

Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment

Child Safeguarding Statement

Kennedy Park N.S. 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 \(revised 2023\)](#) and [Tusla Guidance on the preparation of Child Safeguarding Statements](#), the Board of Management of Kennedy Park N.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 **Mr Colm Gallagher**

- 3 The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is **Ms Sylvia Wickham**

- 4 The Relevant Person is **Mr Colm Gallagher**
(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. In a school setting the relevant person shall be the designated liaison person.)

- 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](#) 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

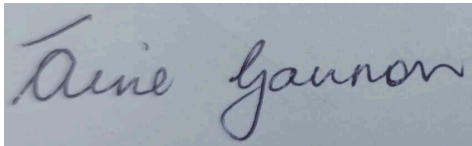
- Encourages staff to avail of relevant training
 - Encourages Board of Management members to avail of relevant training
 - The Board of Management maintains records of all staff and Board member training
- In relation to reporting of child protection concerns to Tusla, all school personnel are required 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.

Note: The above is not intended as an exhaustive list. Individual Boards of Management shall also include in this section such other procedures/measures that are of relevance to the school in question.

- 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 **8th October 2024**.

This Child Safeguarding Statement was reviewed by the Board of Management on **8th October 2024**.

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Signed:

Chairperson of Board of Management

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Edel Gallagher".

Signed:

Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Date: **8th October 2024**

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Child safeguarding Risk Assessment

Written Assessment of Risk of Kennedy Park N.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 Post-Primary Schools (revised 2023), the following is the Written Risk Assessment of Kennedy Park N.S.

List of School Activities	The school has identified the following Risk of Harm	The School has the following Procedures in place to address risk identified in this assessment
One -to-one teaching	Risk of inappropriate behaviour/harm by school personnel /false accusations	Statutory vetting requirements in place. Glass panel in doors always kept clear. Classroom door to be kept open, if deemed necessary. Table between teacher and pupil/teacher awareness of proximity of pupil. Parents of children attending SET team are informed and permission is sought.
Opening/Closing Times and Break time	Risk of harm from older pupils, inappropriate behaviour, unknown adults on the school grounds	Supervision from 8:45 a.m. in the school yard. Teachers collect classes from the line at 9:00 a.m. Reminders to children to come to the front

		<p>door if late in the morning.</p> <p>Pupils escorted out of the building by class teachers and supervised by principal/deputy principal/class teacher</p> <p>Parents required to notify school if someone new collecting a child/change of arrangements.</p>
Visitors/Visiting Tutors/coaches	Risk of inappropriate behaviour/harm by school personnel/peers/older children/extra personnel.	<p>Statutory vetting requirements in place.</p> <p>Always with teacher supervision.</p> <p>Code of Behaviour & normal policies & procedures adhered to.</p>
School Tours/ Outings	<p>Risk of inappropriate behaviour/harm by school personnel/other pupils/stranger/a person employed at the tour venue</p> <p>A child straying from the group</p> <p>Danger posed by unfamiliar environments</p>	<p>Code of Behaviour.</p> <p>Anti- Bullying policy.</p> <p>Adequate Supervision.</p> <p>SNA accompanying where needed with child allocated same.</p> <p>Children & staff adhere to policies & procedures in place at venue.</p> <p>Statutory vetting requirements in place for all accompanying adults.</p> <p>Phones/Electronics/Smart watches not permitted</p>
Access/Egress	Access to pupils by strangers	Doors locked during the day

		<p>Fob system in place to gain access to school building</p> <p>Sign out system in operation</p>
Care of Children with special needs, including intimate care needs	Risk of inappropriate behaviour/harm by school personnel	<p>Statutory vetting requirements in place.</p> <p>Policy on intimate care.</p> <p>Communication with parents and written instructions sought where necessary + permission of parents sought.</p> <p>Child Safeguarding Statement.</p> <p>Whole staff Child Protection training.</p>
Classroom teaching	Risk of inappropriate behaviour/harm by school personnel	<p>Statutory vetting requirements in place.</p> <p>Glass panel in classroom doors</p> <p>Code of behaviour</p> <p>Where possible staff should not be alone in a classroom with one child</p> <p>Staff child protection training.</p>
Managing of challenging behaviour amongst pupils	Risk of injury to other pupils.	<p>Statutory vetting requirements in place.</p> <p>Code of Behaviour.</p> <p>Early intervention by teacher/SNA where possible to prevent escalation – identification of triggers.</p>

		Regular communication with parents/relevant support agencies. Child Safeguarding Statement.
Outdoor Recreation breaks for pupils Indoor Recreation breaks for pupils on wet days.	Risk of inappropriate behaviour/harm by other pupils.	Code of Behaviour. Anti- Bullying policy. Designated play areas and rotas of equipment use Teacher Supervision rota in place RSE, Stay Safe, Walk Tall, SPHE programmes taught. Classroom doors kept open during these breaks. SNA supervision in classes where SNA works.
Outdoor teaching activities on school grounds	Risk of inappropriate behaviour/harm by school personnel/other pupils	Code of Behaviour. Child safeguarding training. Teacher Supervision. Children allocated an SNA due to concerns re: flight risk will be accompanied by that SNA. Statutory vetting requirements in place.

Administration of First Aid	Inappropriate behaviour/harm by school personnel /peers/unknown persons	Administration of Medicine/First Aid Policy Trained First Aiders on staff. (To be arranged) First aid administered in a public area where possible. Statutory vetting requirements in place.
Use of Information and Communication Technology by staff & pupils in school	Risk of inappropriate behaviour/harm by school personnel/older pupils/peers /unknown persons. Risk of viewing/accessing inappropriate material on YouTube. Risk of Bullying	Code of Behaviour. Anti-Bullying Policy. Acceptable Use of ICT policy. Mobile phone policy. ICT used under teacher supervision. YouTube protocol sanctioned and in place.
Swimming	Inappropriate behaviour/harm by school personnel /peers/unknown persons	Statutory vetting requirements in place for all school adult volunteers. Code of Behaviour Anti -Bullying policy. Swimming Protocol in place. Trained lifeguards in pool. Teacher, SNA (where applicable) & adult supervision.

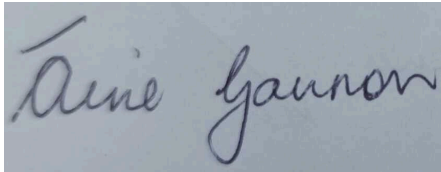
		<p>Adherence to policies & procedures in place at said venue.</p> <p>Staff remain in public area outside individual cubicles.</p>
After school sporting events	Risk of inappropriate behaviour/harm by school personnel/other pupils	<p>Statutory vetting requirements in place.</p> <p>Code of behaviour.</p> <p>Teacher supervision</p>
Students participating in work experience in the school.	Risk of harm to children by work experience students.	<p>Statutory vetting requirements in place.</p> <p>Work experience students are always under teacher supervision.</p> <p>Work Experience Policy</p>
Student teachers undertaking training placement in school	<p>Risk of inappropriate behaviour/harm by student teachers.</p> <p>Risk of harm not recognised and reported properly.</p> <p>Risk of lack of knowledge of school procedures/policies.</p>	<p>Statutory vetting requirements in place.</p> <p>Initial orientation meeting with principal/Deputy</p> <p>Asked to familiarise themselves with school policies and procedures.</p> <p>Under class teacher supervision.</p> <p>Liaison with Teacher Training College.</p> <p>Child Safe Guarding statement.</p> <p>Code of Behaviour.</p>

Toilet Areas	Risk of inappropriate behaviour	Supervision Policy One child at a time at outdoor toilet
School Transport Arrangements	Risk of inappropriate behaviour/ Bullying	Ongoing monitoring and supervision
Curricular provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe etc	Non teaching of same	School implements SPHE, RESE and Stay Safe programmes in full Cuntas Míosúil completed each fortnight/month detailing teaching of same
Use of video/photography/other media to record school events	Parents videoing children and uploading	Internet Acceptable Use Policy Reminder at events about social media to respect the privacy of pupils. Permission sought on enrolment form for childrens photos to be used on Website
Use of Online Teaching and learning activities	Harm by unknown persons joining online classes and harm from viewing inappropriate material	All online classes will be scheduled by the teacher and safety measures will be in place, requiring access codes. All online material will be previewed by the teacher before being shared and only secure sites and links will be used. Teachers will use a secure education platform such as Seesaw or similar to communicate with pupils, to allocate, to correct and to monitor assignments.

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 **8th October 2024** It was reviewed as part of the school's annual review of its Child Safeguarding Statement.

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Signed:
Chairperson, Board of Management

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Colm Gallagher".

Signed:
Principal