module & any other online training offered by PDST Members of BOM will be encouraged to avail of relevant training. BOM records all records of staff and board training	L
One to one teaching	Harm by school personnel	Table between teacher and pupil Glass in window Open door as far as is practical Teachers collect and drop children back to class All staff are Garda Vetted SEN Policy	M
Care of Children with special needs, including intimate care needs	Harm by school personnel	Policy on Intimate Care Needs All staff are Garda Vetted	H
Toilet areas	Inappropriate behaviour amongst pupils	Code of Behaviour Anti-Bullying Policy Main door to each bathroom is open at all times. All children will use the toilets located beside the secretary's office at breaktimes. This will be to ensure that an adult in close proximity at all times. Children must get permission from a teacher before using the toilets. As far as is practical, teachers will allow only one boy or girl to visit the toilet at any one time Children will be encouraged as much as possible to use the toilets during break time.	L
Curricular Provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay safe.	Non-teaching of same	School implements SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe in full, parents will be informed of same and parental permission will be sought in advance of teaching RSE programme.	L
Care of pupils with specific vulnerabilities/needs such as pupils from ethnic minorities/migrants, members of the traveller community, LGBT children, pupils perceived to be LGBT, pupils of minority religious faiths, children in care, etc	Bullying	Anti-Bullying Policy Code of Behaviour Mobile Phone Procedure	M

Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils	Harm from older pupils, unknown adults on the premises	Supervision Policy Arrival from 9.20am and dismissal at 3 pm supervised by Principal and Teachers All late arrivals and early collections are supervised by Principal and/or Secretary A buzzer system (managed by the Secretary/Principal) will be in operation from 9.30am until school closes. Junior and Senior Infants must be collected at 2pm from class teacher by a parent or an agreed adult	L
Managing of challenging behaviour amongst pupils, including appropriate use of restraint	Injury to pupils and staff	Health & Safety Policy Code of Behaviour SEN/Learning Support Policy	L
Sports Coaches, External Personnel who supplement curriculum, Mentors, Ongoing Parent Volunteers, TY Students, Teacher Placement Students, etc	Harm to pupils Adults behaving inappropriately	Garda Vetting Teacher or member of staff present Always more than one child	M
Recreation breaks for pupils	Harm or injury to pupils Harm from other pupils Bullying	Supervision Policy Illness and Injury Procedures Code of Behaviour Anti-Bullying Policy Secretary remains in the office for the duration of every break. Entry to and from the school by main door only. In the event of an injury, children are sent in pairs to the secretary's office for first aid Children are discouraged from leaving the school yard for any other reason than using the toilet, however if it is absolutely necessary for children to leave the yard for any other purpose, children will be sent in pairs.	L
Classroom teaching	Harm by school personal	Garda Vetting School personal 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	L
Sporting Activities/School Outings, Use of off-site facilities for school activities	Risk of harm to pupils due to inadequate supervision of children Dangers posed by unfamiliar surroundings Risk of harm to pupils – school personnel / unknown adults / other pupils	School Outings Policy Illness and Injury Procedure Supervision Policy	H
Swimming	Risk of harm from other pupils Risk of harm from unknown adults	Bus journey to and from the pool – two adults always accompany children Registered bus company used Swimming pool block booked by school so that only school community and pool employees are present.	H

	Risk of harm from school personnel	Swimming instructors are all Garda vetted Teachers and SNAs are present while children are swimming 6 th Class and children with special needs use individual cubicles (one child per cubicle) – a teacher or SNA will remain outside the cubicles to supervise. SNA may enter the cubicle to assist a child with special needs if previously agreed with parents – Intimate Care Needs Policy will apply. Changing rooms supervised by teachers/SNAs – no other adults allowed in changing rooms Children will go in pairs to the toilet.	
Annual Sports Day	Risk of harm to pupils, unknown adults	Supervision Policy Illness and Injury procedures Code of Behaviour Garda Vetting Teachers responsible for their own classes SNAs accompany assigned children SEN teachers, principal and vetted parents provide extra supervision.	L
Fundraising events involving pupils	Risk of harm to pupils by school personnel /unknown adults	Garda Vetting Supervision Policy School Outings Policy Code of Behaviour School personal 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	M
Administration of Medicine / Administration of First Aid	Risk of harm to pupils by school personnel	Injury and Illness Procedures Administration of medicines policy Intimate Care Needs Policy If at all practical, children will not be on their own with an adult.	M
Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst pupils	Harm to pupils from peers or older pupils	Anti-Bullying Policy Code of Behaviour Supervision Policy Friendship Week Fun Friends/Friends for Life SPHE Curriculum – RSE, Stay Safe	M
Recruitment of school personnel including - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Teachers ● SNAs ● Caretaker/Secretary/Cleaners ● Sports coaches ● External Tutors/Guest Speakers ● Volunteers/Parents in school activities ● Visitors/contractors present in school during school hours 	Harm not recognised or properly or promptly reported Adults behaving inappropriately	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 School will write a Policy on Visitors, Contractors and Volunteers	M

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visitors/contractors present during after school activities 			
Use of school premises by other organisations during school day e.g. Irish Dancing, etc	Harm not recognised or properly or promptly reported	Vetting Procedures Child Safeguarding Statement and DES procedures made available to all organisations using the school. DLP and DDLP clearly identified to all organisations. A member of school staff will be on the school premises for the duration of the activity.	M
Use of Information and Communication Technology by pupils in school	Bullying Accessing inappropriate materials Potential for grooming of pupils	Acceptable Use Policy Anti-Bullying Policy Code of Behaviour No mobile devices permitted in school – children must hand mobile devices into secretary in the morning and will be returned at end of day SPHE Curriculum – Stay Safe, Webwise, Internet Safety talks for pupils and parents etc	L

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 has been completed by the Board of Management on the **7th March, 2018**. It will be reviewed as part of the school’s annual review of its Child Safeguarding Statement.

Signed: *Barbara Kinsella*
Chairperson, Board of Management

Date: 07/03/2018

Signed: *Orfhlaith Mealy*
Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Date: 07/03/2018