

# Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment, Gorey Educate Together NS, November 2024

## Child Safeguarding Statement

Gorey Educate Together NS 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 Gorey Educate Together NS 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 Raymond Swan
- 3 The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is Mairead Jordan
- 4 The Relevant Person is Raymond Swan  
*(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 19<sup>th</sup> November 2024.

This Child Safeguarding Statement was reviewed by the Board of Management on 19<sup>th</sup> November 2024.

Signed: Angie Dooley

Chairperson of Board of Management

Date: 19/11/24

Signed: R. Swan

Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Date: 19.11.24

## Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment

### Written Assessment of Risk of Gorey Educate Together NS

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 Gorey Educate Together NS.

#### 1. List of school activities

Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils  
Recreation breaks for pupils  
Classroom teaching  
One-to-one teaching  
Outdoor teaching activities  
Sporting Activities  
School outings  
Use of bathroom areas in schools  
Sports Days  
School transport arrangements including use of bus escorts  
Care of children with special educational needs (including non-verbal children,) including intimate care where needed  
Management of challenging behaviour amongst pupils, including appropriate use of physical techniques as a last resort  
Administration of Medicine  
Administration of First Aid  
Curricular provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe  
Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst pupils  
Training of school personnel in child protection matters  
Use of external personnel to supplement curriculum  
Use of external personnel to support sports and other extra-curricular activities  
Care of pupils with specific vulnerabilities/ needs such as - Pupils from ethnic minorities/migrant - Members of the Traveller community - Lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender (LGBT) children  
Pupils perceived to be LGBT - Pupils of minority religious faiths - Children in care - Children on CPNS (Child Protection Notification System)  
Recruitment of school personnel including - 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  
Use of Information and Communication Technology by pupils in school  
Application of sanctions under the school's Code of Behaviour including confiscation of phone etc.  
Students participating in work experience in the school  
Student teachers/SNAs undertaking training placement in school  
Use of video/photography/other media to record school events  
After school use of school premises by other organisations  
Breakfast club  
Homework club  
Parent-Teacher Association events and activities, including after-school activities  
Running Club  
Online learning and learning, (e.g. during school closures or class closures.)



**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 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 child participating in out of school activities e.g. school trip, swimming lessons  
Risk of harm due to bullying of child  
Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children in school  
Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children while attending out of school activities  
Risk of harm due to inappropriate relationship/communications between child and another child or 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 SEN who have particular vulnerabilities  
Risk of harm to children who present as 'flight risks'  
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, pastoral support, coaching 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, texting, digital device or other manner

**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 & Risk Assessment  
The Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 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 2023 and all registered teaching staff are required to adhere to the Children First Act 2015  
The school implements in full the Stay Safe Programme  
The school implements in full the SPHE curriculum  
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 has a morning supervision and a playground supervision rota to ensure appropriate supervision of children  
The school has in place a policy and clear procedures in respect of school outings  
School transport arrangements: the school has Bus Escorts in place for children with SEN who have particular vulnerabilities  
Appropriate supervision (by teachers and/or SNAs and/or Bus Escorts and/or School Transport Driver) is in place for children who present as 'flight risks'  
The school has a Health and safety policy

The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation and relevant DES circulars in relation to recruitment and Garda vetting

The school complies with the agreed disciplinary procedures for teaching & SNA staff

The school has a Special Educational Needs policy

The school has in place a policy and procedures for the administration of medication to pupils

The school –

- o Has provided each member of school staff with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement
- o Ensures all new staff are provided with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement
- o Encourages staff to avail of relevant training
- o Encourages board of management members to avail of relevant training
- o Maintains records of all staff and board member training

The school has in place safe practices for the administration of First Aid

The school has in place a code of behaviour for pupils

The school has in place an ICT policy in respect of usage of ICT by pupils

The school has in place a mobile phone policy in respect of usage of mobile phones by pupils

The school has in place a Critical Incident Management Plan

The school has in place safe practices for the use of external persons to supplement delivery of the curriculum

The school has in place safe practices for the use of external sports coaches

The school has in place safe practices for one-to-one teaching activities

The school has in place safe practices in respect of student teacher/SNA placements

The school has in place safe practices in respect of students undertaking work experience in the school

School staff have been made aware of their responsibilities (and of the risk of harm) with regard to matters that may arise during online/remote teaching and learning (e.g. during school closures or class closures.)

*Practices at Gorey Educate Together NS regarding Child Protection (21<sup>st</sup> February 2018)*

All pupil-staff interactions take place in open settings, e.g. a busy classroom or playground; a hallway where others are nearby; an office where the door is propped wide open. [Physical contact is limited and takes place in open settings where others are also present. E.g. First Aid situations; helping a young pupil with buttons and zips; comforting a distressed infant.]

Toileting/intimate care: A second member of staff is close by and is aware of the situation. Example: class teacher in classroom, with SNA assisting/prompting child at ensuite bathroom. [Afford the child as much privacy as possible.] Example: SNA escorts child from playground to bathroom – another member of staff is on First Aid duty in the same room.

**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.