Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment Written Assessment of Risk of Ballydesmond NS
2024/2025

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 Ballydesmond NS

1. List of School Activities

- Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils
- Recreation breaks for pupils
- Classroom teaching
- One-to-one teaching
- Outdoor teaching activities
- Sporting Activities
- School outings
- Use of toilet/changing areas in schools
- Annual Sports Day
- Fundraising events involving pupils
- Use of off-site facilities for school activities
- School transport
- Care of children with special educational needs, including intimate care where
- needed
- Management of challenging behaviour amongst pupils, including appropriate
- use of restraint where required
- Administration of Medicine - including epilepsy procedure
- Administration of First Aid
- Curricular provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe
- Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst pupils
- Training of school personnel in child protection matters
- Use of external personnel to supplement curriculum
- Use of external personnel to support sports and other extra-curricular activities
- Care of pupils with specific vulnerabilities/ needs such as
- Pupils from ethnic minorities/migrants
- Members of the Traveller community
- Lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender (LGBT) children
- Pupils perceived to be LGBT
- Pupils of minority religious faiths
- Children in care
- Children on Child Protection Notification System(CPNS)
- Recruitment of school personnel including -
- Teachers/ISA's
- Caretaker/Secretary/Cleaner
- Sports coaches
- External Tutors/Guest Speakers
- Volunteers/Parents in school activities
- Visitors/contractors present in school during school hours
- Visitors/contractors present during after school activities
- Participation by pupils in religious ceremonies/religious instruction external to
- the school
- Use of Information and Communication Technology by pupils in school
- Application of sanctions under the school's Code of Behaviour including
- detention of pupils, confiscation of phones etc.
- Students participating in work experience in the school
- Student teachers undertaking training placement in school
- Use of video/photography/other media to record school events
- After school use of school premises by other organisations

2. **The school has identified the following risk of harm in respect of its 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
- 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 easy access to the school yard and layout of school premises
- 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 children with SEN who have particular vulnerabilities
- 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/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

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

- 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 2017
- are made available to all school personnel
- School Personnel 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
- The school implements in full the Stay Safe Programme
- The school implements in full the SPHE curriculum
- 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
- The staff ensures appropriate supervision of children during, assembly dismissal and breaks
- The school has a Health and Safety policy
- The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation and
- relevant DES circulars in relation to recruitment and Garda vetting
- The school complies with the agreed disciplinary procedures for teaching staff
- The school has a Special Educational Needs policy
- The school has an intimate care policy/plan in respect of students who require
- such care
- The school has in place a policy and procedures for the administration of
- medication to pupils
- 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
- 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
- The school has in place procedures for the administration of First Aid
- The school has in place a code of behaviour for pupils
- The school has in place an AUP in respect of usage of ICT by pupils
- The school has in place a mobile phone policy in respect of usage of mobile phones by pupils

- The school has in place a Critical Incident Management Plan
- The school has in place procedures for the use of external persons to
- supplement delivery of the curriculum
- The school has in place procedures for the use of external sports coaches
- The school has in place clear procedures for one-to-one teaching activities
- The school has in place procedures in respect of student teacher and student ISA placements
- The school has in place procedures in respect of students undertaking work experience in
- the school.

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.

This risk assessment has been completed by the Board of Management on 30th September 2024

It shall be reviewed as part of the school's annual review of its Child Safeguarding Statement.

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DLP: Anthony O'Donoghue

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DDLP: Ella O' Sullivan

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Chairperson B.O.M: Paddy Fleming

Date _____

Examples of activities, risks and procedures

The examples listed in this document are provided to assist schools in undertaking their risk assessment under the Children First Act, 2015. Schools should note that this list of examples is not intended to be exhaustive. It is the responsibility of each school to ensure, as far as possible, that any other risks and procedures that are relevant to its own particular circumstances are identified and specified in the written risk assessment and that adequate procedures are in place to address all risks identified.

It is acknowledged that schools already have in place a range of policies, practices and procedures to mitigate the risk of harm to children while they are participating in the activities of the school and that some school activities will carry low or minimal risks of harm compared to others. In the context of the risk assessment that must be undertaken by schools, the Children First Act, 2015 refers to risk as "any potential for harm". Therefore, it is important that, as part of its risk assessment process, each school lists and reviews all of its various activities (which shall include identifying those that may carry low risk of harm as well as those that carry higher risks of harm). Doing so will help the school to (1) identify, as required under the Children First Act, 2015, any risks of harm that may exist in respect of the school's activities, (2) identify and assess the adequacy of the various procedures already in place to manage those risks of harm and (3) identify and put in place any such additional procedures as are considered necessary to manage any risk identified.

The Addendum to Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children published in January 2019 clarifies that organisations providing relevant services to children should consider the specific issue of online safety when carrying out their risk assessment and preparing their Child Safeguarding Statement.

The Guidance on Continuity of Schooling for primary and post-primary schools (April 2020) advises of the importance of teachers maintaining the safe and ethical use of the internet during distance learning and assisting parents and guardians to be aware of their role also. Schools should ensure that their Acceptable Use Policy (AUP) informs and guides remote or distance learning activity.

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).

Examples of School Activities

Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils

Recreation breaks for pupils

Classroom teaching

One-to-one teaching

One-to-one learning support

One-to-one counselling

Outdoor teaching activities

Online teaching and learning remotely

Sporting activities

School outings

School trips involving overnight stay

School trips involving foreign travel

Use of toilet/changing/shower areas in schools

Provision of residential facilities for boarders

Annual Sports Day

Fundraising events involving pupils

Use of off-site facilities for school activities

School transport arrangements including use of bus escorts

Care of children with special educational needs, including intimate care where needed,

Care of any vulnerable adult students, including intimate care where needed

Management of challenging behaviour amongst pupils, including appropriate use of restraint where required

Management of provision of food and drink

Administration of Medicine

Administration of First Aid

Curricular provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe

Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst pupils

Training of school personnel in child protection matters

Use of external personnel to supplement curriculum

Use of external personnel to support sports and other extra-curricular activities

Care of pupils with specific vulnerabilities/ needs such as

Pupils from ethnic minorities/migrants

Members of the Traveller community

Lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender (LGBT) children

Pupils perceived to be LGBT

Pupils of minority religious faiths

Children in care

Children on Tusla's Child Protection Notification System (CPNS)

Children with medical needs

Recruitment of school personnel including -

Teachers/SNAs

Caretaker/Secretary/Cleaners

Sports coaches

External Tutors/Guest Speakers

Volunteers/Parents in school activities

Visitors/contractors present in school during school hours

Visitors/contractors present during after school activities

Participation by pupils in religious ceremonies/religious instruction external to the school

Use of Information and Communication Technology by pupils in school, including social media

Application of sanctions under the school's Code of Behaviour including detention of pupils, confiscation of phones etc.

Students participating in work experience in the school

Students from the school participating in work experience elsewhere

Student teachers undertaking training placement in school

Use of video/photography/other media to record school events

After school use of school premises by other organisations

Use of school premises by other organisation during school day

Breakfast club

Homework club/evening study

Examples of Risks of Harm

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 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 inappropriate use of online remote teaching and learning communication platform such as an uninvited person accessing the lesson link, students being left unsupervised for long periods of time in breakout rooms

Risk of harm due to bullying of child

Risk of harm due to racism

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 children with SEN who have particular vulnerabilities, including medical vulnerabilities

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 an inappropriate 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

Examples of Procedures to address risks of harm

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 and it's Addendum (2019)

The school implements in full the Stay Safe Programme

The school implements in full the SPHE curriculum

The school implements in full the Wellbeing Programme at Junior Cycle

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

The school undertakes anti-racism awareness initiatives

The school has a yard/playground supervision policy to ensure appropriate supervision of children during, assembly, dismissal and breaks and in respect of specific areas such as toilets, changing rooms etc.

The school has in place a policy and clear procedures in respect of school outings

The school has a health and safety policy

The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation and relevant DE circulars in relation to recruitment and Garda vetting

The school has a codes of conduct for school personnel (teaching and non-teaching staff)

The school complies with the agreed disciplinary procedures for teaching staff

The school has a Special Educational Needs policy

The school has an intimate care policy/plan in respect of students who require such care

The school has in place a policy and procedures for the administration of medication to pupils

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

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

The school has in place a policy and procedures for the administration of First Aid

The school has in place a code of behaviour for pupils

The school has an Acceptable Use Policy in place, to include provision for online teaching and learning remotely, and has communicated this policy to parents

The school has in place a policy governing the use of smart phones and tablet devices in the school by pupils as per circular 38/2018

The school has in place a Critical Incident Management Plan

The school has in place a Home School Liaison policy and related procedures

The school has in place a policy and procedures for the use of external persons to supplement delivery of the curriculum

The school has in place a policy and procedures for the use of external sports coaches

The school has in place a policy and clear procedures for one-to-one teaching activities

The school has in place a policy and procedures for one-to-one counselling

The school has in place a policy and procedures in respect of student teacher placements

The school has in place a policy and procedures in respect of students undertaking work experience in the school

The school has in place a policy and procedures in respect of pupils of the school undertaking work experience in external organisations