

AGHABULLOGUE N.S. Child Safeguarding Statement

Aghabullogue NS 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 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 Aghabullogue NS 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: ____Con McDonnell_____
- 3 The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is: __Laura Cronin_____
- 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. 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; and
 - f. fully respect confidentiality requirements in dealing with child protection matters
- 5 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 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.
 - 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
- e. 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.
- 6 All registered teachers employed by the school are mandated persons under the Children First Act 2015
- 7 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
- 8 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.
This child protection policy works in tandem with the Code of Behaviour and the Anti-Bullying Policy. As well as this the school has outlined particular best-practice guidelines for certain instances where particular diligence with regard to Child Protection is paramount. These are listed in Appendix along with relevant contact numbers.
- 9 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.
- 10 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 7th March 2018

Signed: _____ Joseph Healy _____

Signed: _____ Con McDonnell _____

Chairperson of BoM

Principal/Secretary to the BoM

Date: _____ 7th March 2018 _____

Date: _____ 7th March 2018 _____

Appendix A:

School Practices:

The staff and board of management of this school have identified the following areas of specific concern in relation to child protection. Following discussion and consultation the staff and the board of management have agreed the following practices to be adopted.

Toileting Accidents:

Parents of child to be rung immediately. Two members of staff to be present, usually the class teacher and the SNA to assist the child in changing if necessary. The procedure as regards changing will be made known to parents of children in infant classes. If a parent wishes to come to school to change their own child, they can inform the school of this and it will be noted in writing.

Classroom Changing for PE:

A class teacher will be present at the door of room when children are changing. Any child who wishes to, can use the bathroom for changing.

Swimming: An adult will be present in each changing room, Male in the Male and Female in the Female changing room.

Events outside of school during the school day: If a bus is not required, parents are asked to arrange their own lifts for children travelling to events during the school day. A consent form needs to be signed to allow children travel in lifts.

Altar-Serving: Parents must sign a school consent form to take part in serving of a mass during school hours.

Visitor/Guests Speakers/External Students : Are not left alone with children without a staff member present. The school or board of management checks out the credentials of the visitor or guest speaker and ensures that the content /material in use is appropriate.

CHILD PROTECTION CONTACT LIST

Designated Liaison Person: Mr Con McDonnell 021-7334727 / 086-3620329

Health Service Executive South (South Lee Social Work Dept): 021-4923001

HSE Lo-Call No: 1850 241850

Gardaí: 021-4214680

Chairperson: Joe Healy 087-2456344

AGHABULLOGUE N.S. Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment of any potential harm

List of School Activities	Risk Level	The School has identified the following Risk of Harm	The School has the following Procedures in place to address risk identified in this assessment
Classroom Teaching	Low	Risk of child being harmed in the school by a member of school personnel	All Staff are Garda vetted, all classrooms have glass panels and windows to aid monitoring of staff behaviour.
One to one teaching	Medium	Risk of child being harmed in the school by a member of school personnel	All Staff are Garda vetted, all classrooms have glass panels and windows to aid monitoring of staff behaviour. Teaching in support area is encouraged to take place in small groups or in-class. A parental consent form is signed to avail of Learning Support
Care of Children with special needs, including intimate care needs	Medium	Risk of child being harmed in the school by a member of school personnel	All Staff are Garda vetted, all classrooms have glass panels and windows to aid monitoring of staff behaviour. Activities to take place in small groups or in-class and policy for intimate care needs is to have another adult present.
Curricular Provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay safe.	Medium	Bullying, in particular Online/Phone	Specific lessons on bullying are done in every class, as well as having a friendship week. Mobile phones are banned in the school and older classes and parents receive specific lessons on on-line bullying and internet awareness.
Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils	Medium	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of pupils before school starts	School educates parents as to what time drop-off is at.
External Visitors for Learning	Low	Risk of child being harmed in the school by an outside visitor	Always a staff member present with visitors
Recreation breaks for pupils	Low	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of pupils	Currently 2 teachers and an SNA on yard with pupils which is adequate supervision
Fundraising events involving pupils	Low	Risk of child being harmed in the school by someone outside of school personnel	Policy that children do not take part in fundraising events and if they do they must be accompanied by their own parents

Out of School Activities	Medium	Risk of child being harmed in the school by someone outside of school personnel particularly when events involve just a few pupils e.g. Lifts to matches from parents/staff, 5/7 a side blitzes, altar-serving and practice	Consent forms needed for all out of school activities
Recruitment of school personnel including	Low	Risk of child being harmed in the school by a member of school personnel	All staff are garda vetted and trained in child protection procedures
Students participating in work experience in the school or Student teachers undertaking training placement in school	Low	Risk of child being harmed in the school by someone outside of school personnel	Policy is that such students are never left alone without a member of staff supervising
Use of video/photography/other media to record school events	Low	Risk of inappropriate access/circulation of material	Consent forms signed by parents and no children's names put with pictures published

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 7th March 2018. It will be reviewed as part of the school's annual review of its Child Safeguarding Statement.

Signed _____ Joseph Healy _____ Date ____7th March 2018____ Chairperson, Board of Management

Signed _____ Con McDonnell _____ Date ____7th March 2018____ Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management