

Child Safeguarding Statement



Cork Educate Together National School (ETNS) recognises that child protection and welfare considerations permeate all aspects of school life and must be reflected in all of the school's policies, practices and activities. Accordingly, this child safeguarding statement, in accordance with the requirements of the Department of Education and Skills' Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools 2017, is implemented.

I. Child Safeguarding Statement

Cork Educate Together National School (ETNS) 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 Cork ETNS 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 Maura O'Riordan
- 3 The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is Katie Duggan
- 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.

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:
- 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 in Section III of these procedures.

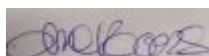
- 8 The various procedures referred to in this Statement can be accessed via the school's website, the DES website or will be made available on request by the school (some are included in Section IV).

- 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 November 30, 2021.

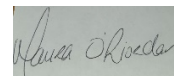
Signed:



Chairperson of BoM

Date: 30/11/2021

Signed:



Principal

Date: 30/11/2021

The Child Safeguarding Statement will be reviewed by the Board of Management in November 2022.

II. School Profile

School Details:

Name: Cork Educate Together National School (CETNS)

Address: Grattan Street Cork City

Telephone: 021 4275640

Email: corketns@gmail.com

Roll Number: 19906G

Principal: Maura O’Riordan

School start/end times are as follows:

Start Time:	End Time:
8.50 am	1.30 pm/2.30 pm

The school gates open at 8.35am. Children will be supervised in the yard until they are collected by their class teacher in the yard.

General Information:

Cork Educate Together National School (CETNS) is under the patronage of The Executive Committee. It is based on four key principles: Child-centered, Co-educational, Democratic and Equality-based.

Cork Educate Together National School (ETNS) follows the curricular programmes prescribed by the Department of Education and Science, which may be amended from time to time, in accordance with Sections 9 and 30 of the Education Act (1998).

III. 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
Training of school personnel in Child Protection matters	High	Harm not recognised or reported promptly	Child Safeguarding Statement & DES procedures made available to all staff DLP& DDLP to attend Professional Development Service for Teachers (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	Med	Harm by school personnel	Open doors Glass in window (which is not obstructed)
Care of Children with special needs, including intimate care needs	High	Harm by school personnel	Policy on intimate care (2 people present)
Toilet areas	High	Inappropriate behaviour	Usage and supervision policy (child asks teacher to leave the yard and reports back to the teacher on return to yard)
Curricular Provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay safe.	Med	Non-teaching of same	School implements Social, Personal, Health Education (SPHE), Relationships, Sexuality Education (RSE), Stay Safe in full
Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual Transgender (LGBT) Children/Pupils perceived to be LGBT	Low	Bullying	Anti-Bullying Policy Code of Behaviour Learn Together SPHE Educate Together Ethos

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
Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils	High	Harm from older pupils, unknown adults on the playground	Arrival and dismissal supervised by Teachers Regular BoM communication to parents regarding arrival and dismissal Lock in operation on inside school gate
Managing of challenging behaviour amongst pupils, including appropriate use of restraint	High	Injury to pupils and staff	Health and Safety Policy Code Of Behaviour Managing Challenging Behaviour Policy
Sports Coaches	Med	Harm to pupils	Procedures in place – the teacher always remains with the class External coaches are Garda Vetted
Recreation breaks for pupils	High	Harm to pupils	Appropriate supervision in place
Classroom teaching	Low	Harm to pupils inappropriately accessing/using computers, social media, phones	All staff are Garda Vetted Appropriate supervision & classroom management is in place
Outdoor teaching activities	Med	Harm to pupils Injury to pupils and staff	Health and Safety Policy Code of Behaviour Supervision (at least 2 adults at all times)
Extra-curricular activities	Med	Harm to pupils	All providers are Garda Vetted All providers have their own insurance
School outings	High	Harm to pupils Injury to pupils and staff	Health and Safety Policy Code of Behaviour Supervision (at least 2 adults at all times)
Annual Sports Day	Med	Harm to pupils Injury to pupils and staff	Health and Safety Policy Code of Behaviour
Fundraising events involving pupils	Low	Harm to pupils Injury to pupils and staff	Health and Safety Policy Code of Behaviour

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
Administration of Medicine Administration of First Aid	Med	Harm to pupils	Parents will be asked to administer medicines Health and Safety Policy
Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst pupils	Med	Harm to pupils	Anti-Bullying Policy SPHE Stay Safe Code of Behaviour Learn Together
Care of pupils with specific vulnerabilities/ needs such as <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pupils from ethnic minorities/migrants • Members of the Traveller community • LGBT children • Pupils perceived to be LGBT • Pupils of minority religious faiths • Children in care • Children on Child Protection Notification System (CPNS) 	Low	Bullying	Anti-Bullying Policy Code of Behaviour Learn Together SPHE Educate Together ethos
Recruitment of school personnel including - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 	High	Harm not recognised or properly or promptly reported	Child Safeguarding Statement & DES procedures made available to all staff Staff to view Tusla training module & any other online training offered by PDST Vetting Procedures Communications and Confidentiality Policy for Parents / Volunteers

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Visitors/contractors present during after school activities 			Health and Safety Policy for Visiting Contractors
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
Use of Information and Communication Technology by pupils in school	Low	Bullying	Information and Communications Technology (ICT) policy Anti-Bullying Policy Code of Behaviour Acceptable Usage Policy
Use of video/photography/other media to record school events	Med	Harm to pupils	Private recordings not permitted
School gatherings	High	Harm to pupils; use of social media	Communications and Confidentiality Policy Code of Behaviour
Visitors to school	Med	Harm to pupils	Communications and Confidentiality Policy Code of Behaviour Teacher present at all times Maglock in operation at school gates
Access to school sites	Med	Harm to pupils	Health and Safety Policy Secured gates Release lock in operation at school gates
Swimming	High	Harm to pupils	Aquatics policy Health and Safety Policy Appropriate supervision
PE (use of sports hall)	Med	Harm to pupils	Code of Behaviour Health and Safety Policy
Yard Times	Med	Harm to pupils	Supervision rota in place Health and Safety Policy
Transfer to sports facilities	High	Harm to pupils	2 adults at all times move between premises Health and Safety Policy

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*.

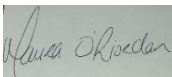
In undertaking this risk assessment, the board of management has endeavoured to identify as far as possible the risks of harm that are relevant to this school and to ensure that adequate procedures are in place to manage all risks identified. While it is not possible to foresee and remove all risk of 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 30/11/2021. It will be reviewed as part of the school’s annual review of its Child Safeguarding Statement.

Signed 

Date: 30/11/2021

Chairperson, Board of Management

Signed 

Date 30/11/2021

Principal

Policies, Protocols and Practices

The School management has ensured that the necessary policies, protocols or practices as appropriate are in place.

Accidents

While every precaution will be taken under our Health and Safety Policy to ensure the safety of children, we realise that accidents will happen. Accidents will be noted in our Incident book and will be addressed under our accident policy as part of Health and Safety.

Attendance

Our school attendance will be monitored. With regards to child protection we will pay particular attention to trends in nonattendance. We will also monitor non-attendance in correlation with signs of neglect/physical/emotional abuse.

Behaviour

Children are encouraged at all times to play co-operatively and inappropriate behaviour will be addressed under our Code of Behaviour. If an incident occurs which we consider to be of a sexualised nature we will notify the DLP who will record it and respond to it appropriately.

Bullying

Bullying behaviour will be addressed under our Anti-Bullying policy. If the behaviour involved is of a sexualised nature or regarded as being particularly abusive then the matter will be referred to the DLP.

Children travelling in staff cars

Members of the school staff will not carry children alone in their cars at any time.

Communication

Every effort will be made to enhance pupil-teacher communication. If pupils have concerns they will be listened to sympathetically. The SPHE/Oral Language/RE programmes allow for open pupil-teacher communication, which is hoped will aid the pupil-teacher relationship. If teachers have to communicate with pupils on a one-to-one basis, they are requested to leave the classroom door open.

Induction of Teachers and Ancillary Staff

The DLP will be responsible for informing all new teachers and ancillary staff of the Children First Guidelines & Child Protection Procedures DES, these may be accessed on the school Padlet. Every member of staff will be given a copy of the Child Safeguarding Statement. All new teachers are expected to teach the objectives in the SPHE programme. The principal is responsible for supporting new teachers as they implement the SPHE objectives.

Induction of Pupils

All parents and children will be made aware of attendance rules and their implications as laid down in the Education Welfare Act. All parents will be informed of the programmes in place in the school that deal with personal development e.g. RSE, Walk Tall, Stay Safe and SPHE. Parents are encouraged to make an appointment with the class teacher/principal if they wish to discuss their child's progress. All parents are given a copy of the school's Code of Behaviour and Anti-Bullying policies.

Physical Contact

Physical contact between school personnel and the child should always be 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 should be factors in determining its appropriateness:-

- i. It is acceptable to the child
- ii. It is open and not secretive
- iii. The age and developmental stage of the child

Record Keeping

Roll books will be updated daily as per our Attendance Policy. Sensitive information will be recorded and communicated only to the DLP or deputy DLP if necessary. Sensitive information regarding children will be shared on a need-to-know basis.

Supervision

School supervision policy will be followed by all staff to ensure that there is comprehensive supervision of children at all breaks and before and after school as per our Health and Safety Policy. The principal and In-School Management Team will be involved in before/after school supervision. A further rota will be displayed to cover the lunchtime breaks.

See Health and Safety Policy/Administration and Organisation Policy for agreed rules around break-times.

Toileting: Children with Specific Toileting / Intimate Care Needs

In all situations where a pupil needs assistance with toileting / intimate care, a meeting will be convened after enrolment and before the child starts school, between parents / guardians, class teacher, special needs assistant, principal and if appropriate, the pupil. The purpose of the meeting will be to ascertain the specific needs of the child and to determine how the school can best meet those needs. The staff to be involved in this care will be identified and provision will be made for occasions when the particular staff involved are absent. A written copy of what has been agreed will be made and kept in the child's file. Any deviation from the agreed procedure will be recorded and notified to the DLP and the parents / guardians.

Toileting

Clean underwear and suitable clothing will be kept in the school so that if a pupil has an 'accident', they will in the first instance be offered fresh clothing into which they can change.

Parents/guardians will receive a letter explaining the school's practice regarding toileting. This includes an opt-in clause that parents/guardians will sign if they wish their child to be assisted with toileting if the need arises (see Appendix 2). This form will be kept in the child's file. If the pupil, for whatever reason, cannot clean or change themselves the child will be assisted by members of staff familiar to the child. A record of all such incidents (see Appendix 3) will be kept in the classroom toilet and principal and parents will be notified.

Should permission not be granted for a pupil to be assisted with toileting the parents/guardians will be contacted immediately and will be requested to come and provide assistance to their child.

Visibility

Teachers will ensure that children are visible in the schoolyard. Children will not be allowed to spend time in classrooms, toilets or where they would not be under adult supervision for prolonged periods of time. They are not to leave the school yard or to engage with adults who are outside of the school yard.

One to One Teaching

Parental permission required.

Visitors

Teachers on yard duty will be aware of visitors entering the schoolyard and will ascertain their intentions. They will be supervised in the discharge of their business.

Visitors / Guest Speakers/parent helpers

Visitors/guest speakers/parent helpers should never be left alone with pupils. The school (principal/teachers) have a collective responsibility to check out the credentials of the visitor/speaker and to ensure that any material in use by guests is appropriate.

Individual Staff Declaration

I have read the Child Protection Policy and agree to adopt and abide by all guidelines set out within it.

Staff Member: _____ Date: _____

Appendix 1: Checklist for Review of the Child Safeguarding Statement

The *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017* requires the Board of Management to undertake a review of its Child Safeguarding Statement and that the following checklist will be used for this purpose. The review must be completed every year or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which the Child Safeguarding Statement refers. Undertaking an annual review will also ensure that a school also meets its statutory obligation under section 11(8) of the Children First Act 2015, to review its Child Safeguarding Statement every two years.

The checklist is designed as an aid to conducting this review and is not intended as an exhaustive list of the issues to be considered. Individual Boards of Management shall include other items in the checklist that are of relevance to the school in question.

As part of the overall review process, Boards of Management should also assess relevant school policies, procedures, practices and activities vis-a-

vis their adherence to the principles of best practice in child protection and welfare as set out in the school's Child Safeguarding Statement, the Children First Act 2015 and the *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017*

Mandatory Template 3: Checklist for Review of the Child Safeguarding Statement

The *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017* require that the Board of Management must undertake a review of its Child Safeguarding Statement and that the following checklist shall be used for this purpose. The review must be completed every year or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which the Child Safeguarding Statement refers. Undertaking an annual review will also ensure that a school also meets its statutory obligation under section 11(8) of the Children First Act 2015, to review its Child Safeguarding Statement every two years.

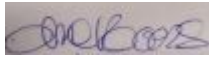
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As part of the overall review process, Boards of Management should also assess relevant school policies, procedures, practices and activities vis a vis their adherence to the principles of best practice in child protection and welfare as set out in the school's Child Safeguarding Statement, the Children First Act 2015 and the *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017*.

	Yes/No
1. Has the Board formally adopted a Child Safeguarding Statement in accordance with the 'Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools 2017'?	Yes
2. As part of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement, has the Board formally adopted, without modification, the 'Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools 2017'?	Yes
3. Does the school's Child Safeguarding Statement include a written assessment of risk as required under the Children First Act 2015?	Yes
4. Has the Board reviewed and updated where necessary the written assessment of risk as part of this overall review?	Yes
5. Has the DLP attended available child protection training? Training unavailable due to Covid Restrictions	No
6. Has the Deputy DLP attended available child protection training?	Yes
7. Have any members of the Board attended child protection training?	No
8. Are there both a DLP and a Deputy DLP currently appointed?	Yes
9. Are the relevant contact details (Tusla and An Garda Síochána) to hand?	Yes
10. Has the Board arrangements in place to communicate the school's Child Safeguarding Statement to new school personnel?	Yes
11. Is the Board satisfied that all school personnel have been made aware of their responsibilities under the 'Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools 2017' and the Children First Act 2015?	Yes
12. Has the Board received a Principals Child Protection Oversight Report (CPOR) at each Board meeting held since the last review was undertaken?	Yes
13. Since the Board's last review, did each CPOR contain all of the information required under each of the 4 headings set out in sections 9.5 to 9.8 inclusive of the procedures?	Yes
14. Since the Board's last review, has the Board been provided with and reviewed all documents relevant to the CPOR?	Yes
15. Since the Board's last review, have the minutes of each Board meeting appropriately recorded the records provided to the Board as part of CPOR report?	Yes
16. Have the minutes of each Board meeting appropriately recorded the CPOR report?	Yes
17. Is the Board satisfied that the child protection procedures in relation to the making of reports to Tusla/An Garda Síochána were appropriately followed in each case reviewed?	Yes

18. Is the Board satisfied that, since the last review, all appropriate actions are being or have been taken in respect of any member of school personnel against whom an allegation of abuse or neglect has been made?*	Yes
19. Where applicable, were unique identifiers used to record child protection matters in the Board minutes?	Yes
20. Is the Board satisfied that all records relating to child protection are appropriately filed and stored securely?	Yes
21. Has the Board been notified by any parent in relation to that parent not receiving the standard notification required under section 5.6 of the 'Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools 2017'?	No
22. In relation to any cases identified at question 21 above, has the Board ensured that any notifications required under section 5.6 of the 'Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools 2017' were subsequently issued by the DLP?	N/A
23. Has the Board ensured that the Parents' Association (if any), has been provided with the school's Child Safeguarding Statement?	Yes
24. Has the Board ensured that the patron has been provided with the school's Child Safeguarding Statement?	Yes
25. Has the Board ensured that the school's Child Safeguarding Statement is available to parents on request?	Yes
26. Has the Board ensured that the Stay Safe programme is implemented in full in the school? (applies to primary schools)	YES
27. Has the Board ensured that the Wellbeing Programme for Junior Cycle students is implemented in full in the school? (applies to post- primary schools)	N/A
28. Has the Board ensured that the SPHE curriculum is implemented in full in the school?	Yes
29. Is the Board satisfied that the statutory requirements for Garda Vetting have been met in respect of all school personnel (employees and volunteers)? *	Yes
30. Is the Board satisfied that the Department's requirements in relation to the provision of a child protection related statutory declaration and associated form of undertaking have been met in respect of persons appointed to teaching and non-teaching positions?*	Yes
31. Is the Board satisfied that, from a child protection perspective, thorough recruitment and selection procedures are applied by the school in relation to all school personnel (employees and volunteers)?	Tes
32. Has the Board considered and addressed any complaints or suggestions for improvements regarding the school's Child Safeguarding Statement?	N/A
33. Has the Board sought the feedback of parents in relation to the school's compliance with the requirements of the child safeguarding requirements of the 'Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools 2017'?	Yes
34. Has the Board sought the feedback of pupils in relation to the school's child safeguarding arrangements?	Yes
35. Is the Board satisfied that the 'Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools 2017' are being fully and adequately implemented by the school?	Yes
36. Has the Board identified any aspects of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement and/or its implementation that require further improvement?	Yes
37. Has the Board put in place an action plan containing appropriate timelines to address those aspects of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement and/or its implementation that have been identified as requiring further improvement ?	Yes
38. Has the Board ensured that any areas for improvement that were identified in any previous review of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement have been adequately addressed?	Yes

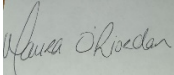
Signed



Date 30/11/2021

Chairperson, Board of Management

Signed
Principal



Date 30/11/2021