

Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment

Child Safeguarding Statement

New Ross Educate Together 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 2017 and Tusla Guidance on the preparation of Child Safeguarding Statements, the Board of Management of New Ross Educate Together 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: Therese White
- 3 The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is: Rachel Lyng
- 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

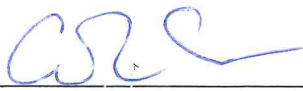
Vulnerable Persons) Acts 2012 to 2016 and to the wider duty of care guidance set out in relevant Garda vetting and recruitment circulars published by the DES and available on the DES website.

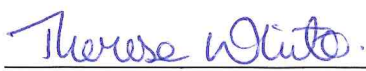
- In relation to the provision of information and, where necessary, instruction and training, to staff in respect of the identification of the occurrence of harm (as defined in the 2015 Act) the school-
 - Has provided each member of staff with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement
 - Ensures 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 schools 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 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 DES 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.

- 6 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.
- 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 17/01/22. It was reviewed on 05/01/23.

Signed: 
Chairperson of Board of Management

Signed: 
Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Date: 3/10/23

Date: 03/10/23

Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment

Written Assessment of Risk of New Ross Educate Together 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 2017*, the following is the Written Risk Assessment of New Ross Educate Together National School.

School Activity	The school has identified the following potential risk of harm to children in relation to the following areas	L-M-H Risk	The school has the following procedures in place to address the risks of harm identified in this assessment	
			Required Policy, Guidance and Procedure document	Further action required ...
Daily Arrival and Dismissal of Pupils	Different People Collecting a Child	L	Arrival and Dismissal Policy Class Folders - List of People who can collect the child	<i>Folder in Office for Substitutes</i>
	Class left unattended due to late arrivals teacher answering door.	L	Attendance and Punctuality Strategy Late Card – Recorded on Aladdin Yard & Supervision Policy	
	Use of Appropriate Entrance	L	Arrival and Dismissal Policy	<i>Communication to parents at start of school year</i>
	Late Collection	L	Arrival and Dismissal Policy Yard & Supervision Policy	<i>Recording on Aladdin</i>
	Early Leaving	L	Arrival and Dismissal Policy	<i>Student sign out at office</i>
Break Times	Flight Risk of pupils- Gate left open by someone exiting	L	Arrival and Dismissal Policy Yard & Supervision Policy	<i>Reminders to parents throughout the school year</i>
	Running to the Line	M	Yard & Supervision Policy	

School Activity	The school has identified the following potential risk of harm to children in relation to the following areas	L-M-H Risk	The school has the following procedures in place to address the risks of harm identified in this assessment	Further action required ...
			Required Policy, Guidance and Procedure document	
	Children sent inside at break time if feeling very unwell or in need of first aid	L	Yard & Supervision Policy	<i>Child accompanied by a peer</i>
	Wet days	L	Accidents and Injuries Policy	
	Blind Spots on Yard	H	Yard & Supervision Policy	<i>Line Marking/ Chain Barrier</i>
	Using toilet during break time	L	Yard & Supervision Policy	
Classroom Teaching	Teacher needing to leave the classroom for various reasons- using the toilet, answering the door	M	Health Safety Statement; children must remain seated	
	Accessing inappropriate material when using ICT	L	Acceptable Use Policy ICT Policy including Use of Mobile Devices	<i>Accessibility settings on Tablets/ iPads</i>
	Students participating in work experience in the school	L	Teaching Practice & Work Experience Policy Garda Vetting Policy Child Safeguarding Statement Volunteer Agreement	
	Student teachers undertaking training placement in school	L	Teaching Practice & Work Experience Policy Garda Vetting Policy Child Safeguarding Statement Volunteer Agreement	

School Activity	The school has identified the following potential risk of harm to children in relation to the following areas	L-M-H Risk	The school has the following procedures in place to address the risks of harm identified in this assessment	
			Required Policy, Guidance and Procedure document	Further action required ...
Classroom Teaching contd.	One-to-one teaching	M	S.E.T. Policy Health & Safety Statement Yard & Supervision Policy Child Safeguarding Statement	
	Group Teaching;	M	SEN Policy Health & Safety Statement Yard & Supervision Policy Child Safeguarding Statement	
	Disclosures from children during SPHE lessons	L	Child Safeguarding Policy SPHE Plan Stay Safe Programme	
	Volunteers/ Sports Coaches/ PDST Advisors/ Curricular Visitors/ Inspectorate	L	Child Safeguarding Statement Visitor and Volunteer Policy Health & Safety Statement	<i>List of Garda Vetted Persons on Display</i>
	Use of video/photography/other media	M	Filming & Photography Policy ICT Policy Mobile Device Policy	
	Managing of challenging behaviour amongst pupils, including appropriate use of restraint	M	Health and Safety Statement Code of Positive Behaviour General Conduct Practices/ Procedures	

School Activity	The school has identified the following potential risk of harm to children in relation to the following areas	L-M-H Risk	The school has the following procedures in place to address the risks of harm identified in this assessment	Further action required
			Required Policy, Guidance and Procedure document	...
	Care of pupils with specific vulnerabilities/ needs such as <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 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 ● Children on Child Protection Notification System (CPNS) ● Families availing of homeless services Flight Risk – Fire Escape Exit	L	Anti-Bullying Policy Code of Positive Behaviour Learn Together Plan SPHE Plan Educate Together ethos	
External Organisation Visitors e.g. NEPS/ HSE	Garda Vetting One on One work with the Child Divulging of Sensitive Information	M	Child Safeguarding Statement CCTV Policy Yard and Supervision Policy Continuum of Support Plans Child Safeguarding Statement Visitor and Volunteer Policy Garda Vetting Policy	Min 2 adults present in main building during school day Shared Vetting Declarations
Outdoor Teaching	Flight Risk of Students	L	Child Safeguarding Statement Visitor and Volunteer Policy Child Safeguarding Statement Data Protection Policy Yard & Supervision Policy Continuum of Support Plans	

School Activity	The school has identified the following potential risk of harm to children in relation to the following areas	L-M-H Risk	The school has the following procedures in place to address the risks of harm identified in this assessment	
			Required Policy, Guidance and Procedure document	Further action required ...
Sporting Activities	Behaviour	M	S.E.T Policy Code of Positive Behaviour Yard & Supervision Policy	
	Visibility of Students & Teachers	L	Yard & Supervision Policy	
	Administration of First Aid	L	Sun Safety in Health & Safety Statement Accidents and Injury Policy	
	Use of video/photography/other media	M	Filming & Photography Policy ICT Policy including the Use of Mobile Devices	
	Administration of First Aid	L	Yard & Supervision Policy Health and Safety Statement Accident and Injury Policy	
Sporting Activities contd.	Swimming	M	Child Safeguarding Statement Yard & Supervision Policy/ Health and Safety Statement	<i>Sharing of Vetting Declarations</i>
	Vetting of external coaches	L	Child Safeguarding Statement Garda Vetting Policy Volunteer and Visitor Policy	<i>Sharing of Vetting Declarations</i>
	School Sports Day	L	Yard & Supervision Policy Volunteers and Visitors Policy	
	Divulging of potentially sensitive Information	L	Data Protection Policy	

School Activity	The school has identified the following potential risk of harm to children in relation to the following areas	L-M-H Risk	The school has the following procedures in place to address the risks of harm identified in this assessment
			Required Policy, Guidance and Procedure document Further action required ...
School Outings	Administration of First Aid	L	Yard & Supervision Policy Health and Safety Statement Accident and Injury Policy
	Behaviour	L	Code of Behaviour SEN Policy
	Supervision	L	Yard & Supervision Policy
	Garda Vetting of Volunteers	L	Child Safeguarding Statement Garda Vetting Policy
	Use of off-site facilities for school activities e.g. swimming pool	L	Yard & Supervision Policy
	Divulging of potentially sensitive Information	L	Data Protection Policy Child Safeguarding Statement

School Activity	The school has identified the following potential risk of harm to children in relation to the following areas	L-M-H Risk	The school has the following procedures in place to address the risks of harm identified in this assessment	
			Required Policy, Guidance and Procedure document	Further action required ...
School Outings contd.	Transporting children	L	School Tour Policy Child Safeguarding Statement	A staff member will not transport a pupil alone in a personal car unless it is deemed to be a health and safety necessity and with prior permission from the principal or deputy principal. Buses or taxis will be hired for planned excursions, and staff and parent vehicles will not be used
General Welfare	Lack of healthy lunch or insufficient lunch	L	Healthy Eating Policy	
	Children presenting with social, emotional, behavioural or medical needs in school	M	Continuum of Support Procedures Child Safeguarding Statement Assessment and Recording Policy Yard and Supervision Policy Child Safeguarding Statement Communications and Confidentiality Policy	

School Activity	The school has identified the following potential risk of harm to children in relation to the following areas	L-M-H Risk	The school has the following procedures in place to address the risks of harm identified in this assessment	
			Required Policy, Guidance and Procedure document	Further action required ...
	Late drop-offs, early collection, late pick up, attendance	M	Arrivals and Dismissals Policy Child Safeguarding Statement Punctuality and Attendance Strategy	
Parents Association	Images of children may be used inappropriately or children's identity may be revealed	M	Filming and Photography Policy Visitors and Volunteers Policy	<i>Children must be under parental supervision at all times</i>
	A visitor attending an event or connected to an organisation renting space in the school could cause harm to a child	L	Rental of School Premises Policy Visitors and Volunteers Policy	<i>Children must be under parental supervision at all times</i>
Prefab Classroom	Children moving to and from Prefab Classroom	M	Yard and Supervision Policy Child Safeguarding Statement Code of Behaviour General Behaviour	<i>Child to accompany peer at all times Only to occur when absolutely necessary</i>
	Late arrival to Prefab Classroom	M	Attendance and Punctuality Strategy Child Safeguarding Statement	<i>All children must report to main school building and then be escorted by parent/guardian to prefab classroom</i>
	Security of Prefab Classroom	M	Child Safeguarding Statement Working Alone Policy	<i>Prefab locked when unoccupied at all times</i>
	Flight Risk – Fire Escape Exit	L	Child Safeguarding Statement Continuum of Support Plans	

School Activity	The school has identified the following potential risk of harm to children in relation to the following areas	L-M-H Risk	The school has the following procedures in place to address the risks of harm identified in this assessment	Further action required
			Required Policy, Guidance and Procedure document	
	Training of school personnel in Child Protection matters	H	Child Safeguarding Statement & DES procedures made available to all staff DLP& DDLP training All Staff complete Túsia online training biannually	<i>BOM records all records of staff and board training</i> <i>Yearly Review of Training</i>
Board of Management.contid	Curricular Provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe	M	SPHE School Plan	<i>School requires parental permission to teach sensitive RSE topics</i> <i>permission slips are sent home each year prior to teaching.</i>
	Data Protection – sensitive information sharing	M	Data Protection Policy Data Protection Training	
Use of Information and Communication Technology by pupils in the school, including social media/Online safety	Children access inappropriate content. Cyber Bullying	M	Acceptable Use Policy Code of Behaviour Anti-Bullying Policy	<i>Children are supervised while on devices.</i> <i>School to ask online safety experts in to speak to children/parents.</i>

School Activity	The school has identified the following potential risk of harm to children in relation to the following areas	L-M-H Risk	The school has the following procedures in place to address the risks of harm identified in this assessment	
			Required Policy, Guidance and Procedure document	Further action required ...
School is closed and children are remote learning	Children do not have the same opportunities to access learning as their peers. Children are in a situation where they cannot make disclosures due to monitoring	M	Acceptable Use Policy Remote Learning Plan Child Safeguarding Statement Anti-Bullying Policy	<i>If possible, the school can provide some devices to access remote learning for children who need them</i>
				<i>Staff to have as much online contact with children as possible and provide support to the family. Children have opportunities to speak to the teacher via Google Meet, Google Classroom and Seesaw.</i>

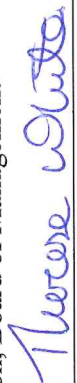
Important Note: It should be noted that risk in the context of this risk assessment is the risk of “harm” as defined in the Children First Act 2015 and not general health and safety risk. The definition of harm is set out in Chapter 4 of the *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 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 reviewed by the Board of Management on 03/10/23. It shall be reviewed as part of the school's annual review of its Child Safeguarding Statement.

Signed  Date 3/10/23

Chairperson, Board of Management

Signed  Date 03/10/23

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?	x
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> ?	No
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)	N/A
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?	At next school council meeting.
38. Is the Board satisfied that the <i>Child Protection Procedures for Primary and 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 3/10/23

Chairperson, Board of Management

Signed  Date 03/10/23

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.

Mandatory Template 3: Notification regarding the Board of Management's review of the Child Safeguarding Statement

To: Educate Together

The Board of Management of New Ross ETNS 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 _____ [date].
- This review was conducted in accordance with the "Checklist for Review of the Child Safeguarding Statement" published on the gov.ie website

Signed  Date 3/10/23

Chairperson, Board of Management

Signed Therese White Date 03/10/23

Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

