

	Newmarket Boys' School <i>Ní neart go cur le chéile</i>		Est. 1877
	Title:	Last Updated: 14/12/2021 Review date: Feb 2023	
	Child Safeguarding Statement		
	Plean Scoile: Child Protection folder	Page: 1 of 7	

1.0 Purpose:

The purpose of this statement is:

- to comply 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*
- to have a written Child Safeguarding Statement
- to specify who the DLP and DDLP are
- to identify the principles of best practice in child protection and welfare
- to complete a Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment on the school
 - to compile a list all school activities
 - to identify the risk of harm in respect of those activities
 - to have procedures in place to address the risks of harm identified in that assessment
- to make the Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment available to all school stakeholders

2.0 Scope

The policy applies to all staff and the Board of Management of Newmarket Boys' School.

3.0 Responsibilities

It is the responsibility of:

- 3.1 the Board of Management of Newmarket Boys' School to adopt and to implement fully and without modification the Department's Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools 2017
- 3.2 the Board of Management to provide a written Child Safeguarding Statement & Risk Assessment to all school stakeholders.
- 3.3 all staff to comply with this statement.
- 3.4 to use the DES 'A Guide to Child Protection and Safeguarding Inspections' to aid compliance

4.0 Definitions/Abbreviations/Acronyms

DLP	Designated Liaison Person
DDLP	Deputy Designated Liaison Person
DES	Department of Education and Skills
Stakeholders	Pupils, parents, staff, Board of Management, Patron, DES, Tusla, substitutes and visitors

5.0 Reference Documents

- 5.1 The Children First Act 2015,
- 5.2 Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children 2017,
- 5.3 The Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools 2017
- 5.4 Tusla Guidance on Child Protection procedures



Child Safeguarding Statement

Newmarket Boys' 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 Newmarket Boys' 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: Christine O'Mahony
- 3 The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is: Jennifer McCarthy
- 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 insert the deleted provision above if any adult pupil with a special vulnerability attends the school. No such pupil has been or is in attendance at this time.

- 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 DE 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 DE 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



Child Safeguarding Statement & Risk Assessment 2021-2022

- 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 DE website or will be made available on request by the school.
- 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.



Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment Written Assessment of Risk of Newmarket Boys' 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 2017*, the following is the Written Risk Assessment of Newmarket Boys' School.

1. List of school activities

- Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils
- Recreation breaks for pupils
- Classroom teaching
- Sporting Activities
- School outings
- Annual Sports Day
- Fundraising events involving pupils
- Use of off-site facilities for school activities
- Tuition/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 and 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
- Recruitment of school personnel including -
 - Teachers,/ SNA / Caretaker/ Cleaner / Secretary
 - Sports coaches
 - External Tutors/Guest Speakers
 - Volunteers/Parents in school activities
 - Visitors/ contractors present in school during or after school hours
- Participation by pupils in religious ceremonies/religious instruction external to the school
- Use of Information and Communication Technology by pupils in school (ICT) and Online teaching.
- Application of sanctions under the school's Code of Behaviour including detention of pupils, confiscation of phones etc.
- Students/others participating in work experience in the school
- Student teachers undertaking training placement in school
- Use of video/photography/other media to record school events
- Use of school premises by other organisation during school day e.g. Montessori
- Management of provision of refreshments.

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

- Risk of harm not being recognised by school personnel or reported promptly.
- Risk of harm by school personnel
- Risk of harm due to bullying of child
- Risk of injury to pupils and staff due to challenging behaviour
- Risk of harm due to non -teaching of SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe
- Risk of harm to children with SEN who have particular vulnerabilities. Management of challenging behaviour amongst pupils, including appropriate use of restraint when required.
- Risk of harm to child while a child is receiving intimate/medical care.
- Risk of child being harmed in the school by a volunteer or visitor to the school
- Risk of child being harmed by an organisation or other person while child participating in out of school activities e.g. school trip, swimming school, including lack of supervision.
- Risk of pupils perceived to be LGBT and not respected, as well as racism.
- Risk of harm to child during arrival/dismissal of pupils, recreation breaks including lack of supervision.
- Toilet areas
- Risk of a child being harmed due to environmental factors. i.e. school and surrounding environments.



Child Safeguarding Statement & Risk Assessment 2021-2022

- 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 in one-to-one teaching sessions occurs, coaching etc .
- Risk of harm due to inappropriate use of online remote teaching and learning communication platform.
- Risk of harm caused by COVID-19 – travelling to and from school, through interaction in school, from visitors to the school.

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

- 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
- All school personnel are provided with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement & DES procedures are made available to all staff.
- The Child Protection Guidelines and training are available to all teaching/non teaching staff .
- DLP & DDLP attended PDST face-to-face training. All staff completed a Tusla training module.
- The school –
 - Teaching/non teaching staff are encouraged 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 a Code of Behaviour Policy which fully adheres to requirements and is signed by all parents and students (if appropriate).
- 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 and is signed by all parents and students (if appropriate).
- The school has in place a policy in respect of physical intervention & restrictive practices, (Code of Behaviour)
- The school has a supervision policy to ensure appropriate supervision during, assembly, dismissal and breaks.
- The school will continue with professional development e.g TCI training as applicable. (Code of Behaviour)
- The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation and relevant DES circulars in relation to recruitment and Garda vetting.
- For recurrent activities, the school only engages pupils with personnel who have been garda vetted.
- Where the Vetting Disclosure discloses any criminal record or specified information, or if a vetting disclosure is not available, the individual(s) will not be allowed commence relevant activities with the pupils unless a risk assessment for the activity is conducted by the Principal (or Deputy principal). A record is maintained of these occurrences.
- Ensure the class teacher/member of staff is always present to supervise activities by visiting personnel.
- The school has policy and procedures in place for visiting personnel.
- The school has in place a policy for vetting procedures for parents/volunteers/visitors.
- The school implements, in full, the Stay Safe Programme
- The school implements, in full, the SPHE curriculum, including lessons on respecting diversity and inclusion
- The school implements, in full, the RSE curriculum.
- Pupils go straight to classrooms in the morning.
- Toilet - Usage (one at a time from any class) and supervision to best of ability.
- The school has a Health and Safety policy
- Policy on confidentiality for visiting personnel.
- The school has codes of conduct for school personnel (teaching and non-teaching staff)
- The school complies with the agreed disciplinary procedures for teaching staff
- The school will follow protocol regarding an allegation against a staff member. The following guideline steps will be implemented: The DLP will always inform the Chairperson of the BoM (Guidelines p41, [chap 5.5.2], Section 5.6 in full (p42) and Chapter 7 in full.
- The school has a Special Educational Needs policy
- The school has in place a policy and procedures for the administration of First Aid
- The school has in place a policy and procedures for the administration of medication to pupils
- In the event of an incident, a parent/guardian is contacted.
- Reduce one-to-one contact to a minimum.



Child Safeguarding Statement & Risk Assessment 2021-2022

- The school has a policy in place for one-to-one teaching should it occur - open door, table between teacher and pupil, glass in door, session in staffroom along school corridor & beside classroom
- The School has an intimate care policy in place. Parents/guardians have a responsibility to advise the school of any known intimate care or toileting need relating to their child on the enrollment application form (to enroll their child as a pupil of the school).
- The school has in place a mobile phone policy in respect of usage of mobile phones by pupils
- The school has in place an Acceptable User Policy and a Blended Learning policy.
- The Board of Management has developed a Response & Logistics Plan for the prevention and mitigation of COVID-19. The plan highlights the measures necessary to protect the health and safety of staff and pupils, in re-opening and modifying the work arrangements within the school, in detailing control measures and systems to support safety, etc. (see Covid-19 Response & Logistics Plan)
- The school has in place a Critical Incident Management Plan
- The school has in place a policy and procedures in respect of substitute teachers
- The school has in place a policy and procedures in respect of student teacher placements
- The school has in place a policy in respect of work experience.
- The school has a Photograph & Video policy. Parents sign a 'Form of Consent' for their child. (Child protection guidelines).
- Allianz, our insurance company, completed a risk assessment of the school and surrounding school environment.

This Child Safeguarding Statement was adopted by the Board of Management on 12.02.2018

This Child Safeguarding Statement was reviewed by the Board of Management on 14.12.2021

Signed: Philip O'Connor
Philip O'Connor, Chairperson

Christine O'Malley

Date: 14.12.2021

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.

Some important contact telephone numbers:

Department of Education and Skills:

Dublin: 01 – 8896400
Athlone: 090 – 6483600
Tullamore: 057 – 9324300

TUSLA: 061 – 588688
N.E.P.S.: 01 – 8892700

Gardaí:

Newmarket: 029 – 22160
Kanturk: 029 – 20680
Mallow: 022 – 31450



Child Safeguarding Statement & Risk Assessment 2021-2022

6.0 Revision History

Reason for update	Updated by	Date Ratified (BoM)	Review date
Review required by DES (by Jan '22) - to combine Statement and Risk Assessment into one document - to include identified risk of Covid-19 and associated dangers	Christine O Mahony	14/12/2021	Feb 2023
Annual review as required	Christine O Mahony	20/04/2021	Feb 2022
Annual review as required	Christine O'Mahony	11/02/2020	Feb 2021
Annual review as required	Christine O'Mahony	12/02/2019	Feb 2020
Child Safeguarding Statement issue, as obliged by Child Protection requirements	Jennifer McCarthy	12/02/2018	Feb 2019
Previous Child Protection policies	'07, '08, '10, '12,' 14, '15, '16, '17,		

END OF DOCUMENT
