CHILD SAFEGUARDING STATEMENT AND RISK ASSESSMENT

Version	v1
Date Ratified by Board of Management	January 22nd 2024

Child Safeguarding Statement

Ennis Community College / Gaelcholáiste an Chláir 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 (revised 2023) and Tusla Guidance on the preparation of Child Safeguarding Statements, the Board of Management of Ennis Community College / Gaelcholáiste an Chláir 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 Brian O Donoghue
3. The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is Yvonne Walsh
4. The Relevant Person is Brian O Donoghue

   (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 cooperate 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 2017 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 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 22nd January 2024

This Child Safeguarding Statement was reviewed by the Board of Management on 22nd January 2024

Signed: *Cllr Ann Norton* Signed:

Chairperson of Board of Management Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Date: 22/01/2024 Date: 22/01/2024

Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment			
	Activity	**Risk Identified**	**Procedure in Place to manage the risk**
1	Interactions between teachers and students including but not limited to: ▪ Classroom teaching ▪ Homework club/evening study ▪ Breakfast club ▪ Outdoor teaching activities ▪ Sporting activities	▪ Risk of student being harmed in the school by a member of school personnel ▪ Risk of harm due to inappropriate relationship/communications between a student and an adult ▪ Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of students ▪ Risk of harm not being recognised by school personnel ▪ Risk of harm not being reported properly and promptly by a member of school personnel	▪ The school has provided each member of school staff with a copy of the school's Student 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.* ▪ School personnel are expected to adhere to the Teaching Council's Code of Conduct ▪ School personnel are encouraged to avail of relevant training ▪ The school has a 'Dignity Charter'. ▪ The school has in place Supervision Procedures ▪ The school has a School Tours/Trips and Extra Curricular Sporting Activities Policy
2	Interaction between students including but not limited to: ▪ Recreation breaks for students ▪ Movement between classes ▪ Use of toilets ▪ Use of changing rooms ▪ Outdoor teaching activities ▪ Sporting Activities	▪ Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of students ▪ Risk of harm due to bullying of student ▪ Risk of student being harmed in the school by another student ▪ Risk of harm due to inappropriate relationship / communications between a student and another student ▪ Risk of harm not being recognised by school personnel ▪ Risk of harm not being reported properly and	▪ The school ensures appropriate supervision of students during breaks on arrival and departure from school ▪ 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 in place a Code of Behaviour for students ▪ The school has a Dignity Charter ▪ The school has in place a policy on personal electronic devices which includes the use of mobile phones by students ▪ The school has a School Tours/Trips and Extra Curricular Sporting Activities Policy ▪ The school has an Acceptable Usage Policy

		promptly by a member of school personnel	▪ The school has provided each member of school staff 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 ▪ School personnel are encouraged to avail of relevant training
3	Daily arrival and dismissal of students	▪ Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of students entering and leaving school ▪ Risk of harm not being recognised by school personnel ▪ Risk of harm not being reported properly and promptly by a member of school personnel	▪ 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 ▪ The school has in place a Code of Behaviour Policy for students. ▪ The school has a Dignity Charter ▪ The school has provided each member of school staff 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 ▪ School personnel are encouraged to avail of relevant training
4	One-to-one teaching	▪ Risk of harm in one-to-one teaching situation ▪ Risk of harm to children with SEN who have particular vulnerabilities	▪ The school has a Whole School Guidance Plan ▪ The school has a Dignity Charter ▪ The school has in place Supervision Procedures

		▪ Risk of harm due to inappropriate relationships / communications between a child and an adult	▪ The school has a Student Support Team in place
5	One-to-one counselling	▪ Risk of harm in one-to-one counselling situation ▪ Risk of harm to children with SEN who have particular vulnerabilities ▪ Risk of harm due to inappropriate relationships / communications between a child and an adult	▪ The school has a Special Educational Needs policy ▪ The school has a Whole School Guidance Plan ▪ The school has a Dignity Charter ▪ The school has in place Supervision Procedures ▪ The school has a Student Support Team in place
6	School outings	▪ Risk of student being harmed by a member of school personnel, a member of staff of another organisation or other person ▪ Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of students while attending out of school activities	▪ The school has in place an Educational School Tours/ Trips and extra-curricular Sporting Activities Policy ▪ The school has in place a Code of Behaviour for students ▪ School personnel are expected to adhere to the Teaching Council's Code of Conduct ▪ The school complies with agreed disciplinary procedures for teaching staff. ▪ The school has in place a Critical Incident Management Plan ▪ The school has a Dignity Charter ▪ The school has in place a policy and procedures for the administration of medication to pupils
7	School trips involving overnight stay	▪ Risk of student being harmed by a member of school personnel, a member of staff of another organisation or other person ▪ Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of students while attending out of school activities ▪ Risk of harm due to bullying of child	▪ The school has in place an Educational School Tours/ Trips and extra-curricular Sporting Activities Policy ▪ The school has in place a Code of Behaviour for students ▪ School personnel are expected to adhere to the Teaching Council's Code of Conduct ▪ The school complies with agreed disciplinary procedures for teaching staff.

			▪ The school has in place a Critical Incident Management Plan ▪ The school has a Dignity Charter ▪ The school has in place a policy and procedures for the administration of medication to pupils
8	School trips involving foreign travel	▪ Risk of student being harmed by a member of school personnel, a member of staff of another organisation or other person ▪ Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of students while attending out of school activities ▪ Risk of harm due to bullying of child	▪ The school has in place an Educational School Tours/ Trips Policy ▪ The school has in place a Code of Behaviour for students ▪ School personnel are expected to adhere to the Teaching Council's Code of Conduct ▪ The school complies with agreed disciplinary procedures for teaching staff. ▪ The school has in place a Critical Incident Management Plan ▪ The school has a Dignity Charter ▪ The school has in place a policy and procedures for the administration of medication to pupils
9	Use of off-site facilities for school activities	▪ Risk of student being harmed by a member of school personnel, a member of staff of another organisation or other person ▪ Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of students while attending an off-site facility	▪ The school has in place an Educational School Tours/ Trips and extra-curricular Sporting Activities Policy ▪ The school has in place a Code of Behaviour for students ▪ School personnel are expected to adhere to the Teaching Council's Code of Conduct ▪ The school complies with agreed disciplinary procedures for teaching staff. ▪ The school has in place a Critical Incident Management Plan ▪ The school has in place a policy and procedures for the administration of medication to pupils
10	Annual Sports Day	▪ Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of students	▪ The school has in place an Educational School Tours/ Trips Policy ▪ The school has in place a Code of Behaviour for students

		▪ Risk of student being harmed by a member of school personnel, a member of staff of another organisation or other person	▪ School personnel are expected to adhere to the Teaching Council's Code of Conduct ▪ The school has in place a Critical Incident Management Plan
11	School transport arrangements	▪ Risk of student being harmed while student is travelling to/from a school or school activity	▪ The school has in place a Code of Behaviour for students ▪ School personnel are expected to adhere to the Teaching Council's Code of Conduct ▪ The school has in place a Critical Incident Management Plan
12	Management of challenging behaviour amongst students, including appropriate use of restraint where required	▪ Risk of student being harmed in the school by a member of school personnel ▪ Risk of student being harmed in the school by another student	▪ The school has in place a code of behaviour for students
13	Application of sanctions under the school's Code of Behaviour including detention of students, confiscation of phones etc	▪ Risk of harm due to inadequate code of behaviour ▪ Risk of harm due to children inappropriately accessing/using computers, social media, phones and other devices while at school	▪ The school has in place a code of behaviour for students ▪ The school has in place a policy on personal electronic devices which includes the use of mobile phones by students ▪ The school has an Acceptable Usage Policy ▪ 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
14	Care of students with special educational needs including intimate care needs	▪ Risk of harm to students with SEN who have particular vulnerabilities ▪ Risk of harm to student while a student is receiving intimate care	▪ The school has a Special Educational Needs policy. ▪ The school has a Whole School Guidance Plan ▪ The school has an Intimate Care Policy

15	Care of students with specific vulnerabilities/ needs including: ▪ Students from ethnic minorities/migrants ▪ Members of the Traveller community ▪ Lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender (LGBT) students and students perceived to be LGBT ▪ Students of minority religions ▪ Children in care ▪ Children on CPNS	▪ Risk of student being harmed in the school by a member of school personnel ▪ Risk of student being harmed in the school by another student ▪ Risk of harm due to bullying of student	▪ 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 in place a code of behaviour for students ▪ The school has a Whole School Guidance Plan ▪ The school has a Student Support Team ▪ The school has a Dignity Charter
16	Administration of Medicine	▪ Risk of harm due to inadequately trained staff	▪ The school has in place a policy and procedures for the administration of medication to students
17	Administration of First Aid	▪ Risk of harm due to inadequately trained staff	▪ The school has in place procedures for the administration of First Aid ▪ The school has an ancillary Health and Safety Statement in place
18	Curricular provision in respect of SPHE, RSE and wellbeing	▪ Risk of harm due to inadequate education of students	▪ The school implements in full the SPHE curriculum ▪ The school has an RSE Policy ▪ The school implements in full the Wellbeing Programme at Junior Cycle
19	Use of Information and Communication Technology by students in school and/or by members of staff	▪ Risk of harm due to students inappropriately accessing/using computers, social media, phones and other devices while at school ▪ Risk of student being harmed by a member of school personnel, a member of staff or another organisation or other person	▪ The school has in place an Acceptable Usage Policy ▪ The school has in place a policy on personal electronic devices which includes the use of mobile phones and mobile devices by students ▪ Students and school staff are permitted to only use approved school accounts for school related business and activities

20	Students participating in work experience in the school	▪ Risk of student being harmed by a member of school personnel, a member of staff of another organisation or other person	▪ The school has in place a procedures in respect of students undertaking work experience in the school
21	Students from the school participating in work experience elsewhere	▪ Risk of student being harmed by a member of staff of another organisation or other person while student participating in work experience	▪ The school has in place procedures in respect of students of the school undertaking work experience in external organisations
22	Recruitment of school personnel including - ▪ Teachers ▪ SNAs ▪ Admin staff ▪ Caretaker ▪ Cleaners	▪ Risk of student being harmed in the school by a member of school personnel	▪ LCETB adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation and relevant DE circulars in relation to recruitment and Garda vetting ▪ The *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017* are made available to all school personnel. ▪ All new staff are provided with a copy of the school's Student Safeguarding Statement ▪ The school encourages staff to avail of relevant training
23	Use of external personnel to supplement curriculum and / or support sports and other extracurricular activities ▪ Sports coaches ▪ External Tutors/Guest Speakers ▪ Volunteers/Parents in school activities	▪ Risk of student being harmed in the school by volunteer or visitor to the school	▪ The school has in place a Visiting Speakers Policy for the use of external persons to supplement delivery of the curriculum ▪ The school has in place procedures for the use of external sports coaches ▪ Parents/Guardians who volunteer are required to undergo Garda Vetting through LCETB
24	Fundraising events involving students	▪ Risk of student being harmed by a member of staff of another	▪ The school has in place an ICT policy (AUP Policy) in respect of usage of ICT by pupils

		organisation or other person while student participating in fundraising	▪ The school has in place a policy on personal electronic devices which includes the use of mobile phones by students ▪ School personnel are expected to adhere to the Teaching Council's Code of Conduct and the schools Code of Professional Conduct ▪ The school has in place a Code of Behaviour for students ▪ The school has in place an Educational School Tours/ Trips and extra-curricular Sporting Activities Policy
25	Use of video/photography / other media to record at school events	▪ Risk of harm due to bullying of the child ▪ Risk of harm due to disregarding the wishes of the students parent/guardian	▪ The school has in place an Acceptable Usage Policy in respect of usage of ICT by students ▪ The school has in place a policy on personal electronic devices which includes the use of mobile phones and mobile devices by students ▪ Parents/guardians are requested annually to indicate their preferences regarding the use of their son's / daughter's image on school related activities and events ▪ School personnel are expected to adhere to the Teaching Council's Code of Conduct and the schools Code of Professional Conduct ▪ The school complies with agreed disciplinary procedures for teaching staff
26	Use of student images for PR purposes	▪ Risk of harm due to bullying of the child ▪ Risk of harm due to disregarding the wishes of the students parent/guardian	▪ Parents/guardians are requested annually to indicate their preferences regarding the use of their son's / daughter's image on school related activities and events ▪ School personnel are expected to adhere to the Teaching Council's Code of Conduct and the schools Code of Professional Conduct.

			▪ The school complies with agreed disciplinary procedures for teaching staff
27	Student teachers undertaking training placement in school	▪ Risk of student being harmed by a member of school personnel, a member of staff of another organisation or other person	▪ The school has in place procedures in respect of student teacher placements
28	After school use of school premises by other organisations	▪ Risk of student being harmed in the school by a visitor to the school	▪ The school has a document regarding terms and conditions of the use of the school's Sports Hall / building and requires insurance and child protection details to be in place by the visiting organisation
29	Non-curricular related visitors / contractors present in school during school hours	▪ Risk of student being harmed in the school by a visitor/contractor to the school	▪ The school has a Health and Safety policy ▪ All visitors are required to report to and sign in at reception ▪ The school has in place a visiting speakers policy
30	Use of Information and Communication Technology by staff	▪ Risk of harm caused by member of school personnel communicating with students in an 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	▪ The school has provided each member of school staff with a copy of the school's Student 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.* ▪ School personnel are expected to adhere to the Teaching Council's Code of Conduct. ▪ The school complies with the agreed disciplinary procedures for teaching staff.

			▪ Staff and students are required to use only official school accounts for email, remote teaching and learning, etc ▪ The school has an acceptable usage policy ▪ Staff and students are required to use official school accounts for email, etc (See Distance/Remote Learning Policy) ▪ The school has in place a policy on personal electronic devices which includes the use of mobile phones and mobile devices by students
31	Online Teaching and Learning remotely	▪ Risk of harm caused by member of school personnel communicating with students in an inappropriate manner via social media, texting, digital device or other manner ▪ Risk of harm due to inappropriate use of online remote teaching and learning communication platform such as an uninvited person accessing the lesson link, students being unsupervised in breakout rooms ▪ Risk of harm due to inappropriate relationship / communications between child and another child or adult ▪ Risk of harm caused by member of school personnel communicating with students in an inappropriate manner via social media, texting, digital device or other manner	▪ The School has in place an Acceptable Use Policy in respect of usage of ICT ▪ 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 ▪ The school has in place a Distance / Remote Learning Policy which clearly outlines guidelines for parents/guardians, students and staff ▪ Online Safety and Digital Media literacy form part of the school's Wellbeing Programme ▪ A best practice guidance document was formulated for all staff in relation to distance / remote learning ▪ Staff and students are required to use official school accounts for email, etc. (See Distance / Remote Learning Policy) ▪ CPD is offered to staff and students on a regular basis ▪ The school has continuously emphasised the need for respectful and responsible behaviour ▪ The school has a Dignity Charter ▪ The school has in place a code of behaviour for students ▪ School personnel are expected to adhere to the Teaching Council's Code of

		▪ Risk of harm caused by member of school personnel accessing/circulating inappropriate material via social media, texting, digital device or other manner	Conduct and the schools Code of Professional Conduct ▪ The school complies with agreed disciplinary procedures for teaching staff ▪ The highest standard for the administration settings for school based IT platforms have been enabled
32	Reporting	▪ Risk of harm not being recognised by school personnel ▪ Risk of harm not being reported properly and promptly by school personnel	▪ The school has provided each member of school staff with a copy of the school's Student 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.* ▪ The school encourages staff to avail of relevant training ▪ The school encourages Board of Management members to avail of relevant training ▪ The school complies with the agreed disciplinary procedures for teaching staff

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.

This risk assessment has been completed by the Board of Management on 22nd January 2024.

It shall be reviewed as part of the school's annual review of its Child Safeguarding Statement.

Signed: *Cllr Ann Norton* Signed:

Chairperson of Board of Management

Date: 22/01/2024

Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Date: 22/01/2024