



**Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment**

**September 2022**



## Child Safeguarding Statement

Goatstown Educate Together Secondary School is a post-primary school providing post-primary education to pupils in First Year, Second Year and Third Year only for School Year 2022/23.

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 Goatstown Educate Together 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 Principal Jonathan Browner.
- 3 The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is Deputy Principal Matthew Quinn.
- 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 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.

- 6 This statement has been published on the school's website and has been provided to all members of school personnel, the Parents' Association 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 14<sup>th</sup> September 2022.

Signed: 

Ben Murray  
Chairperson, Board of Management

Date: 14<sup>th</sup> September 2022

Signed: 

Jonathan Browner  
Principal

Date: 14<sup>th</sup> September 2022



## Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment

### Written Assessment of Risk of Goatstown Educate Together Secondary 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 2017*, the following is the Written Risk Assessment of Goatstown Educate Together School.

#### 1. List of school activities:

- Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils
- Recreation breaks for pupils
- Moving from class to class
- Classroom teaching
- Using iPads/being online
- One-to-one teaching
- One-to-one counselling
- Outdoor teaching activities
- Sporting activities
- School outings
- School trips involving overnight stay
- School trips involving foreign travel
- Use of toilet/changing areas/ showers in schools
- Annual Sports Day
- Fundraising events involving pupils
- Use of off-site facilities for school activities
- School transport arrangements including use of bus escorts
- Care of children with special educational needs, including intimate care/ injury/ sickness where needed
- Management of challenging behaviour amongst pupils
- Administration of Medicine
- Administration of First Aid
- Curricular provision in respect of SPHE, RSE.
- 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/ extra-curricular activities
- Teaching and engaging with pupils from ethnic minorities/migrants
- Teaching and engaging with members of the Traveller community
- Teaching and engaging with lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender (LGBT) children
- Teaching and engaging with pupils perceived to be LGBT

- Teaching and engaging with pupils of minority religious faiths or with religious faiths
- Teaching and engaging with children in care
- Teaching and engaging with Children on Child Protection Notification System (CPNS)
- Recruitment of school personnel including Teachers/SNA's working with students, Caretaker/Secretary/Cleaners working with students, workers in canteen.
- Sports coaches working with students
- External Tutors/Guest Speakers engaging with students
- Volunteers/Parents supporting and engaging 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 Positive Behaviour including detention of pupils, confiscation of phones etc.
- Use of video/photography/other media to record school events
- Use of school premises by other organisations during school day
- Learning Club
- Extra-Curricular Activities
- Attendance at student training e.g. Educate Together Ethical Education Training, Comhairle no nÓg.
- Representing the school at community activities e.g. *Darkness into Light*
- Being interviewed by the media.
- Interacting with students of students and staff from Ballinteer ETNS.

**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, sports.

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 child while a child is receiving intimate care

Risk of harm due to inadequate Code of Positive Behaviour

Risk of harm in one-to-one teaching, counselling, coaching situation

Risk of harm caused by member of school personnel communicating with pupils in appropriate manner via social media, texting, digital device or other manner

This is not an exhaustive list and will be updated in our annual review.

**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*

The *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017* are made available to all school personnel

School Personnel are required to adhere to the *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017* and all registered teaching staff are required to adhere to the *Children First Act 2015*

Staff will be part of the annual review of this statement

There is anti-bullying and child protection refresher training at the start of every school year.

The school implements in full the SPHE curriculum

The school implements in full the Wellbeing Programme at Junior Cycle

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 yard supervision in place to ensure appropriate supervision of children during, assembly, dismissal and breaks and in respect of specific areas such as toilets, changing rooms etc.

The school has in place a policy and clear procedures in respect of school outings

The school is developing a Health and Safety policy

There is a Critical Incident Policy and Team in place at school.

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

The school has a staff handbook for school personnel (teaching and non-teaching staff) which includes reference to the teaching council's code of professional practice.

The school complies with the agreed disciplinary procedures for teaching staff

The school has a Special Educational Needs plan and a policy will be in place by the end of 2020.

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

**The school:**

- Has provided each member of school 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
- Maintains records of all staff and board member training

The school has in place a policy and procedures for the administration of First Aid

The school has in place a Code of Positive Behaviour for pupils

Students are not allowed to use mobile phones at school and they must switch them off and place them in a locked locker. Students' phones will be confiscated if they are found using them during the school day unless they are asked to use their phone in class by a teacher.

The school has clear procedures for one-to-one teaching activities

The school has procedures for one-to-one counselling

Volunteers, including parents/guardians/carers should never be unsupervised unless they have been Garda Vetted. It is the policy of the Board that all volunteers will be Garda Vetted.

**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.

