

Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment

Child Safeguarding Statement

The CRC School is a special school providing preschool, primary and post-primary education to pupils from age 3 years to 18 years.

In accordance with the requirements of the <u>Children First Act 2015</u>, <u>Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children 2017</u>, <u>the Addendum to Children First (2019)</u>, the <u>Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools (revised 2023)</u> and <u>Tusla Guidance on the preparation of Child Safeguarding Statements</u>, the Board of Management of the CRC School has agreed the Child Safeguarding Statement 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 Primary and Post Primary Schools (revised (2023)* as part of this overall Child Safeguarding Statement
- 2 The Designated Liaison Person (DLP) is Mary Collins
- The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is Lorraine Killeen
- 4 The Relevant Person is Mary Collins

 (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.)
- 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, 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 <u>gov.ie</u> 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.

- 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 17/10/2023.

This Child Safeguarding Statement was reviewed by the Board of Management on September 2024 or the first Board meeting in the academic year 2024/25.

Signed:

Chairperson of Board of Management

May bollins
Signed:

Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Date: 17/10/23 Date: 17/10/2023

Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment

Written Assessment of Risk of CRC School Roll No.18317f

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 the CRC School. 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 2 of the *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools (revised 2023)*.

List of school activities	The school has identified the following risk of harm in respect of its activities	The school has the following procedures in place to address the risks of harm identified in this assessment
Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils	 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 in the school by a member of school personnel Risk of child being harmed in the school by another child Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children in school environs 	 Child Safeguarding Statement displayed prominently throughout school premises Arrival to school is supervised and supported by SNAs, bus escorts, principal and caretaker in car park to school Arrival to classroom is supervised by teachers and SNAs in classroom Dismissal is supervised by teachers, SNAs and caretaker from classroom to car park
School transport arrangements including use of bus escorts	 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 in the school by a member of school personnel Risk of child being harmed in the school by another child 	 Vetting of driver by contractor Vetting of bus escort by school Training in Child Protection for bus escort Children do not get on bus without the bus escort or other school staff personnel being present Bus never travels without a bus escort Child Safeguarding Statement Medication policy and procedures

Classroom teaching	 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 in the school by a member of school personnel Risk of child being harmed in the school by another child Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children in school 	 Child Safeguarding Statement displayed prominently throughout school premises Adequate staffing levels Awareness that other staff members can enter room at any time Code of Behaviour Policy Teaching Council Code of Conduct
Curricular provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe	 Risk of non-teaching of SPHE /RSE / Stay Safe Risk of harm due to lack of pupils' understanding of content of programmes 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 in the school by a member of school personnel Risk of child being harmed in the school by another child Risk of child being harmed in the school by volunteer or visitor to the school Risk of harm due to inappropriate relationship/communications between child and another child or adult 	Whole school plan for the teaching of SPHE / RSE / Stay Safe Programmes
One-to-one teaching	 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 in the school by a member of school personnel 	 Child Safeguarding Statement displayed prominently throughout school premises Keep door open Position child and staff member in visible position in room Easy access to room by other staff members Vision panel on door

		Class teacher or other staff member to be informed / aware that a child is having a 1:1 session
Online (remote) Teaching	 Risk of child being harmed by school personnel Risk of child being harmed by family member Risk of harm not being recognised by school personnel Risk of harm not being reported properly and promptly by school personnel 	 Keen observation by staff Internet AUP Remote Teaching & Learning Plan in place Online platforms with security protection only Parental supervision Staff have read RT&L Plan
Outdoor teaching 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 in the school by a member of school personnel Risk of child being harmed in the school by another child Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children in school 	 Adequate staffing and supervision levels Intimate care policy including always having two members of staff present when toileting Appropriate vetting for all volunteers or students if assisting if applicable If using bus, ensure bus driver is vetted and not left alone with pupil(s)
Recreation breaks for pupils	 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 in the school by a member of school personnel Risk of child being harmed in the school by another child Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children in school 	 Child Safeguarding Statement displayed prominently throughout school premises Classrooms and shared areas adequately supervised by teachers and SNAs Classroom doors left open where safe to do so No child left on their own out of view with member of staff
Fundraising events involving pupils	 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 in the school by a member of school personnel 	 Child Safeguarding Statement displayed prominently throughout school premises Adequate staffing and supervision levels

	 Risk of child being harmed in the school by another child Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children in school 	 Appropriate vetting for all volunteers or students if assisting if applicable Pupils never left alone without school staff
Sporting Activities including Annual Sports Day	 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 in the school by a member of school personnel Risk of child being harmed in the school by another child Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children in school 	 Child Safeguarding Statement displayed prominently throughout school premises Ensure adequate levels of staffing and supervision Pupils never left alone without school staff Vetting of coaches and volunteers
School outings	 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 in the school by a member of school personnel Risk of child being harmed in the school by another child Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children while attending out of school activities 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 trip, swimming lessons 	 Adequate staffing and supervision levels Intimate care policy including always have two members of staff present when toileting Pupils never left alone without school staff Appropriate vetting for all volunteers or students if assisting if applicable If using bus, ensure bus driver is vetted and not left alone with pupil(s)
Use of off-site facilities for school activities including participation by pupils in religious ceremonies/religious instruction external to the school	 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 in the school by a member of school personnel Risk of child being harmed in the school by another child Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children while attending out of school activities 	 Adequate staffing and supervision levels Pupils never left alone without school staff Intimate care policy including always have two members of staff present when toileting

	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 trip, swimming lessons	 Appropriate vetting for all volunteers or students if assisting if applicable If using bus, ensure bus driver is vetted and not left alone with pupil(s) Code of Behaviour Child Safeguarding Statement to be brought by teacher to another school or organisation
Use of toilet/changing/shower areas in schools	 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 in the school by a member of school personnel Risk of child being harmed in the school by another child Risk of harm to child while a child is receiving intimate care Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children in school 	 Child Safeguarding Statement displayed prominently throughout school premises Adequate staffing and supervision levels Intimate Care Policy including always have two members of staff present The school has an intimate care plan in respect of students who require such care Make other staff aware if facilities are in use
Swimming	 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 in the school by a member of school personnel Risk of child being harmed in the school by another child Risk of harm to child while a child is receiving intimate care Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children in school pool and changing area 	 Child Safeguarding Statement displayed prominently throughout school premises Adequate staffing and supervision levels Appropriate vetting for all volunteers or students if assisting including parents Appropriate vetting for swimming instructor Intimate Care Policy including always having two members of staff present

		 The school has an intimate care plan in respect of students who require such care Make other staff aware if facilities are in use If parent / guardian is assisting with their child in changing room, s/he must use separate changing room to rest of class Restriction on use of changing rooms by outside swimmers when school is swimming
Care of any vulnerable adult students including intimate care where needed	 Risk of harm not being recognised by school personnel Risk of harm not being reported properly and promptly by school personnel Risk of vulnerable adult student being harmed in the school by a member of school personnel Risk of harm to vulnerable adult student while receiving intimate care Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of vulnerable adult student in school 	 Child Safeguarding Statement displayed prominently throughout school premises Adequate staffing and supervision levels Intimate Care Policy including always having two members of staff present Make other staff aware if facilities are in use
Administration of Medicine and First Aid	 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 in the school by a member of school personnel 	 Medication administered by CRC nurses only when children in school Where required, Nursing will determine the level of treatment required Administration of medication while in Transit Policy and Procedures (Midazolam medication)

Prevention of and dealing with bullying amongst pupils	 Risk of harm due to bullying of child Risk of harm not being recognised by school personnel Risk of harm not being reported properly and promptly by school personnel 	The school has an Anti-Bullying Policy which fully adheres to the requirements of the Department's Anti-Bullying Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools
Management of challenging behaviour amongst pupils, including appropriate use of restraint where required	 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 in the school by a member of school personnel Risk of child being harmed in the school by another child Risk of harm due to inadequate code of behaviour Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children in school 	 CRC Challenging Behaviour Policy CRC Restraints and Controls Policy Behaviour Support Plans Crises Management Plan TEAM TEACH training for all staff members The school follows NEPS Guidelines: Critical Incident Management Plan
Application of sanctions under the school's Code of Behaviour	 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 in the school by a member of school personnel Risk of child being harmed in the school by another child 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 relationship/communications between child and another child or adult Risk of harm due to inadequate code of behaviour 	The school has in place a Code of Behaviour for pupils
Recruitment of school personnel including - - Teachers/SNAs - Caretaker/Secreta ry/Cleaners - Sports coaches	 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 in the school by a member of school personnel Risk of child being harmed in the school by another child 	The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation and relevant DES circulars in relation to recruitment and Garda vetting including interviewing, reference checking

- External Tutors/Guest Speakers - Volunteers/Parent s in school activities - Visitors/contracto rs present in school during school hours - Visitors/contracto rs present during after school activities	 Risk of child being harmed in the school by 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 e.g. school trip, swimming lessons Risk of harm due to bullying of child 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 child while a child is receiving intimate care Risk of harm due to inadequate code of behaviour Risk of harm in one-to-one teaching, counselling, coaching situation Risk of harm caused by member of school personnel communicating with pupils in appropriate manner via social media, texting, digital device or other manner Risk of harm caused by member of school personnel accessing/circulating inappropriate material via social media, texting, digital device or other manner 	 All school personnel are provided with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement The Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools (revised 2023) are made available to all school personnel 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 Services and contractors are scheduled outside school hours where possible Swipe system on doors
Training of school personnel in child protection matters	 Risk of harm not being recognised by school personnel Risk of harm not being reported properly and promptly by school personnel 	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 Each current and new member of staff asked to sign on receipt of 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
Use of external personnel to supplement curriculum or to support sports and other extracurricular 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 in the school by a member of school personnel Risk of child being harmed in the school by another child Risk of child being harmed in the school by volunteer or visitor to the school 	 Child Safeguarding Statement displayed prominently throughout school premises All school personnel are provided with a copy of the school's <i>Child Safeguarding Statement</i> The <i>Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools (revised 2023)</i> are made available to all school personnel – a hard copy is available in the school office School Personnel are required to adhere to the <i>Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools (revised 2023)</i> and all registered teaching staff are required to adhere to the <i>Children First Act 2015</i>
Students participating in work experience in the school	 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 in the school by a member of school personnel 	 Child Safeguarding Statement displayed prominently throughout school premises All school personnel are provided with a copy of the school's <i>Child Safeguarding Statement</i> The <i>Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools (revised 2023)</i> are made available to all school personnel

		• School Personnel are required to adhere to the <i>Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools (revised 2023)</i> and all registered teaching staff are required to adhere to the <i>Children First Act 2015</i>
Student teachers undertaking training placement in school	 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 in the school by a member of school personnel 	 Child Safeguarding Statement displayed prominently throughout school premises All school personnel are provided with a copy of the school's <i>Child Safeguarding Statement</i> The <i>Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools (revised 2023)</i> are made available to all school personnel School Personnel are required to adhere to the <i>Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools (revised 2023)</i> and all registered teaching staff are required to adhere to the <i>Children First Act 2015</i>
Use of Information and Communication Technology by pupils in school	 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 in the school by a member of school personnel Risk of child being harmed in the school by another child 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 	 Child Safeguarding Statement displayed prominently throughout school premises The school has in place an ICT Acceptable Use Policy in respect of usage of ICT by pupils and staff Filtered content through the school's broadband network The school has an Anti-Bullying Policy which fully adheres to the requirements of the Department's

	 Risk of harm caused by member of school personnel communicating with pupils in appropriate manner via social media, texting, digital device or other manner Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children in school Risk of harm due to bullying of child 	Anti-Bullying Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools
Use of video / photography / other media to record school events	 Risk of harm caused by member of school personnel accessing / circulating inappropriate material via social media, texting, digital device or other manner Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children in school Risk of harm caused by parents videoing at school events e.g. Christmas play, and posting online. 	 Child Safeguarding Statement displayed prominently throughout school premises The school annually seeks permission from parents the use of video/photography/other media to record school events
Use of school premises by other organisation during school day	 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 in the school by a member of school personnel Risk of child being harmed in the school by another child Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children in school 	 Child Safeguarding Statement displayed prominently throughout school premises Adequate staffing and supervision levels Pupils never left alone without school staff
		Other organisations must bring their Child Safeguarding Statement and display it while on CRC School property.
After school use of school premises by other organisations	Risk of harm caused by member of school personnel accessing/circulating inappropriate material via social media, texting, digital device or other manner	 Child Safeguarding Statement displayed prominently throughout school premises Other organisations must bring their Child Safeguarding Statement and display it while on CRC School property. Other organisations are provided with a copy of the school's <i>Child Safeguarding Statement</i>

Additional controls to be considered:

> Devise mobile phone policy for students

> Devise policy on use of mobile phone and other recording devices by visitors including parents at school events;

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. Whilst it is not possible to foresee and remove all risk of harm, the school has in place the procedures listed in the risk assessment to manage and reduce risk to the greatest possible extent.

This risk assessment has been completed by the Board of Management on 17/10/23. It shall be reviewed as part of the school's annual review of its Child Safeguarding Statement.

Chairperson of Board of Management

May bollins Signed:

Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Date: 17/10/23

Date: 17/10/23