



## Child Safeguarding Statement

07/09/2023

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The Intermediate School Killorglin is a post-primary school providing post-primary education to pupils from First Year to Leaving Certificate.

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 Manager of The Intermediate School, Killorglin has agreed the Child Safeguarding Statement set out in this document.

1. The Manager 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. Joe O'Dwyer**
3. The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is: **Mr. James O'Mahony**
4. The Relevant Person is: **Mr. Joe O'Dwyer**
5. The Manager 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 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 the Manager to avail of relevant training
  - The Manager maintains records of all staff and Manager 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 Manager 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.

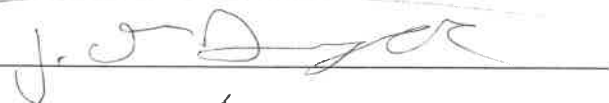
**Note:** The above is not intended as an exhaustive list. The Manager shall also include in this section such other procedures/measures that are of relevance to the school in question.

- . 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 Trustees. 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.
7. 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 Manager on 03/09/2021.

This Child Safeguarding Statement was reviewed by the Manager on 07/09/2023.

Ratified by:



Date:





## Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment

### Written Assessment of Risk of Intermediate School

#### Killorglin

07/09/2023

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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 The Intermediate School, Killorglin.

#### 1. List of school activities

- Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils
- Recreation breaks for pupils - 11:00 break and lunch
- Classroom teaching
- One-to-one teaching
- Online teaching and learning remotely
- Outdoor teaching activities
- Learning support including one-to-one learning support
- Guidance counselling
- One-to-one counselling
- Care of children with special educational needs, including intimate care where needed
- Care of any vulnerable adult students, including intimate care where needed
- In-house examinations
- State examinations
- Art therapy
- Music lessons
- Mentoring
- Sports training and activities - GAA, Hockey, Gym, Rugby, Soccer, Tennis, Basketball, Foolsol etc
- First Aid training
- School trips and outings
- School tours involving overnight stay
- School tours involving foreign travel
- Trips to support class teaching and learning
- Use of toilet/changing/shower facilities in school
- Religious services - mass, confession etc
- Staff training and cpd
- Extra-curricular activities - debating, public speaking, quizzes, science competitions, sporting activities, school shows, concerts, fashion show

- Open day visits
- Work experience
- School visitations to the Day Care centre
- Curricular provision in respect of SPHE, RSE and Stay Safe
- Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst pupils
- Transport of pupils arranged by the school
- Fundraising events involving pupils
- School Open Day
- First year sports day
- Annual barbecue
- Entrance examination for incoming first year pupils
- Administration of medicine
- Administration of First Aid
- School transport arrangements including use of bus escorts
- Management of challenging behaviour amongst pupils, including appropriate use of restraint where needed
- Training of school personnel in child protection matters
- Care of pupils with specific vulnerabilities/needs such as:
  - Pupils from ethnic minorities/ migrants
  - Members of the Traveller community
  - Lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender (LGBTQI+) children
  - Pupils perceived to be LGBTQI+
  - Pupils of minority religious faiths
  - Children in care
  - Children on TUSLA's CPNS (Child Protection Notification System)
  - Children with medical needs
- Recruitment of school personnel including:
  - Teachers
  - Special Needs Assistants
  - Caretaker/Secretary/Cleaners
  - Sports coaches
  - External tutors/Guest speakers
  - Volunteers/Parents in school activities
  - Visitors/contractors present in school during school hours
  - Visitors/contractors present during after school activities
- Participation by pupils in religious ceremonies/religious instruction external to the school
- Use of Information and Communication Technology by pupils in school as well as for school purposes, including social media
- Application of sanctions under the school's Code of Behaviour including detention of pupils, confiscation of phones etc.
- Student teachers undertaking training placement in the school
- Use of video/photography/other media to record school events

- Guest speakers and external personnel including those to support curriculum
- Use of off-site facilities for school activities
- Management of provision of food and drink
- Students participating in work experience in the school
- Students from the school participating in work experience elsewhere
- After school study
- Use of external personnel to support sports and other extra-curricular activities
- After school use of school premises by other organisations
- Use of school premises by other organisations during the school day.

## 2. The school has identified the following risk of harm in respect of its activities

- Risk of harm not being recognised by school personnel
- Risk of harm not being reported properly and promptly by school personnel
- Risk of child being harmed in the school by a member of school personnel
- Risk of child being harmed in the school by another child
- Risk of child being harmed in the school by the parent of another child
- Risk of child being harmed by a volunteer or visitor to the school
- Risk of child being harmed by a member of school personnel, a member of staff of another organisation or other person while the child is participating in out of school activities e.g. a school trip, swimming lessons
- Risk of harm due to inappropriate use of online remote teaching and learning communication platform such as an uninvited person accessing the lesson link, students being left for long periods of time in breakout rooms
- Risk of harm due to bullying or rejection of child
- Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children in school
- Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of child while attending out of school activities
- Risk of harm due to inappropriate relationship/communications between child and another child
- Risk of harm due to inappropriate relationship/ communications between child and an adult
- Risk of harm due to children inappropriately accessing/using computers, social media, phones and other devices while at school
- Risk of harm to children with special educational needs who have particular vulnerabilities including medical vulnerabilities
- Risk of harm to child while a child is receiving intimate care
- Risk of harm due to inadequate Code of Behaviour
- Risk of harm in one-to-one teaching, counselling, coaching, mentoring situation
- Risk of harm caused by member of school personnel communicating with pupils in inappropriate manner via social media, texting, digital device or other manner
- Risk of harm caused by member of school personnel accessing/circulating inappropriate material via social media, digital device or other manner
- Risk of harm due to inappropriate punishments and sanctions of a child
- Risk of harm due to inappropriate use of online remote teaching and learning communication platform such as uninvited person accessing the lesson link
- Risk of harm due to racism
- Risk of harm due to gender identity or sexuality-based discrimination.

3. The school has the following procedures in place to address the risks of harm identified in this assessment

- All school personnel are provided with a copy of the school's *Child Safeguarding Statement*
- The *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools (revised 2023)* are made available to all school personnel
- School personnel are required to adhere to the *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools (revised 2023)* and all registered teaching staff and Special Needs Assistants are required to adhere to the *Children First Act 2015* and its Addendum (2019)
- The school implements in full the Social, Personal and Health Education (SPHE) Programme
- The school implements in full the Relationships and Sexuality Education Programme (RSE)
- The school implements in full the Wellbeing Programme at Junior Cycle
- 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*
- The school undertakes anti-racism awareness initiatives
- The school has yard/playground supervision procedures to ensure appropriate supervision of children during assembly, dismissal and breaks and in respect of specific areas such as toilets, changing rooms etc.
- The school has in place a policy and clear procedures in respect of school outings
- The school has a Health and Safety Policy
- The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda Vetting legislation and relevant Department of Education circulars in relation to recruitment and Garda Vetting.
- The school has a Vetting Policy for all staff
- The school has a staff handbook for school personnel (teaching and non-teaching staff)
- The school complies with the agreed disciplinary procedures for teaching staff
- The school has a Special Educational Needs Policy.
- The school has an intimate care plan in respect of students who require such care.
- The school has in place procedures for the administration of medication to pupils
- The school -
  - Has provided each member of school 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 and management to avail of relevant training
  - Maintains records of all staff and management training



- The school has in place procedures for the administration of First Aid to pupils
- The school has in place a Code of Behaviour for pupils
- The school has in place an Acceptable Use Policy in respect of usage of ICT by pupils
- The Acceptable Use Policy includes provision for online teaching and learning remotely, and has communicated this policy to parents
- The school has in place a mobile phone policy in the Code of Behaviour in respect of usage of mobile phones and tablets by pupils as per circular 38/2018
- The school has in place a Critical Incident Management Policy and Plan
- The school has in place procedures for the use of external persons to supplement delivery of the curriculum
- The school has in place procedures for the use of external sports coaches
- The school has in place clear procedures for one-to-one teaching activities
- The school has in place procedures for one-to-one counselling
- The school has in place procedures in respect of student teacher placements
- The school has in place procedures in respect of students undertaking work experience in the school
- The school has in place procedures in respect of pupils of the school undertaking work experience in external organisations
- All visitors to the school report to reception on arrival and sign in and out using the Visitor Log book
- The school has ensured that all classrooms, music rooms, meeting rooms etc. have glass panels in the door
- The school has ensured that all teaching staff are registered with the Teaching Council and are familiar with the Teaching Council Code of Conduct
- The school ensures that students, in as much as is practicable, partake in activities in groups
- The school has ensured, as part of its ICT procedures, that staff do not use any personal equipment to record personal images or recordings of students
- The Manager of the school ensures that Child Protection Guidelines and Procedures are included at every staff meeting

**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 (revised 2023)*.

In undertaking this risk assessment, the Manager 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.

The risk assessment has been completed by the Manager on 29/04/2021. It shall be reviewed as part of the school's annual review of its Child Safeguarding Statement.

It has been reviewed on 07/09/2023

Signed: J. O'Byrne  
(Principal)

Date: 07/09/23

Ratified by: J. O'Byrne  
(Manager)

Date: 07/09/23