



Newtownmountkennedy Primary School

(20278K)

Child Safeguarding Policy

&

Risk Assessment

2023 - 2024

Newtownmountkennedy P.S. is a primary school providing primary education to pupils from Junior Infants to Sixth Class. The school has four autism classes.

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 Newtownmountkennedy P.S. 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 Deirdre Lennon
- 3 The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is Ronan Keddy
- 4 The Relevant Person is Deirdre Lennon
(The relevant person is one who can provide information in respect of how the child safeguarding statement was developed and will be able to provide the statement on request. This person can also be the DLP)
- 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](http://gov.ie) 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.

- 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 28th September 2023

This Child Safeguarding Statement was reviewed by the Board of Management on 28th September 2023

Signed: _____

Chairperson of Board of Management

Signed: _____

Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Date: _____

Date: _____

Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment

Written Assessment of Risk of Newtownmountkennedy P.S.

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 PostPrimary Schools (revised 2023)*, the following is the Written Risk Assessment of Newtownmountkennedy Primary School.

| 1. List of school activities | 2. The school has identified the following risk of harm in respect of its activities – | 3. The school has the following procedures in place to address the risks of harm identified in this assessment - |
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| Training of school personnel in Child Protection matters | Harm not recognised or reported promptly Harm to pupils | Child Safeguarding Statement & DES procedures made available to all staff Staff are required to adhere to Child Protection Procedures. DLP& DDLP to attend PDST face to face training when available All Staff to view Tusla training module & any other online training offered by PDST BOM records all records of staff and board training |
| Creating a safe school environment | Harm to pupils | The school complies with the Teaching Council Code of Professional Conduct The school complies with Garda Vetting requirements. The school has an Anti-Bullying policy which adheres to the Department’s guidelines. Stay Safe and SPHE Programme taught in full Critical Incident Plan based on NEPS advice. |

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| One to one teaching | Harm to pupils | School has policy in place for one to one teaching Open doors Table between teacher and pupil Glass in window |
| Care of children with special needs, including intimate care needs | Harm by school personnel | Policy on intimate care |
| School spread over three buildings | Harm to pupils Harm to school personnel | Adult (Teacher or SNA or Fiona(school secretary) must accompany pupils at all times. Pedestrian crossings to be used. |
| Toilet areas | Inappropriate behaviour | Usage and supervision policy |
| HSCL Activities | Harm to pupils and Staff | Garda vetting HSCL Policy and related procedures Sign in book |
| Use of professionals from outside areas such as OT, SLT, Psychologists, etc | Harm to pupils | Parental permission Constant supervision |
| Curricular Provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay safe. | Non-teaching of same | School implements SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe in full |
| Managing of challenging behaviour amongst pupils, including appropriate use of restraint | Injury to pupils and staff | Health & Safety Statement Code Of Behaviour/Record Keeping Constant Supervision/Action Plan in place Liaise with outside agencies Staff training Behaviours of Concern Policy |
| Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils | Harm from other pupils, unknown adults on the playground Traffic on avenue Inappropriate behaviour | Arrival and dismissal Policy & Procedures Supervision Policy Teachers/SNAs Traffic Management Procedures in place Health & Safety Policy |

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| Recreation breaks for pupils | Injury to pupils/Bullying Harm not recognised or properly or promptly reported Lack of supervision | Supervision and Anti-bullying Policy & Procedures in place Health & Safety Policy Code Of Behaviour |
| Classroom teaching | Bullying/ Injury Lack of supervision | Constant Supervision Code of Behaviour |
| Counselling (e.g Barnardos, Child Line worker, WCF) | Harm to pupils | Policy on Supervision Awareness of code of conduct by provider and safeguarding measures in place Vetting procedures Policy on one to one work with outside agencies |
| Outdoor teaching activities | Bullying/ Injury Lack of supervision | Constant Supervision Code of Behaviour |
| Sporting Activities | Bullying/ Injury Lack of supervision | Constant Supervision Code of Behaviour |
| Music Activities | Bullying/ Injury Lack of supervision | Constant Supervision Code of Behaviour |
| Use external personnel to supplement the curriculum | Harm to pupils Lack of supervision | Supervision Garda Vetting Parental Permission |
| Sports Coaches | Harm to pupils Bullying Injury Lack of supervision | Garda Vetting Procedures in place Constant Supervision Code of Behaviour |
| Students participating in work experience | Harm by student Lack of supervision Harm to pupils Confidentiality compromised | Work experience Policy Child Safeguarding Statement Supervision at all times not alone with pupils Garda Vetting |

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| Educational Trips/Matches | Harm to pupils/ Bullying | Adequate Supervision Code of Behaviour |
| Use of toilet | Inappropriate Behaviour | Usage and supervision policy |
| Changing for sport activities | Harm to pupils/ Bullying Lack of supervision | Constant Supervision Code of Behaviour |
| Annual Sports Day, Bike Day | Harm to pupils Lack of supervision | Constant Supervision Code of Behaviour |
| Play equipment | Accidental fall Lack of supervision | Adequate supervision |
| Department of Education Summer Camps | Harm to pupils Lack of Supervision | Constant Supervision Code of Behaviour Permanent School Teacher as Co-ordinator |
| School Completion Activities | Harm to pupils | Garda Vetting Parental Permission Constant Supervision |
| Participation of pupils in activities such as K2 Alpaca Farm, Religious ceremonies, Play Therapy groups, etc | Harm to pupils | Parental permission Constant Supervision Code of Behaviour |
| Early/Late collections | Harm to pupils | Sign in/out book Adult must be nominated by parent iof collecting |
| Use of off-site facilities for school activities, e.g. Community Centre, St Joseph's Church, walks in the community | Harm to pupils Lack of supervision | Constant Supervision Code of Behaviour /Educational Trips Policy Awareness of dangers in car park, walking on path, etc Pupil Teacher Ratio on walks |
| School transport arrangements | Harm to pupils Harm not recognised or properly or promptly reported | Bus Safety Policy Escort Policy Constant Supervision |

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| | | Code of Behaviour |
| Volunteers/Parents | Harm to pupils | Vetting Procedures Policy for Parents/Volunteers |
| Administration of First Aid | Identifying proper risks | First Aid Policy |
| Administration of Medicine | Correct procedure and amount | Training for SNAs Parental Indemnity form signed. Administration of Medication form completed Photograph displayed in prominent place, if necessary |
| Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst pupils | Harm to pupils Harm to staff | Constant Supervision Code of Behaviour Anti-Bullying Policy Anti-bullying initiatives Dignity in the Workplace Code of Conduct |
| 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 • Lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender (LGBT) children • Pupils perceived to be LGBT • Pupils of minority religious faiths • Children in care • Children on CPNS | Bullying/ Difficulties with communication/ Cultural Differences/Difference | Code of Behaviour/ SPHE/Learning Support/ Grow in Love/ |
| Use of Information and Communication Technology by pupils in school | Bullying Staff not following policies & procedures | ICT policy, Acceptable Use Policy Anti-Bullying Policy |

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| | | Code of Behaviour Constant Supervision |
| Student teachers undertaking training placement in school | Harm to pupils | Constant Supervision by class teacher Code of Behaviour Garda Vetted by college shared with school |
| Use of video/photography/other media to record school events | Shared media Cyber bullying | Anti-Cyber Bullying Policy Web wise lessons Community Garda ICT Policy Cyber Safety Speakers |
| Isolation due to illness or challenging behaviour | Harm by/to school personnel | Ensure to follow proper and current guidelines and ensure appropriate distance maintained from child keeping in view of other school personnel if possible and alerting other personnel that they are dealing with a medical or behavioural incident. Please document date time and length of time spent with child until assistance arrives. Ensure phone is taken to the room in case they need assistance. Staff CPD Training First Aid Training Administration of Medication Policy |
| After- School Activities | Harm to pupils | Constant Supervision Parental permission Adequate Pupil-Teacher Ratio |
| Online Learning/ Meetings | Harm by/to school personnel Harm to pupils Confidentiality | AUP Policy Code of Behaviour Remote Learning Policy |
| Child absent for period of time in home with Tusla involvement | Harm to Pupils | Maintain communication with home in so far as possible |

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| | | Follow Child Safeguarding Statement Outside agencies for support (SCP) |
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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 (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.