



DERRYQUAY  
NATIONAL SCHOOL

### **Child Safeguarding Statement**

Derryquay 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 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 Derryquay 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 2017 as part of this overall Child Safeguarding Statement.
- 2 **The Designated Liaison Person (DLP) is:**  
**Íde Brosnan**
- 3 **The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is:**  
**Bríd Fitzgearld**
- 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. The school will adhere to the following principles of best practice in child protection and welfare. The school will:
  - a. recognise that the protection and welfare of children is of paramount importance, regardless of all other considerations
  - b. fully comply with its statutory obligations under the Children First Act 2015 and other relevant legislation relating to the protection and welfare of children
  - c. fully co-operate with the relevant statutory authorities in relation to child protection and welfare matters
  - d. 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
  - e. develop a practice of openness with parents and encourage parental involvement in the education of their children; and



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- f. 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:

- a. 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
- b. 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
- c. 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:
  - i. Has provided each member of staff with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement
  - ii. Ensures all new staff are provided with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement
  - iii. Encourages staff to avail of relevant training
  - iv. Encourages Board of Management members to avail of relevant training
  - v. The Board of Management maintains records of all staff and Board member training.
- d. 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
- e. 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 school's child safeguarding statement.

6 All registered teachers employed by the school are mandated persons under the Children First Act 2015



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- 7 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 these procedures
- 8 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.
- 9 This statement has been published on the school's website and has been provided to all members of school personnel, the Parents' Association 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.
- 10 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 13/02/2020

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

Chairperson of BoM

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

Principal/Secretary to the BoM

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

Athbhreithnithe 13/02/2020



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**Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment  
(of any potential harm)**

List of School Activities	Risk Level	The School has identified the following Risk of Harm	The School has the following Procedures in place to address risk identified in this assessment
Training of school personnel in Child Protection matters	High	Harm not recognised or reported promptly	<p>Child Safeguarding Statement &amp; DES procedures made available to all staff</p> <p>DLP&amp; DDLP to attend PDST face to face training All Staff have viewed Túsla training module &amp; any other online training offered by PDST. The school encourages staff and Board of management members to avail of relevant training.</p> <p>BOM records all records of staff and board training</p>
One to one teaching	Med	Harm by school personnel	<p>Open doors, Glass in window of door, table between teacher and pupil</p> <p>Group teaching whenever possible</p> <p>Supervision Policy, Class rules, child Safeguarding statement, Code of behaviour, One to one teaching Policy</p>
Care of Children with special needs, including intimate care needs	High	Harm by school personnel	<p>Policy on intimate care</p> <p>The school complies with the agreed disciplinary procedures for teaching staff.</p>



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Toilet areas	High	Inappropriate behaviour	Policy on Intimate Care, Supervision policy, Anti-bullying Policy. One boy/girl allowed to toilet at a time. Outer doors are kept open. Pupils report any problems to the class teacher. School staff remain vigilant.
Curricular Provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay safe.	Med	Non-teaching of same	School implements SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe in full Principal checks and signs the CM.
<b>List of School Activities</b>		<b>The School has identified the following Risk of Harm</b>	<b>The School has the following Procedures in place to address risk identified in this assessment</b>
Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils	Med	Harm from older pupils, unknown adults on the playground	Arrival and dismissal supervised by Teachers Front and side door to be locked on the inside @ 9:00 am
Managing of challenging behaviour amongst pupils, including appropriate use of restraint	High	Injury to pupils and staff	Procedures written and signed by parents. Health & Safety Policy Code Of Behaviour Behaviour plan to be written by class teacher, if required, regarding challenging behaviour.
Sports Coaches	Med	Harm to pupils	Policies & Procedures in place Vetting of coaches, class teacher to supervise Child Safe guarding statement to be given to coaches.
Students participating in work experience	Low	Harm by student	Work experience Policy. Child Safeguarding Statement. All students are garda vetted. Teachers to supervise the student on placement.
Recreation breaks for pupils	High	Harm from other pupils, Choking hazard, Inappropriate behaviour	Supervision policy, class rules to be followed when eating and lining up



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			Safety Procedures- front and side doors are locked, yard gates are locked, SNA to supervise the class of the teacher on yard duty.
Classroom teaching	High	Harm by school personnel, Harm by pupils to one another and or staff	Glass in classroom doors, Code of behaviour, Positive classroom rules, Supervision Policy, Child Safeguarding statement. The school complies with the agreed disciplinary procedures for teaching staff. The school adheres to the requirements of Garda vetting legislation and relevant DES circulars in relation to recruitment and Garda Vetting.
Outdoor teaching activities inc Sports Day	High	Harm to pupils, Harm to school personnel, Flight risk, Harm from unknown persons	Code of behaviour, Class rules, Supervision Policy, Anti-Bullying Policy, ensure gates are closed when pupils are in the carpark area.
Sporting Activities	High	Harm to pupils, Harm to school personnel, Flight risk, Harm from unknown persons	Code of behaviour, Class rules, Supervision Policy, Anti-Bullying Policy. Supervision by school staff or parents who have been Garda Vetted.
After school activities e.g. Music, Dancing	High	Harm to pupils, Inappropriate behaviour	School rules, Code of behaviour, Vetting of visiting teachers. Supervision provided by a parent and doors open at all times. Child Safeguarding Statement available to parents and school community.
<b>List of School Activities</b>		<b>The School has identified the following Risk of Harm</b>	<b>The School has the following Procedures in place to address risk identified in this assessment</b>



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School outings e.g Carol singing, Sport trips, School tours, going to the church	High	Harm to pupils, Harm to personnel, Flight risk, Transport, inadequate facilities, Harm from parents	Code of behaviour, Supervision Policy, Anti-bullying Policy, Mobile phone Policy. Vetting of all staff. Awareness of facilities provided ( changing rooms etc.)
Fundraising events involving pupils	High	Harm from unknown adults, Harm from other students, Harm not recognised or reported promptly	Risk assessment carried out prior to event and procedures put in place accordingly. Adequate supervision from teachers and parents.
Use of toilet/changing/shower areas in public places	High	Harm from unknown adults, Harm from other students, Harm not recognised or reported promptly	Appropriate supervision by teacher(s) or other accompanying adults. SPHE programme taught to all classes.
School transport arrangements	High	Harm from unknown adults, Harm from other students, Bullying Harm not recognised or reported promptly	Supervision by school staff. Anti-Bullying Policy, Mobile Phone Policy, Child Safeguarding Statement.
<b>List of School Activities</b>		<b>The School has identified the following Risk of Harm</b>	<b>The School has the following Procedures in place to address risk identified in this assessment</b>
Administration of Medicine Administration of First Aid	High	Harm to pupils/personnel, Accidental ingestion, Harm by an adult	First Aid Officers, Stocked First Aid box that's accessible, Cold packs available in the fridge, medication in child's classroom to be within adult reach. First aid kit available for tours/ sports outings etc. Incidents/accidents to be recorded. Accidents are recorded in the Incident book.
Use of external personnel to supplement curriculum	Med	Harm to pupils/ personnel	Vetting procedures, supervision by class teacher, external facilitator's provided with Child Safeguarding Statement. Teacher remains in the classroom while external facilitator is delivering a lesson.



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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
Care of pupils with specific vulnerabilities/ needs such as <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pupils from ethnic minorities/migrants</li> <li>• Members of the Traveller community</li> <li>• Lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender (LGBT) children</li> <li>• Pupils perceived to be LGBT</li> <li>• Pupils of minority religious faiths</li> <li>• Children in care</li> <li>• Children on CPNS (child Protection notification system- Tusla)</li> </ul>	Med	Harm to Pupils, Harm to personnel, Bullying	Code of behaviour, Anti-Bullying policy, Anti Cyber-bullying policy, Religious education policy, Equal opportunity & gender equity policy, Enrolment policy, Relationships & sexuality education policy
Recruitment of school personnel including - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Teachers</li> <li>• SNA's</li> <li>• Caretaker/Secretary/Cleaners</li> <li>• Sports coaches</li> </ul>	High	Harm not recognised or properly or promptly reported	Child Safeguarding Statement & DES procedures made available to all staff  Staff to view Tusla training module & any other online training offered by PDST





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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• External Tutors/Guest Speakers</li> <li>• Volunteers/Parents in school activities</li> <li>• Visitors/contractors present in school during school hours</li> <li>• Visitors/contractors present during after school activities</li> </ul>			<p>Vetting Procedures</p> <p>Enrolment policy</p> <p>Parental involvement procedures</p> <p>The school complies with the agreed disciplinary procedures for teaching staff. The school adheres to the requirements of Garda vetting legislation and relevant DES circulars in relation to recruitment and Garda Vetting</p>
<p>Use of the school premises by other organisations during the school day e.g HSE Nurse, Psychologists etc.</p>	High	Harm from adults	<p>Child Safeguarding Statement &amp; DES procedures made available. Teacher is present where possible. The nurse takes pupils in groups. The psychologist has been given prior permission from parents, is Garda vetted and there is a table between the child and the adult. The door is left ajar or there is a window in the door,</p>
<p><b>List of School Activities</b></p>		<p><b>The School has identified the following Risk of Harm</b></p>	<p><b>The School has the following Procedures in place to address risk identified in this assessment</b></p>
<p>Use of Information and Communication Technology by pupils in school</p>	High	<p>Bullying, Grooming, Inappropriate content accessed, Risk of harm due to inappropriate relationship/communications between child and another child or adult.</p>	<p>ICT policy Anti-Bullying Policy Code of Behaviour Anti- Cyber Bullying policy</p>



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			<p>Acceptable usage policy          Internet Filtering,          Teachers to preview You tube clips before showing them          Policy on mobile phones and electronic games          The school provides education on internet safety to pupils and parents</p>
<p>Application of sanctions under the school's Code of Behaviour including detention of pupils, confiscation of phones etc.</p>	Med	<p>Harm to pupils          Harm to personnel          Inappropriate behaviour</p>	<p>Policy on mobile phones and electronic games          Supervision Policy          Pupils to be visible from the yard or supervised by teaching staff</p>
<p>Student teachers undertaking training placement in school</p>	Med	<p>Harm to pupils          Harm to student teacher          Harm to personnel</p>	<p>Code of behaviour          Supervision Policy- class teacher always present          Garda Vetting          Child Safeguarding Statement &amp; DES Procedures made available to all personnel</p>
<p>Use of video/photography/other media to record school events</p>	Med	<p>Bullying, inappropriate use of personal data          Misuse of images</p>	<p>Anti-Bullying Policy, Mobile phones and devices policy,          Policies communicated to parents and visitors at school events .</p>



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**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 **13/02/2020**. It will 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

Athbhreithnithe 13/02/2020