Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment, Gorey Educate Together NS, October 2026

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 2025) 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 2025)* 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 Suzanne Keane

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 2025)* 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 2025)*, 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 14th October 2026

This Child Safeguarding Statement was reviewed by the Board of Management on 14th October 2026

Signed: Angie Dooley
Chairperson of Board of Management
Date: 3/11/26.

Signed: R. Ryan
Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management
Date: 3.11.26

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 2025)*, 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,) includin intimate care where needed
Management of challenging behaviour amongst pupils, including appropriate use of physica 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 - Childre 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 durin 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 anothe organisation or other person while child participating in out of school activities e.g. schoc 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 o adult
Risk of harm due to children inappropriately accessing/using computers, social media, phones an 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 inappropriat manner via social media, texting, digital device or other manner
Risk of harm caused by member of school personnel accessing/circulating inappropriate materia 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 & Ris Assessment
The Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2025 are made available to a school personnel
School Personnel are required to adhere to the Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools 2025 and all registered teaching staff are required to adhere to the Children First Ac 2015
The school implements in full the Stay Safe Programme
The school implements in full the SPHE curriculum, ('Wellbeing Specification.')
The school has an Anti-Bullying Policy which fully adheres to the requirements of the Department' Anti-Bullying Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools
The school has a morning supervision and a playground supervision rota to ensure appropriat 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 hav 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 i 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 Statemen
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 th 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 schoo
School staff have been made aware of their responsibilities (and of the risk of harm) with regard t matters that may arise during online/remote teaching and learning (e.g. during school closures o class closures.)

Practices at Gorey Educate Together NS regarding Child Protection (21st 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; a support teaching room with a glass door. [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.