



*Ballinahinch National School*

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*Designated Liaison Person (D.L.P): Mr. Shane McGrath*

*Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy D.L.P): Mrs. Joan Martin*

## **Child Protection Policy**

### **Child Safeguarding Statement**

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

The safety, welfare and development of children is a core objective and key priority for Ballinahinch National School. Every staff member of Ballinahinch National School has a responsibility and a duty of care to ensure that every child is safe and protected from harm whilst in Ballinahinch National School.

Ballinahinch National School is committed to maintaining the highest standards of child safeguarding, in line with all relevant legislation including 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 and Tusla Guidance on the preparation of Child Safeguarding Statements.

The Board of Management (BOM) of Ballinahinch National School has agreed the Child Safeguarding Statement set out in this document.

### **Key Child safeguarding principles**

- 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: Shane McGrath

- 3 The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is: Joan Martin
- 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. The school will adhere to the following principles of best practice in child protection and welfare.
- 5 The school will:
  - A. recognise that the protection and welfare of children is of paramount importance, regardless of all other considerations.
  - B. fully comply with its statutory obligations under the Children First Act 2015 and other relevant legislation relating to the protection and welfare of children.
  - C. fully co-operate with the relevant statutory authorities in relation to child protection and welfare matters.
  - D. 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.
  - E. develop a practice of openness with parents and encourage parental involvement in the education of their children.
  - F. 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. The following procedures/measures are in place:

- a) 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.
- b) In relation to the selection and 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.
- c) 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:
  - i. Has provided each member of staff with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement.
  - ii. Ensures all new staff are provided with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement.
  - iii. Encourages staff to avail of relevant training.

- iv. Encourages Board of Management members to avail of relevant training.
  - v. The Board of Management maintains records of all staff and Board member training.
- d) 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
- 6 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 school's child safeguarding statement. They are also responsible for ensuring that reporting procedures within the school are followed so that hold welfare and protection concerns are refereed promptly to Tulsa.

6 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 attached as an appendix to these procedures

7 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

8 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.

9 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 Feb 28<sup>th</sup> 2024

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Principal/Secretary of Board of Management

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Chairperson of Board of Management

# **Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment**

## **Written Assessment of Risk of Ballinahinch National School**

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 a Written Risk Assessment of Ballinahinch National School.

<b>List of School Activities</b>	<b>The School has identified the following Risk of Harm</b>	<b>The School has the following Procedures in place to address risk identified in this assessment</b>
Training of school personnel in Child Protection matters	Risk of harm not recognised or reported promptly	Child Safeguarding Statement & DES procedures made available to all staff  DLP& DDLP to attend PDST face to face training All Staff to view Túsla training module & any other online training offered by PDST  BOM records all records of staff and board training
One to one teaching	Risk of child being harmed by a member of school personnel	School has procedure 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	Risk of child being harmed by a member of school personnel	Policy on intimate care and toileting
Toilet areas	Risk of child being harmed due to inappropriate behaviour	School has a supervision policy to ensure appropriate supervision of children
Curricular Provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay safe.	Risk of child being harmed or not reporting an incident due to nonteaching of same	School implements SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe in full
LGBT Children/Pupils perceived to be LGBT	Risk of Bullying	Anti-Bullying Policy Code of Behaviour
Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils	Risk of harm from older pupils, unknown adults on the playground	Arrival and dismissal supervised by Teachers School has a supervision policy to ensure appropriate supervision of children
Managing of challenging behaviour amongst pupils	Risk of injury to pupils and staff	Health & Safety Policy Code Of Behaviour

Sports Coaches	Risk of child being harmed by the coach	Policy & Procedures in place for the use of external persons to supplement delivery of the curriculum The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda Vetting legislation and relevant DES circulars in relation to recruitment and Garda Vetting.
Students participating in work experience	Risk of child being harmed by the student volunteer	Work experience Policy Child Safeguarding Statement
Recreation breaks for pupils	Risk of child being harmed by another child due to inadequate supervision	Supervision Policy and procedures in place
Classroom teaching	Risk of child being harmed due to bullying	Anti-bullying Policy Code of Behaviour
Outdoor teaching activities	Risk of child being harmed due to injury or bullying or inadequate supervision	Anti-bullying Policy Code of Behaviour Yard/Playground Supervision Policy
Sporting Activities	Risk of child being harmed due to injury or bullying or inadequate supervision	Anti-bullying Policy Code of Behaviour Yard/Playground Supervision Policy
School outings	Risk of child being harmed due to injury or getting lost, exposure to unknown adults	Policy of School Tours/Outings Supervision Policy

Annual Sports Day	Risk of child being harmed due to injury and exposure to unknown adults/spectators	Supervision Policy procedures in place Sports Day timetable and procedures adhered to
Fundraising events involving pupils	Risk of child being harmed due to injury or getting lost and exposure to unknown adults	School Tour Outings Policy Supervision Policy
Use of off-site facilities for school activities	Risk of child being harmed due to injury or getting lost and exposure to unknown adults	School Tour Outings Policy Supervision Policy
Administration of Medicine Administration of First Aid	Risk of child being harmed due to incorrect administration or dosage	First Aid Training Administration of Medication Policy in place
Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst pupils	Risk of child being harmed due to bullying or inadequate anti-bullying policy/code of behaviour	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 School Code of Behaviour in place for pupils School has a Code of Conduct for school personnel
Administration of Medicine Administration of First Aid	Risk of child being harmed due to incorrect administration or dosage	First Aid Training Administration of Medication Policy in place
Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst pupils	Risk of child being harmed due to bullying or inadequate anti-bullying policy/code of behaviour	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 School Code of Behaviour in place for pupils School has a Code of Conduct for school personnel



<p>Care of pupils with specific vulnerabilities/ needs such as</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pupils from ethnic minorities/migrants</li> <li>• Members of the Traveller community</li> <li>• Lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender (LGBT) children</li> <li>• Pupils perceived to be LGBT</li> <li>• Pupils of minority religious faiths</li> <li>• Children in care</li> <li>• Children on CPNS</li> </ul>	<p>Risk of child being harmed due to bullying or inadequate curriculum provision/delivery in relation to SPHE, RSE and Stay Safe</p>	<p>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 School Code of Behaviour in place for pupils The school implements in full the SPHE Curriculum including the Stay Safe Programme</p>
<p>Recruitment of school personnel including -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Teachers</li> <li>• SNA's</li> <li>• Caretaker/Secretary/Cleaners</li> <li>• Sports coaches</li> </ul> <p>External Tutors/Guest Speakers</p>	<p>Risk of child being harmed due to possible signs of abuse not being recognised or disclosures from children not properly or promptly reported</p>	<p>Child Safeguarding Statement &amp; DES procedures made available to all staff</p> <p>Staff to view Tusla training module &amp; any other online training offered by PDST</p> <p>Policy of Parents / Volunteers</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Volunteers/Parents in school activities</li> <li>• Visitors/contractors present in school during school hours</li> </ul> <p>Visitors/contractors present during after school activities</p>		<p>Policy on Visiting Contractors</p> <p>The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda Vetting legislation and relevant DES circulars in relation to recruitment and Garda Vetting</p>
<p>Use of Information and Communication Technology by pupils in school</p>	<p>Risk of harm due to children inappropriately accessing/using computers, social media, phones and other devices while at school</p> <p>Risk of Cyber Bullying or exposure to inappropriate material</p>	<p>ICT policy</p> <p>Acceptable Use Policy</p> <p>Anti-Bullying Policy</p> <p>Code of Behaviour</p>

		Procedure in place in respect of the usage of mobile phones by pupils
Application of sanctions under the school's Code of Behaviour including detention of pupils, confiscation of phones etc.	Risk of harm due to inadequate code of behaviour	Supervision Policy and procedure in place Code of Behaviour
Student teachers undertaking training placement in school	Risk of child being harmed by student teacher	Student Teacher Policy in place Supervision Policy in place The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda Vetting legislation and relevant DES circulars in relation to recruitment and Garda Vetting
Use of video/photography/other media to record school events	Risk of child being harmed due to a breach of data protection and inappropriate use of images	Data Protection Policy Procedure in Place – Parental permission sought
After school use of school premises by other organisations	Risk of child being harmed due to unknown hazards through external use of premises	Use of School Premises Policy in place

**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<sup>th</sup> February 2024. It will be reviewed as part of the school’s annual review of its Child Safeguarding Statement.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Principal/Secretary of Board of Management

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Chairperson of Board of Management