

Collon National School Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment

Child Safeguarding Statement

Collon National School is a primary school providing primary education to pupils from Junior Infants to Sixth Class.

In accordance with the requirements of the Children First Act 2015, Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children 2017, the Addendum to Children First (2019), the Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools (revised 2023) and Tusla Guidance on the preparation of Child Safeguarding Statements, the Board of Management of Collon National School has agreed the Child Safeguarding Statement set out in this document.

1 The Board of Management has adopted and will implement fully and without modification the Department's *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools (revised 2023)* as part of this overall Child Safeguarding Statement

2 The Designated Liaison Person (DLP) is Anne Marie Martin

3 The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is Edel Lennon

4 The Relevant Person is Anne Marie Martin

5 The Board of Management recognises that child protection and welfare considerations permeate all aspects of school life and must be reflected in all of the school's policies, procedures, practices and activities. In its policies, procedures, practices and activities, the school will adhere to the following principles of best practice in child protection and welfare:

The school will:

- recognise that the protection and welfare of children is of paramount importance, regardless of all other considerations;
- fully comply with its statutory obligations under the Children First Act 2015 and other relevant legislation relating to the protection and welfare of children;
- fully co-operate with the relevant statutory authorities in relation to child protection and welfare matters;
- adopt safe practices to minimise the possibility of harm or accidents happening to children and protect workers from the necessity to take unnecessary risks that may leave themselves open to accusations of abuse or neglect;
- develop a practice of openness with parents and encourage parental involvement in the education of their children; and
- fully respect confidentiality requirements in dealing with child protection matters.

The school will also adhere to the above principles in relation to any 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 gov.ie website or will be made available on request by the school.

Note: The above is not intended as an exhaustive list. Individual Boards of Management shall also include in this section such other procedures/measures that are of relevance to the school in question.

- 7 This statement has been published on the school's website and has been provided to all members of school personnel, the Parents' Association (if any) and the patron. It is readily accessible to parents and guardians on request. A copy of this Statement will be made available to Tusla and the Department if requested.
- 8 This Child Safeguarding Statement will be reviewed annually or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which this statement refers.

This Child Safeguarding Statement was adopted by the Board of Management on 11/10/23.

This Child Safeguarding Statement was reviewed by the Board of Management on 11/10/23.

Signed: 

Chairperson of Board of Management

Date: 11.10.2023

Signed: Anne-Marie Martin

Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Date: 11/10/23

Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment

Written Assessment of Risk of Collon National School

In accordance with section 11 of the Children First Act 2015 and with the requirements of Chapter 8 of the *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools (revised 2023)*, the following is the Written Risk Assessment of Collon National School 14578N

1. List of school activities

1. Daily Arrival & dismissal of pupils
2. Recreation Breaks for pupils
3. School Staff and Child Protection
4. One to One Teaching
5. Care of Children with Special Needs, including intimate care needs.
6. Sports coaches
7. School Outings
8. Football/Soccer/Rugby/Camogie/Games or Sporting Outings
9. Use of toilet areas in the school
10. Swimming Lessons
11. Annual Sports Day
12. Student Teachers undertaking training placement in school
13. Secondary School Students on work experience in school
14. Contractors present in school during school hours
15. After School Clubs (Internal School Staff)
16. External After School Clubs
17. Curricular Provision in respect of SPHE, RSE and Stay Safe
18. Managing Behaviour of Pupils
19. Recruitment of New Staff or staff returning from Leave of Absence
20. Use of Information & Communication Technology in School
21. Administration of First Aid
22. Pupils who are feeling unwell or who have broken bones
23. Children on messages from one classroom to another
24. Aistear Room
25. Trips to the Church or Hall
26. Ancillary Staff

2. The school has identified the following risk of harm in respect of its activities -

1. Pupils being unsupervised at these times
2. Pupils being unsupervised at these times
3. Harm not recognised or reported promptly
4. Harm by school personnel
5. Harm by school personnel
6. Harm to pupils
7. Harm to pupils
8. Harm to pupils
9. Harm to pupils by school personnel or pupils
10. Harm by a member of school personnel, a member of pool staff, the community or another child
11. Harm to pupils
12. Harm to pupils
13. Harm to pupils
14. Harm to pupils
15. Harm to pupils
16. Harm to pupils
17. Non Teaching of same
18. Bullying
19. Harm not recognised or properly or promptly reported
20. Bullying Improper conduct
21. Harm to pupils
22. Harm to Pupils
23. Harm to pupils
24. Harm to pupils
25. Harm to pupils
26. Harm to pupils

3. The school has the following procedures in place to address the risks of harm identified in this assessment -

1. Pupils should not enter the school yard before 8:50am and all pupils are escorted, by their class teacher to the School Gate at dismissal time. Principal is on yard from 8:50am to 9am each morning.
2. Pupils are supervised by school staff at all times, on yard and on "inside" yard. Rota is made at beginning of each term.
3. Child Safe Guarding Statement & DES procedures made available to all staff.
All staff to complete TUSLA training and online training offered by PDST.
DLP & DDLP to attend PDST face to face training.
BOM records all records of staff & Board training.
4. SEN policy in place for one to one teaching. Open doors / glass in windows
5. School policy on Intimate Care
6. Policy & Procedures in place, must be Garda Vetted and will not be left unsupervised by school staff.
7. All school trips will be carefully chosen and staff must comply with vetting regulations at the venue. There will be adequate staff accompanying classes on trips.
8. Two members of school staff will attend matches and accompany pupils on bus. Pupils will "toilet" in school toilets.
9. Age appropriate toilet areas assigned. Policy in place for access to toilets at lunchtimes. Pupils use their class assigned toilets at break and lunch times.
10. Pupils are supervised going to and from pool. Pupils undress and get dressed in a communal area and in individual changing rooms. All pool staff must follow Vetting procedures.
11. Sports Day held in Mattock Rangers pitch. All pupils remain in collective class group under supervision of class teacher until sports are over and handover to parents takes place.
12. Must provide Garda vetting and insurance letter from college. Child Safe Guarding Statement.
13. Policy in place. Must provide letter from Secondary school confirming attendance and insurance. And must be over 16 and Garda Vetted. Child Safe Guarding policy.
14. Where possible contractors will be asked to attend school out of hours. If during school hours' children will be asked to remain in their classrooms under the supervision of their class teacher.
15. Clubs will only be run by Permanent members of Staff who are fully registered with the Teaching Council.
16. Must be Garda Vetted. Children will not be left unsupervised.
17. School implements in full the Stay Safe programme, RSE programme and SPHE curriculum every year. SPHE is timetabled for the whole school at the one time.
18. The school has Code of Behaviour and Discipline in place. The school has an Anti Bullying Policy which fully adheres to the requirements of the Department's Anti Bullying Procedures for Primary Schools and Post Primary Schools. The policy is reviewed by the Board on an annual basis.
19. The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation.
Child Safe Guarding statement and DES procedures made available to staff.
Staff to view TUSLA training module & any other online training offered by PDST.
20. No mobile phones allowed in School. ICT policy, Anti Bullying policy, Code of Behaviour and Discipline. Stay Safe
21. Two SNAS or SNA and Teacher or SNA and another child to be present during administration of First Aid
22. Pupils will sit outside the main door (weather permitting) or else visible in school lobby.
23. Two pupils will always go together.
24. Aistear now in classrooms since covid.

25. Two people to accompany a class, where possible. When not possible teacher to have mobile phone on them. Also "sensible" children to go at the beginning and end of line. Teacher to ensure the line does not walk too far ahead of them, give clear directions where line must stop and wait. Teacher to walk beside pupils who may be a flight risk, if SNA is not already assigned

26. Ancillary staff are Garda vetted through the Arch Diocese of Armagh. Cleaning of school does not take place until pupils are gone home.

Important Note: It should be noted that risk in the context of this risk assessment is the risk of "harm" as defined in the Children First Act 2015 and not general health and safety risk. The definition of harm is set out in Chapter 4 of the *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools (revised 2023)*

In undertaking this risk assessment, the board of management has endeavoured to identify as far as possible the risks of harm that are relevant to this school and to ensure that adequate procedures are in place to manage all risks identified. While it is not possible to foresee and remove all risk of harm, the school has in place the procedures listed in this risk assessment to manage and reduce risk to the greatest possible extent.