

Child Safeguarding Statement

Sliabh a' Mhadra 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 Child First (2019), General Data Protection Regulation, the Child Protection and Safeguarding Procedures for Boarding Facilities associated with recognised Schools 2023 and the Teaching Council Regulations 2023, the Board of Management of Sliabh a' Mhadra 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 Mr. Cathal White
- 3 The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is Mrs. Mary Wallace
- 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. 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.

- 5 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) 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 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 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.
 - 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 these procedures.
 - 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.
- 6 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.
- 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 Board of Management on _____

Signed: _____

Chairperson of Board of Management

Signed: _____

Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Date: _____

Date: _____

Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment

Written Assessment of Risk of Sliabh a' Mhadra 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 2017*, the following is the Written Risk Assessment of [name of school].

1. List of school activities	2. The school has identified the following risk of harm in respect of its activities –	3. The school has the following procedures in place to address the risks of harm identified in this assessment -
<p>Training of school personnel in Child Protection matters</p> <p>One to one teaching</p> <p>Care of Children with special needs, including intimate care needs</p>	<p>Harm not recognised or reported promptly</p> <p>Harm by school personnel</p> <p>Harm by school personnel</p> <p>Inappropriate</p>	<p>Child Safeguarding Statement & DES procedures made available to all staff</p> <p>DLP& DDLP to attend PDST face to face training All Staff to view Túsla training module & any other online training offered by PDST</p> <p>BOM records all records of staff and board training School has policy in place for one-to-one teaching Open doors Table between teacher and pupil Glass in window Professional code of conduct for teachers Correct recruitment procedures</p> <p>Policy on intimate care</p> <p>One child allowed in toilet during class teaching time</p>

Toilet areas	behaviour	Before/after lunch breaks -whole group supervision by teacher During lunch break-one child uses toilet at a time/teacher supervision
Curricular Provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay safe.	Non-teaching of same	School implements SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe in full Anti-Bullying Policy Code of Behaviour
LGBT Children/Pupils perceived to be LGBT	Bullying	Arrival and dismissal supervised by Teachers
Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils	Harm from older pupils, unknown adults on the playground	Health & Safety Policy Code Of Behaviour
Managing of challenging behaviour amongst pupils, including appropriate use of restraint	Injury to pupils and staff	Procedures in place - teacher present at all times/ Garda vetted/ ensure coaches are in training or fully trained
Use of external personnel to supplement curriculum	Harm to pupils	Work experience Policy Child Safeguarding Statement Teacher present at all times
Students participating in work experience	Harm by student	Teacher supervision of pupils at all times Staff yard rota in operation
Recreation breaks for pupils	Inappropriate behaviour	Professional code of conduct for teachers Correct recruitment procedures Vetting process
Classroom teaching	Inappropriate	

Outdoor teaching activities	behaviour	Code of behaviour Professional code of conduct for teachers Correct recruitment procedures
School Outings	Inappropriate behaviour Harm to pupils	Code of Behaviour Swimming Policy Procedures for school tours
Use of toilet/changing/shower areas outside of school	Inappropriate behaviour Harm to pupils	Code of Behaviour Swimming Policy Procedures for school tours
Administration of Medicine	Harm to pupils	Medical certification from Doctor Written permission from parents/parents supply medication Staff training in administrating medication Procedures in place Staff training in First Aid
First Aid	Inappropriate behaviour Harm to pupils	Anti-Bullying Policy Code of behaviour Child Safe Guarding Statement
Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst pupils	Inappropriate behaviour Harm to pupils Harm not recognised or properly or promptly reported	Code of professional conduct for teachers Anti-Bullying Policy Code of behaviour Child Safe Guarding Statement
<p>Care of pupils with specific vulnerabilities/ needs such as</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pupils from ethnic minorities/migrants • Members of the Traveller community 	Harm by school personnel Inappropriate behaviour	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender (LGBT) children • Pupils perceived to be LGBT • Pupils of minority religious faiths • Children in care • Children on CPNS <p>Use of sensory room</p>	<p>Harm not recognised or properly or promptly reported</p>	<p>Code of professional conduct for teachers Anti-Bullying Policy Code of behaviour Child Safe Guarding Statement Glass on door/door left open</p>
<p>Recruitment of school personnel including -</p> <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 • Visitors/contractors present during after school activities 	<p>Harm to pupils</p>	<p>Child Safeguarding Statement & DES procedures made available to all staff</p> <p>Staff to view Tusla training module & any other online training offered by PDST</p> <p>Vetting Procedures</p> <p>Garda vetting Teacher presence in the school Children not alone with visitor</p>
<p>Use of school premises by other organisations after school day</p>		<p>ICT policy Anti-Bullying Policy Code of Behaviour</p>
<p>Use of Information and Communication Technology by pupils in school.</p>	<p>Inappropriate use of material</p>	

