Knockminna N.S.
Child Protection & Safeguarding Statement
2026/27

Adopting the School's Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment

When adopting the Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment, the board of management may use this list as a support in ensuring that all the necessary steps have been taken.

- ☐ Our school has used the templates provided on www.gov.ie/childprotectionschools to develop its Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment and its student-friendly version. These are now displayed in a prominent position near the main entrance of the school.
- ☐ Our school has consulted with school personnel, parents/carers and our children and young people when reviewing our Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment and its student-friendly version. We have retained a record of these consultations.
- ☐ Our school has informed the patron, school personnel, our parents' association, and our parents/carers that the review has been undertaken using the notification template provided by the department.
- ☐ Our school has published the Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment and notification of its review on our website or will be made available on request by the school.

CSS1
Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment

For:	**Knockminna N.S.**	*(School Name)*
At:	**Ballymote, Co. Sligo**	*(School Address)*

This school is a: (tick appropriate) ☒primary ☐post-primary ☐ special school

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) and 2025, Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025 and Child Safeguarding: A Guide for Policy, Procedure and Practice, 2nd ed. (Tusla, 2024), the board of management has adopted the Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment set out in this document.

The board of management has adopted and will implement fully and without modification the department's Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025 as part of this overall Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment.

Name of the Designated Liaison Person (DLP):

Brian Henry

Name of the Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP/DDLP):

Sarah McIntyre

In the absence of the DLP, the Deputy DLP shall assume responsibilities of the DLP

Name of Relevant Person

Brian Henry

(In schools this person is the DLP)

Relevant Person can be contacted on:

0861383752	*principal@knockminnans.ie*

Under the Children First Act 2015 Relevant Person means a person who is appointed by a provider of a relevant service to be the first point of contact in respect of the Child Safeguarding Statement. This person is nominated by the board of management to manage and provide oversight of child protection concerns/allegations of child abuse.

Name of Chairperson of the board of management, or in an ETB school the Chief Executive or their delegate:

Fr. James McDonagh

In the event that both DLP and DDLP are absent and unavailable, and where there is no staff member formally acting in their role, the chairperson of the board of management, or in an ETB school the chief executive or their delegate, assumes the role of DLP.

The board of management recognises that child protection and safeguarding permeate all aspects of school life and must be reflected in all of the school's policies, procedures, practices and activities. In all of these, 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 happening to children and protect members of school personnel from the necessity to take unnecessary risks that may leave themselves open to accusations of child abuse.
- ☐ Develop a practice of openness with parents and encourage parental involvement in the education of their children.
- ☐ Fully respect confidentiality requirements as set out in the Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025 in dealing with child protection matters.
- ☐ Adhere to the above principles in relation to any vulnerable adult.

Procedures and Measures in Place

Our Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment has been developed in line with requirements under the Children First Act 2015, the *Children First: National Guidance 2017*, and *Child Safeguarding: A Guide for Policy, Procedure and Practice, 2nd ed. (Tusla, 2024),* and the *Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025.* In addition to the procedures listed in our risk assessment, the following procedures support our intention to safeguard children while they are availing of our service:

> Procedure for the Management of Allegations of Abuse or Misconduct against School Personnel Relating to a Child Availing of Our Service

~ Where any member of school personnel is the subject of any investigation in respect of any act, omission or circumstance in relation to a child attending the school, the school is required to adhere to the relevant procedures set out in Chapter 7 of *the Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025* and to the relevant agreed disciplinary procedures for school staff which are published on the gov.ie website.

> Procedure for the Safe Recruitment and Selection of School Personnel to Work With Children

~ The school is required to adhere to the requirements of the Vetting Act. The selection or recruitment of staff and their suitability to work with children, requires the school to adhere 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 Youth and available on the gov.ie website and as outlined in Chapter 10 of the procedures.

~ A written protocol is in place authorising immediate action for cases which require an employee to be immediately absented from school for child safeguarding reasons.

> Procedure for Provision of and Access to Child Safeguarding Training and Information, Including the Identification of the Occurrence of Harm

~ The school provides information and training to members of school personnel in relation to the identification of the occurrence of harm (as defined in the 2015 Act) as follows:

~ The school has provided each member of school personnel, including any new members of school personnel, (employees and volunteers, board of management members, student teachers and those on work experience) with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment.

~ The school ensures that members of school personnel have availed of relevant training and completed child protection training.

~ The school encourages board of management members to avail of any relevant training and complete child protection training.

~ The board of management ensures that records of all staff and board member child protection training are maintained.

> Procedure for the Reporting of Child Protection or Welfare Concerns to Tusla

~ All members of school personnel are required to adhere to the procedures set out in the *Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025*, in relation to reporting of child protection concerns to Tusla. Mandated reporting applies to all registered teachers and any other mandated person who may be employed by the school, for example a chaplain or nurse. A full list of those people who are mandated persons is set out in Appendix 1 procedures.

> Procedure for Maintaining a List of the Persons (if any) in the Relevant Service Who Are Mandated Persons

~ There is a procedure in place to maintain a list of mandated persons. Schools may on occasion employ additional staff who are mandated by virtue of their profession. This list will include all registered teachers and identify additional employees that are not registered teachers.

> Procedure for Appointing a Relevant Person (In schools this person is the DLP)

~ There is a procedure in place for appointing a relevant person.

The various procedures referred to in this Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment can be accessed via the school's website, the gov.ie website or will be made available on request by the school.

In accordance with the Children First Act 2015, the Addendum to Children First 2019 and 2025, and the *Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025,* the board of management 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.

Note: The procedures and measures in place outlined above, are not intended as exhaustive list. Individual boards of management shall also include in this section such other procedures and measures that are of relevance to the school.

This statement has been published on the school's website or will be made available on request by the school. It has been provided to all members of school personnel, the parents' association (if any), the patron and parents. A copy of this statement and risk assessment will be made available to Tusla and the department if requested.

This Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment will be reviewed annually or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which this statement refers.

Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
1.	Training of school personnel in Child Protection matters	Harm not recognised or reported promptly	✓ Child Safeguarding statement & DES procedures made available to all staff ✓ DLP & DDLP attended PDST face to face training on 26th September 2025 ✓ All staff viewed Tusla training module & other online training offered by PDST ✓ All staff attended face to face training on 17th September 2026
2.	Break Times	• Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision • Bullying or peer conflict where child being harmed in school by another child • Pupils leaving school grounds • Student accessing inappropriate content on social media on phones/devices	➢ Supervision rota in yard and on all blocks ➢ Designated safe zones - Buddy benches ➢ Bí Cineálta policy enforced ➢ Acceptable usage policy enforced
3.	One to one teaching	Harm by school personnel	✓ Vision panel in S.E.N. room door ✓ Consent is received from parents for one to one teaching
4.	One to one counselling by school personnel	Harm by school personnel	✓ Open doors/vision panel

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
			Another teacher is informed
5.	Classroom Teaching	Inappropriate staff-pupil interaction • Risk of child being harmed by a member of school personnel • Peer bullying • Risk of inadequate code of behaviour.	➢ Open-door policy ➢ Code of behaviour for students ➢ Regular SPHE lessons on respect and safety
6.	Visitors from outside agencies (e.g. Nurse/Psychologists etc.)	Harm by personnel from outside agencies	Open doors/vision panel Staff members present where appropriate
7.	Care of children with special needs including intimate care	Harm by school personnel	Policy on intimate care and parental Agreement SNA Policy
8.	Toilet areas	Inappropriate behaviour	Procedures in place regarding the use of shared toilets
9.	Remote Teaching & Learning	Inappropriate behaviour while engaging in online learning Accessing inappropriate material online	Remote Teaching & Learning Plan in place Internet Acceptable Use Policy in place Data Protection Policy in place
10.	Prevention and Dealing with Bullying	Harm to the Child	➢ Bí Cineálta Policy implemented ➢ Regular awareness training for children

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
			➢ Clear reporting and investigation procedures as outlined in our policies
11.	Curricular provision in respect of SPHE, RSE and Stay Safe Pupils with specific vulnerabilities/needs e.g. - LGBT children/pupils perceived to be LGBT - Pupils of minority religious faiths	Non-teaching of same Risk of Disclosure not handled appropriately Bullying	➢ School implements SPHE, RSE & Stay safe in full ➢ Bí Cineálta Anti-Bullying Policy ➢ Code of Behaviour ➢ Staff training on Child Safeguarding
12.	Recruitment of new staff	Harm not recognised Harm not properly or promptly reported	➢ Child Safeguarding statement & DES procedures made available to all staff ➢ Staff to view Tusla training module & any other online training offered by PDST
13.	Student teachers undertaking training placement	Harm to pupils	➢ Vetting procedures in place ➢ Placement monitored by supervising teacher

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
14.	Managing of challenging behaviour amongst pupils, including appropriate use of restraint	Injury to pupils and staff	Restraint policy Health and Safety Policy Code of Behaviour
15.	Sporting Activities	• Physical injury • Inappropriate changing room supervision • Inadequate supervision • Children leaving the grounds without permission	➢ Qualified coaches, vetted and trained in safeguarding ➢ Separate changing facilities monitored ➢ First aid provision ➢ Supervision and adherence to sports safety guidelines
16.	Sports Coaches/Other personnel supporting extra-curricular activities	Harm to pupils	Procedures in place e.g. staff member always present Vetting Procedures in place
17.	Students participating in work experience	Harm by student	Work Experience Policy Child Safeguarding Statement Parental Consent obtained by relevant school Regular check ins and supervision by school staff No more than two students on placement at any one time
18.	Volunteers/Parents	Harm to pupils	Vetting Procedures Volunteers always supervised by staff

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
			Policy for Volunteers/Parents
19.	Use of Information and Communication Technology by pupils in school	Bullying	Digital Strategy Policy Acceptable Use Policy Bí Cineálta Anti-Bullying Policy Code of Behaviour
20.	Use of video/photography/other media to record school events	Harm to pupils	Consent received from parents No children individually identifiable AUP
21.	Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils	Harm to pupils Bullying	Supervision policy Bí Cineálta Anti-Bullying Policy
22.	Participation by pupils in religious preparation/ceremonies	Harm to pupils	➢ Supervision policy
23.	School outings	Harm to pupils Bullying	Supervision policy Bí Cineálta Anti-Bullying Policy AUP
24.	Administration of medication	Harm to pupils	CPD Policy on Administration of medication

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
25.	Administration of first aid	Harm to pupils	CPD Health & Safety Policy First Aid Kits accessible Record of major incidents requiring First Aid
26.	Food distribution	Harm to pupils	Pre-washing of fruit Notification of student allergies on staff noticeboard
27.	Annual Sports Day	Bullying or Exclusion Physical Injury	Adequate supervision First Aid Provision Inclusive participation by all
28.	Training of school personnel in child protection	Harm to pupils	Mandatory Child Protection Training 17.09.26 DLP & DDLP in the school and child friendly posters identifying DLP to the pupils Annual Review of Child Safeguarding Statement

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk

Additional pages may be added as required

Online Safety

The *Addendum to Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children 2017* published in January 2019 clarifies that organisations providing relevant services to children should consider the specific issue of online safety when carrying out their risk assessment and preparing their Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment.

The Guidance on Continuity of Schooling for primary and post-primary schools (April 2020) advises of the importance of teachers maintaining the safe and ethical use of the internet during distance learning and assisting parents and guardians to be aware of their role also. Schools should ensure that their Acceptable Use Policy (AUP) informs and guides remote or distance learning activity.

Risk in the context of this Child Safeguarding Statement and 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 the Children First Act 2015: 'harm' means, in relation to a child— (a) assault, ill-treatment or neglect of the child in a manner that seriously affects or is likely to seriously affect the child's health, development or welfare, or (b) sexual abuse of the child, whether caused by a single act, omission or circumstance or a series or combination of acts, omissions or circumstances, or otherwise.

In accordance with Section 11 of the Children First Act 2015 and with the requirements of Chapter 9 of the Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025, the following is the written Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment.

In undertaking this Child Safeguarding Statement and 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.

This Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment was reviewed by the board of management on _____ (*most recent review date)*

Signed:*		**Date**:

Chairperson of the board of management

Signed:*		**Date**:

Principal/Secretary to the board of management

This Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment is expected to be reviewed again on _____ *(expected review date)*

** Document to be printed and signed with original signatures*

Appendix - Location of copies of the Child Protection Procedures and Children First Guidance

This may be in the form of specifying the online location for the procedures (Department of Education and Youth website www.gov.ie/childprotectionschools and/or the school website), providing a link to the Children First National Guidance 2017 Children_First_National_Guidance_2017.pdf, and stating the number and location of hard copies of these procedures available in the school.

