## Mandatory Template 1: Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment Template

## Child Safeguarding Statement

Barnacarroll National School 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 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 Board of Management of Barnacarroll National School 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 *(revised 2023)* as part of this overall Child Safeguarding Statement

2 The Designated Liaison Person (DLP) is Tom Forde

3 The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is Veronica Kavanagh

4 The Relevant Person is Tom Forde
*(The relevant person is one who can provide information in respect of how the child safeguarding statement was developed and will be able to provide the statement on request. In a school setting the relevant person shall be the designated liaison person.)*

5 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.

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 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 (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 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 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. Individual Boards of Management shall also include in this section such other procedures/measures that are of relevance to the school in question.

7 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.

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 20th March 2018.

This Child Safeguarding Statement was reviewed by the Board of Management on 16th of November 2023.

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| Signed: Fiachra Groarke | Signed: Tom Forde |
| Chairperson of Board of Management | Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management |
| Date: 16th Nov 2023 | Date: 16th Nov 2023 |

## Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment

### Written Assessment of Risk of Barnacarroll National School

In accordance with section 11 of the Children First Act 2015 and with the requirements of Chapter 8 of the *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools (revised 2023)*, the following is the Written Risk Assessment of Barnacarroll National school.

**1. List of school activities**

1. Curricular Provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay safe.
2. LGBT Children/Pupils perceived to be LGBT.
3. Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils.
4. Sports Coaches.
5. Use of external personnel to support the curriculum, sports and other extra-curricular activities.
6. Students participating in work experience.
7. Student Teachers undertaking training placement.
8. Participating in religious ceremonies.
9. Recreation breaks for pupils.
10. One to one teaching.
11. Classroom teaching.
12. Recruitment of Teachers, Special Needs Assistants and secretary (plus substitute).
13. School outings and activities including: school tours, church visits, science/engineers/maths week, musicals, field trips.
14. Use of toilet/changing/shower areas in schools or swimming pools.
15. School transport arrangements including use of bus escorts and bus drivers.
16. Management of challenging behaviour amongst pupils, including appropriate use of restraint where required.
17. Administration of Medicine.
18. Administration of First Aid.
19. Training of school personnel in Child Protection matters.
20. Care of Children with special needs, including intimate care needs.
21. Children accessing toilet areas.
22. School sports trips/matches.
23. Building works/ essential maintenance during school hours.
24. Use of ICT by pupils in school.
25. Volunteers/ Parents in school activities.
26. Annual sports day.
27. Use of off-site facilities for school facilities.
28. Prevention and dealing with Bullying amongst pupils.
29. Use of online learning platforms for periods of remote learning/ homework.
30. Use of video/photography/other media to record school events.
31. Implementing the Covid-19 Policy

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

1. Risk of harm by school personnel
2. Risk of harm by bullying
3. Risk of harm from older pupils, unknown adults on the playground.
4. Risk of harm by injury to pupils and staff
5. Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of pupils
6. Risk of harm due to inadequate Code of Discipline.
7. Risk of harm from other Parents.
8. Risk to harm of student from other students
9. Risk of harm to child by harm not being recognised by school personnel.
10. Risk of harm by child being harmed by a member of staff of another organisation or other person while child participating in out of school activities.
11. Risk of harm to children with SEN who have particular vulnerabilities.
12. Risk of being harmed by a member of staff due to insufficient training.
13. Risk of harm due to inadequate teaching of Stay Safe Programme/RSE /SPHE.
14. Risk of harm due to isolation by a member of staff
15. Risk of harm through harm not recognised or properly or promptly reported.
16. Risk of child being harmed in school by a volunteer/outside visitor/parent.
17. Risk of harm due to children inappropriately accessing computers, social media and phones while at school.
18. Risk of harm due to children inappropriately accessing computers/devices while learning remotely.
19. Risk of harm to child by teaching and non-teaching staff.
20. Risk of harm by inappropriate use of recording media by children, staff, parents and other external personnel.
21. Risk of harm due to building works/maintenance taking place in school and risks associated with having contractors in the school.
22. Risk of harm to children if using Covid-19 isolation areas.
23.

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

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

1. Child Safeguarding Statement & DES procedures made available to all staff.
2. Child Safeguarding Statement & DES procedures made available to all new members of staff.
3. DLP& DDLP to attend PDST face to face training.
4. All Staff to view Túsla training module & any other online training offered by PDST.
5. BOM records all of staff and board training
6. School has a statement in place on one to one teaching
7. Yard Supervision Policy.
8. Code of Behaviour Policy
9. Acceptable Use Policy
10. Health & Safety Policy
11. Safeguarding statement
12. Work experience Policy
13. Anti-Bullying Policy
14. School Outings Policy.
15. Intimate Care Needs Policy
16. Toileting Policy
17. Policy of Parents / Volunteers
18. Policy on Visiting Contractors
19. Administration of Medicine Policy.
20. Garda Vetting
21. Manual Handling Training
22. CPD on First Aid.
23. School implements in full the Stay Safe Programme.
24. Garda Vetting Procedures in place.
25. Consent Forms to be signed.
26. Risk Assessment Statement
27. School implements SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe in full
28. Arrival and dismissal supervised by Teachers.
29. Adequate supervision.
30. Continuous CPD as it becomes available

**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 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.