



Child Safeguarding Statement of ETSS Wicklow

School Address: Crinion Park, Wicklow Town

Roll number: 68345R

School Patron/s: Educate Together

Educate Together Secondary School, Wicklow is a post-primary school in its first year providing post-primary education to first year pupils. The Board of Management formally adapts without modification the **Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools 2017**.

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 Educate Together Secondary School, Wicklow 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: **Principal**
- 3 The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is: **Deputy-Principal**
- 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.
- 5 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;
- 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 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), **Educate Together Secondary School Wicklow:**

- (a) Has provided each member of staff with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement
- (b) Ensures all new staff are provided with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement
- (c) Encourages staff to avail of relevant training
- (d) Encourages Board of Management members to avail of relevant training
- (e) 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 abovenamed 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 attached as an appendix to this 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.

7 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.

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 06 October 2020.

Review and evaluation of this Child Safeguarding Statement: 06 October 2020

APPENDIX:

RISK ASSESSMENT

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 for ETSS Wicklow in as far as is reasonably practicable:

LIST OF SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

1. Students arriving at the school
2. Students leaving the school
3. Classroom teaching
4. Movement between classes
5. Recreation breaks
6. Small group teaching
7. One-to-one teaching
8. One-to-one counselling
9. Sports activities
10. School outings
11. School trips (involving overnight stays in Ireland)
12. School trips (involving travelling abroad)
13. Use of toilets
14. Use of changing rooms
15. Sports Day
16. Fundraising events
17. Off-site facilities
18. School transport arrangements
19. Care of students with special educational needs
20. ASD Unit
21. Management of challenging behaviour by students
22. Administration of medicine
23. Administration of First Aid
24. Curriculum provision in respect of SPHE and RSE
25. Prevention of bullying amongst students
26. Dealing with bullying amongst students
27. Training of school personnel in child protection
28. Use of external personnel to support the curriculum
29. Use of external personnel to support sports and other extra-curricular activities
30. Care of vulnerable students (e.g. ethnic minorities/travellers/Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual or Transgender students (LGBT students) /students perceived to be LGBT/students of minority religions/children in care)
31. Recruitment of staff – including teachers, SNA's, caretaker, secretary, cleaners, sports coaches, guest speakers, volunteers and visitors
32. Use of information and communication technology (ICT) in school
33. Application of sanctions under the school's code of behaviour
34. Use of media to record school events
35. Renting the school out in the summer
36. Clubs for co-curricular activities: Book Club, Homework Club, Music Club, Media Club, Art Club, Debate Club, sports clubs, Athletics club;

THE SCHOOL HAS IDENTIFIED THE FOLLOWING RISKS IN RELATION TO THESE ACTIVITIES:

1. Staff not adequately recognising a risk to safety of students
2. Staff not reporting risks to safety of students in a timely manner
3. Risk of harm caused by staff
4. Risk of harm caused by other students
5. Risk of harm by volunteers or visitors
6. Risk of harm by staff at external venues
7. Risk of harm due to bullying
8. Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision in the school
9. Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision on excursions
10. Risk of harm due to inappropriate relationship/communications between students and adults
11. Risk of harm due to inappropriate use of computers, social media, phones or other devices while at school
12. Risk of harm to children with special educational needs (SEN) who have particular vulnerabilities
13. Risk of harm to students due to inadequate code of behaviour
14. Risk of harm in one-to-one situations

THE SCHOOL HAS THE FOLLOWING PROCEDURES IN PLACE TO ADDRESS THE RISKS OF HARM IDENTIFIED:

1. All staff are provided with a copy of the ***Child Safeguarding Statement***
2. ***The Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017*** are made available to all staff
3. Staff are required to comply with ***The Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017*** and to the ***Children First Act 2015***
4. The school implements in full the well-being programme at Junior Cycle
5. The school encourages the Board of Management and staff to avail of relevant training to child protection
6. The school has an anti-bullying policy which fully adheres to the requirements of the ***DES Anti-Bullying Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools***
7. The school has a supervision policy to ensure adequate supervision of students in all situations throughout the school day
8. The school has clear procedures for excursions
9. The school has a ***Health & Safety Policy***
10. The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation and relevant DES circulars in relation to recruitment and Garda vetting
11. The school has a code of conduct for all staff
12. The school complies with the agreed disciplinary procedures for teaching and non-teaching staff
13. The school has a ***SEN Policy***
14. The school has a ***First Aid Team***
15. The school has a ***Code of Behaviour***
16. The school has ***An Acceptable Use of ICT Policy***
17. The School has a ***Critical Incident Policy***
18. The school has clear home-school communications protocols
19. The school has protocols in relation to one-to-one situations

NOTE: Risk in the context of this risk assessment is the risk of ‘harm’ as defined in the *Children First Act 2015* and not a 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*.

In undertaking this risk assessment, the Board of Management has worked 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 or 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 extent possible.

This risk assessment was completed in October 2020

It shall be reviewed as part of the school’s annual review of the Child Safeguarding Statement.