

Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment Template

Child Safeguarding Statement

Le Chéile Secondary School is a post-primary school providing post-primary education to pupils from First Year to Leaving Certificate Year.

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 2017](#) and [Tusla Guidance on the preparation of Child Safeguarding Statements](#), the Board of Management of Le Chéile Secondary 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 2017 as part of this overall Child Safeguarding Statement
- 2 The Designated Liaison Person (DLP) is **Ms Leona Harrington (Principal)**
The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is **Ms Emer Walsh (Deputy Principal)**
- 3 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.

- 4 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 DE 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 DE 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 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 schools 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 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 DE 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.

- 5 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.
- 6 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 11th Sept 2019

This Child Safeguarding Statement was reviewed by the Board of Management on 25th May 2021.

Signed: Michael Dennis
Chairperson of Board of Management

Signed: Aislinn Hanrahan
Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Date: 25th May 2021

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Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment

Written Assessment of Risk of Le Chéile Secondary School

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 Le Chéile Secondary 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>Interactions between teachers and students including but not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Classroom teaching -Homework club/evening study -Outdoor teaching activities -Sporting Activities <p>Interaction between students including but not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Recreation breaks for students Movement between classes -Use of toilets -Use of PE changing rooms -Outdoor teaching activities -Sporting Activities 	<p>Risk of student being harmed in the school by a member of school personnel</p> <p>Risk of harm due to inappropriate relationship/communications between a student and an adult.</p> <p>Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of students</p> <p>Risk of harm due to bullying of student</p> <p>Risk of student being harmed in the school by another student</p> <p>Risk of harm due to inappropriate relationship/communications between a student and another student</p>	<p>The school has provided each member of school staff with a copy of the school's Student Safeguarding Statement</p> <p>The <i>Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017</i> are made available to all school personnel.</p> <p>School Personnel are required to adhere to the <i>Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017</i> and all registered teaching staff are required to adhere to the <i>Children First Act 2015</i>.</p> <p>School personnel are expected to adhere to the Teaching Council's Code of Conduct. New Teacher Induction programme in place</p> <p>The school ensures appropriate supervision of students during breaks.</p> <p>The school has an Anti-Bullying Policy which fully adheres to the requirements of the Department's</p>

		<p><i>Anti-Bullying Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools</i></p> <p>The school has in place a code of behaviour for students</p> <p>A digital toilet pass is system is in place for students who need to leave class to use the bathroom</p>
Daily arrival and dismissal of students	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of students entering and leaving school.	The school ensures appropriate supervision of students for daily arrival and dismissal as per the allocation provided under the Supervision & Substitution Scheme of the Department of Education and Skills.
One-to-one teaching One-to-one counselling	Risk of harm in one-to-one teaching situation	<p>School personnel are expected to adhere to the Teaching Council's Code of Conduct.</p> <p>Learning Support Room and Offices have glass windows/door panels.</p>

<p>School outings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -School trips involving overnight stay -School trips involving foreign travel -Use of off-site facilities for school activities 	<p>Risk of student being harmed by a member of school personnel, a member of staff of another organisation or other person while student participating in out of school activities</p> <p>Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of students while attending out of school activities</p>	<p>The school has in place a School Trips & Outing Policy clear procedures in respect of same.</p> <p>Le Chéile Secondary School adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation and and Garda vetting</p>
<p>Application of sanctions under the school's Code of Behaviour including detention of students, confiscation of phones etc</p>	<p>Risk of harm due to inconsistent implementation of the Code of Behaviour</p>	<p>The school has in place a Code of Behaviour</p> <p>Induction Programme for New Teachers</p>
<p>Care of students with Special Educational Needs, including intimate care needs where needed</p>	<p>Risk of harm to students with SEN who have particular vulnerabilities</p> <p>Risk of harm to students while a student is receiving intimate care</p>	<p>An updated SEN Policy reflecting the student profile in the Autism Unit (particularly Care Needs).</p> <p>Recruitment of teachers with SEN Training</p> <p>Ongoing CPD for teacher/SNA</p> <p>Designated toilet for SEN students with particular care needs</p>

<p>Care of students with specific vulnerabilities/needs including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Students from ethnic minorities/migrants - Students of minority religions - Children in care - Children on CPNS <p>Students presenting with Covid</p>	<p>Risk of student being harmed in the school by a member of school personnel</p> <p>Risk of a student being harmed in the school by another students</p> <p>Risk of harm due to bullying of student</p>	<p>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</p> <p>The School has in place a Code of Behaviour for students</p> <p>The School has a Pastoral Team and Care Team in place. An In/Out system is in operation and vulnerable students have key workers when appropriate</p> <p>The school has a Covid Response Plan</p>
<p>Administration of Medicine Administration of First Aid</p>	<p>Risk of harm while student is receiving First Aid or medicines</p>	<p>The school has in place procedures for the administration of medication to students</p> <p>The school has identified First Aid personnel.</p>
<p>Curricular provision in respect of SPHE, RSE</p>	<p>Risk of harm to students through lack of understanding of specific issues in relation to the delivery of SPHE/RSE curriculum</p>	<p>The school implements the SPHE curriculum</p> <p>The school has an RSE Policy</p> <p>The school is embedding the Wellbeing Programme at Junior Cycle</p> <p>Staff encouraged to undertake ongoing CPD</p>
<p>Use of Information and Communication Technology by students in school</p>	<p>Risk of harm due to students inappropriately accessing/using computers, social media, phones and other devices while at school</p>	<p>The school has in place an ICT Acceptable Use Policy in respect of usage of ICT by students</p> <p>The school has a firewall and a management system (Meracki) in place.</p>

<p>Particular reference to use of ICT in breakout and overflow spaces or remote learning during school closures(Covid)</p>	<p>Risk of harm caused by one student to another via inappropriate social media contact, texting, using digital devices or other</p>	<p>Information note produced for parents and students</p>
<p>Work Experience Placements</p>	<p>Risk of student being harmed by a member of staff of another organisation or other person while student is participating in Work Experience</p>	<p>The school has in place a policy and procedure in respect of students of the school undertaking work experience in external organisations</p>
<p>Recruitment of school personnel including – Teachers, including sub teachers SNAs Admin staff Caretaker Cleaners Bus Escorts (Covid Social Distancing) Additional Supervisors (Covid)</p> <p>Use of external personnel to supplement curriculum and/or other extra -curricular activities -Sports Coaches -External Tutors/Guest Speakers -Volunteer/Parents involved on School Activities</p>	<p>Risk of student being harmed in the school by a member of school personnel who has not been Garda Vetted</p> <p>Risk of student being harmed in the school by a volunteer or visitor to the school</p>	<p>Le Chéile Secondary School adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation and relevant DES circulars in relation to recruitment and Garda vetting</p> <p><i>The Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017</i> are made available to all school personnel.</p> <p>All new staff are provided with a copy of the school’s Student Safeguarding Statement</p> <p>Staff have undertaken relevant Child Protection Training training Induction Programme for new staff in place</p> <p>Rigorous recruitment procedures in place in respect of new appointments</p>

<p>Use of video/photography/other media to record at school events</p> <p>Use of student images for PR purposes</p>		<p>Opt-in / out questions on the school enrolment form for parents/guardians to indicate preferences re student images.</p>
<p>Use of Information and Communication Technology by staff</p> <p>Particular reference to remote teaching during Covid</p>	<p>Risk of harm caused by members of school personnel communicating with students in an inappropriate manner via social media, texting, digital device or other manner.</p> <p>Risk of harm caused by member of school personnel accessing/circulating inappropriate material via social media, texting, digital device or other manner.</p>	<p>The school has provided each member of school staff with a copy of the school's Student Safeguarding Statement</p> <p><i>The Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017</i> are made available to all school personnel</p> <p>School Personnel are required to adhere to the <i>Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017</i> and all registered teaching staff are required to adhere to the <i>Children First Act 2015</i>.</p> <p>School personnel are expected to adhere to the Teaching Council's Code of Conduct</p> <p>Information note produced for teachers</p>
<p>Reporting</p>	<p>Risk of harm not being recognised by school personnel.</p> <p>Risk of harm not being reported properly and promptly by school personnel</p>	<p>The school has provided each member of school staff with a copy of the school's Student Safeguarding Statement</p> <p><i>The Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017</i> are made available to all school personnel</p>

		<p>School Personnel are required to adhere to the <i>Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017</i> and all registered teaching staff are required to adhere to the <i>Children First Act 2015</i></p> <p>Staff have undertaken relevant Child Protection training</p> <p>Child Protection protocols revisit in Teacher Induction Programme, Droiched Programme and Opening days meeting schedule</p>
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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.

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*.