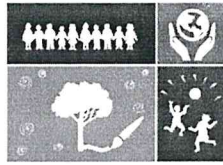


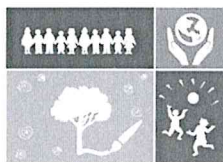
LIMERICK



**EDUCATE TOGETHER
NATIONAL SCHOOL**

**Limerick Educate Together
Child Safeguarding Statement and Written Risk
Assessment
2022-2023**

LIMERICK



EDUCATE TOGETHER
NATIONAL SCHOOL

Limerick Educate Together National School

Written Assessment of Risk

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 Limerick Educate Together National School.

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/hygiene rooms in school
- Annual Sports Day/ Active School Week
- 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,
- Management of challenging behaviour amongst pupils, including appropriate use of restraint where required
- 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
 - Children in Care
 - Children in CPNS
- Recruitment of school personnel including
 - Teachers/SNA's
 - 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
- 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
- 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
- Use of the local Mungret Park and Playground
- Project Afterschool
- Pre-school located in mainstream

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 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, counselling, 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*. This policy is reviewed on an annual basis and in consultation with parents.
- 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 DES 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. The Child Safeguarding Statement is on display in all classrooms as well as a poster with the details of the DLP and deputy DLP
 - Ensures all new staff are provided with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement
 - Encourages staff to avail of relevant training
 - TUSLA webinar
 - Input at first staff meeting each year
 - Other training as it arises
 - Encourages board of management members to avail of relevant training
 - TUSLA Webinar
 - CPSMA training
 - Other training as it arises
 - 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 in place an ICT policy 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 and the school avails of relevant CPD provided by NEPS
- 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 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

Programmes with relevance to Pupil Protection

The following programmes are taught in Limerick Educate Together National School in order to increase awareness around pupil protection issues and for the prevention of abuse in any form:

- Relationship & Sexuality Programme (RSE) – *Mandatory – Completed by Easter each year*
- Stay Safe Programme New edition January 2017 – *Mandatory*
- Walk Tall Programme
- SPHE Curriculum & Making the Links (A useful manual which links the first 3 programmes to the content objectives of the SPHE curriculum).

Identifying the Risks

Risk identified	Potential risk of harm	Procedure in place to manage risk identified
Opening/Closing Times and Break Times	Access to pupils by strangers or other adults. Risk of harm from other pupils	Supervision by Post holders from 8:30 a.m. Supervision by SNAs from 8:30 a.m. Adequate Supervision at break times.
Collection times for Jacqui's afterschool	Access to pupils by strangers or other adults.	Children to be collected by Jacqui at classroom door and escorted to the ASD preschool free play area.
Collection for afterschool activities	Access to pupils by strangers or other adults.	Afterschool provider to inform children that they are to enter the hall through the doors facing towards the drop-off area. Afterschool provider to oversee collection of all children by parents/guardians. Afterschool Provider to remain in school until all children collected.

Visitors/Visiting Tutors	Tutors behaving inappropriately. Tutors lacking awareness of child safety issues.	Visiting tutors from reputable organisations with appropriate vetting. For example Mary I Students. Coaches from GAA/ IRFU/ Cricket Ireland etc. Sign in/Sign out Glass panels in doors. Teacher to remain in the classroom at all times.
Parental Involvement	Access to pupils by strangers or other adults.	At the start of the year parents who have indicated a willingness to help with activities involving children will undergo Garda vetting. Parents who are visiting the classroom to give a talk/help out as a once off need not be vetted.
School Tours/Outings	Access to pupils by strangers. Inappropriate activity by pupils. Dangers posed by unfamiliar environment	Adequate supervision Adequate planning and preparation by staff. School Tour policy followed
Access/Egress	Access to pupils by strangers or other adults. Flight risk for some pupils	Parental access to school building is limited to scheduled meetings. Parents should not walk their children to the internal classroom door.
Swimming Lessons/Sports Events	Access to pupils in changing areas by members of staff and /or members of the public/pool staff	
	Pupils will be expected to dress and undress themselves for games/PE/ swimming. Where assistance is needed this will be done in the communal areas and with the consent of parents. Under no circumstances will members of staff/ volunteers be expected to or allowed to dress/undress a child in a cubicle/private area. In such situations where privacy is required the parent/guardian of the child will be asked to assist the child. At all times there must be adequate supervision of pupils. Here are some guidelines for best practice put forward by the resources at 1) and 2) below	

	<p>1) "The Code of ethics and Good Practice for Children's Sport" From the Irish Sports Council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We will never share a room with a single child • We will knock on changing room doors and remain in the doorway rather than entering if possible • We may enter dressing room if it is judged that children are engaging in unsafe play. 	
Social Media	Potential for bullying. Potential for grooming of pupils	<p>Pupils are not generally permitted to have mobile phones in school. Exceptions are made in accordance with specific events such as "Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) Day", and other specific circumstances detailed in the Mobile Phone and Device Policy. Mobile Phone Policy Anti-Bullying Policy. Information sessions for pupils, parents and staff</p> <p>Policy for social media to be taught to classes.</p> <p>Parents to be reminded at school events not to share images of children online.</p>
Intimate Care/ Toileting	Potential for children and staff to be at risk	<p>Two staff members to be present to attend to toileting needs where possible. Policy to reflect this and accommodate for "toileting accidents" Children who are in SET rooms will return to their base classroom to use the toilet when needed.</p>
One to one teaching/ movement/regulation breaks	Potential for children and staff to be at risk	All SET rooms have glass panels. We will endeavour to have more than one child present during SET teaching if possible

		All staff interacting with pupils on a one to one basis will ensure maximum visibility
Physical contact	Potential for children and staff to be at risk	<p>Physical contact between school personnel and the child is always in response to the needs of the child and not the needs of the adult. While physical contact may be used to comfort, reassure or assist a child the following criteria should be considered in determining it's appropriateness:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is acceptable to the child • It is open and not secretive • The age and developmental stage of the child. <p>School personnel will avoid doing anything of a personal nature for children that they can do for themselves. For example; buttoning coats.</p>
Children using lift	Potential for child to be on their own with an adult in an enclosed space	Staff member to be accompanied with at least one "Buddy Child"
Children going to Mungret Park and Playground	Potential of harm from general public	<p>All classes going to park will be accompanied by an appropriate number of staff. Children in the special classes will have extra staff allocated for walks if required.</p> <p>Class teacher to inform Secretary/.Deputy Principal and Principal in advance.</p>
Toilet Facilities near the Halla	Risk of harm	Doors to be labelled Pupils Toilet and teachers /staff to make children aware which toilets to use.

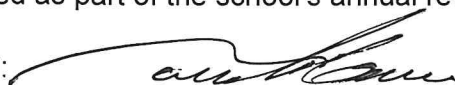
Parents collecting children early for appointments during school hours.	Risk of harm to pupils	Children will wait in classroom for collection. Child will be called over the intercom when parent arrives.
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Important Note: It should be noted that risk 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 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 completed by the Board of Management on 28.11.18. It shall be reviewed as part of the school's annual review of its Child Safeguarding Statement.

Signed:



Date: 20.10.22

Chairperson, Board of Management

Signed:



Date: 20.10.22

Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Limerick Educate Together National School

Child Safeguarding Statement

Limerick Educate Together is a primary/post-primary school providing primary education to pupils from Junior Infants to Sixth Class as well as an ASD early intervention setting and two school aged classes for children with ASD.

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 Limerick Educate Together 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 **Michael Quealy** (Principal)
- 3 The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP is **Siobhan Murphy** (Deputy Principal/ Acting)
- 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 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, 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.

- 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 20.10.22

Signed: 
Chairperson of Board of Management

Signed: 
Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Date: 20.10.22

Date: 20.10.22