

Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment 2024-2025

Safeguarding Statement

Grace Park ETNS 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 Grace Park ETNS 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 **Niamh Cullen (Principal)**
3. The **Deputy Designated Liaison Person (DDLP)** is **Lianna Cassin (Deputy Principal)**
4. The Relevant Person is **Niamh Cullen (Principal)**
(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 (however 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 [go.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 [go.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.

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.

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 20 November 2023.



Signed: Kevin O'Neil

Chairperson of Board of Management

Date: 3 October 2024



Signed: Niamh Cullen

Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Date: 3 October 2024

Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment

Written Assessment of Risk, Grace Park ETNS

In accordance with section 11 of the Children First Act 2015 and with the requirement of Chapter 8 of the *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017*, the following is the Written Risk Assessment of Grace Park ETNS.

List of School Activities	The school has identified the following risk of harm in respect of its' activities	The school has the following procedures in place to address the risks of harm identified in this assessment -
Training of school personnel in Child Protection matters	Risk of harm not being recognised by school personnel Risk of harm not being reported properly and promptly by school personnel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Child Safeguarding Statement and Procedures made available to all staff DL.P and DDL.P attend training All Staff complete Tusla training module and any other online training CS is discussed regularly at staff meetings Yearly refresher at staff meetings (March) about responsibilities. Droichead team mentor NQTs in safeguarding procedures
Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils	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 harm due to inadequate supervision of children in school	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Arrival and dismissal supervised by Teachers and other school personnel
School car park	Risk of child being harmed in the school by another child or an adult	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parents are reminded of School Rules concerning collection and drop off points
School transport arrangements including use of bus escorts	Risk of harm not being recognised or reported promptly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vetting procedures in place Child Safeguarding Statement Communication directly with class teacher Tulsa training

List of School Activities	The school has identified the following risk of harm in respect of its' activities	The school has the following procedures in place to address the risks of harm identified in this assessment -
Classroom teaching	<p>Risk of harm not being recognised by school personnel</p> <p>Risk of harm not being reported properly and promptly by school personnel</p> <p>Risk of child being harmed in the school by a member of school personnel</p> <p>Risk of child being harmed in the school by another child</p> <p>Risk of harm due to bullying of child</p> <p>Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children in school</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Observation window in all classrooms • Child Safeguarding Statement in each room • Child Safeguarding training provided • CSS reporting duties are regularly addressed at staff meetings • Staff are encouraged to speak to DLP/DDLP about any concerns they have • Anti-bullying policy in place • Anti-bullying lessons regularly completed • Culture of kindness • Berry Street Education Model teaching • Anti-bullying procedures followed • Supervision policy and procedures in place and discussed regularly in staff meetings
One to one teaching	<p>Risk of harm in one-to-one teaching, counselling, coaching situation</p> <p>Risk of harm not being recognised by school personnel</p> <p>Risk of harm not being reported properly and promptly by school personnel</p> <p>Risk of child being harmed in the school by a member of school personnel</p> <p>Risk of harm to children with SEN who have particular vulnerabilities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All staff are Garda Vetted • All rooms are fitted with glass doors • All staff are aware of their responsibilities • If a staff member is alone with a child, other than a regularly timetabled event, another teacher should be made aware

List of School Activities	The school has identified the following risk of harm in respect of its' activities	The school has the following procedures in place to address the risks of harm identified in this assessment -
Outdoor teaching activities	<p>Risk of child being harmed in the school by volunteer or visitor to the school</p> <p>Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children while attending out door school activities</p> <p>Risk of harm due to inappropriate relationship/communication between child and another child or adult</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An additional staff member will accompany the class teacher • The School has a supervision policy in place • A smaller P/T ratio is expected for outdoor teaching • Children are reminded of Stay Safe Teachings
Recreation breaks for pupils	<p>Risk of harm due to inappropriate relationship/communication between child and another child or adult</p> <p>Risk of harm due to bullying of child</p> <p>Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children in school</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supervision Policy • Code of Behaviour • Anti-Bullying Policy
Toilet areas/Shower areas	Risk of inappropriate behaviour	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supervision by staff • Classroom procedure and routines in place
Afterschool Clubs	Risk of harm to pupils	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vetting of staff • Visible setting • Child Safeguarding Statement
Summer camps/ July Provision	<p>Risk of harm to children with SEN who have particular vulnerabilities</p> <p>Risk of harm to child while a child is receiving intimate care</p> <p>Risk of harm in one-to-one teaching, counselling, coaching situation</p> <p>Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children while attending out of school activities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Risk assessments carried out before school trips are planned where possible • Staff are vetted prior to camps • Child Safeguarding Plan • Supervision policy

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School outings	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children while attending out of school activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Supervision Policy in place ● Additional staff will accompany the teacher ● Procedure document for trips
Use of off-site facilities for school activities : Swimming	Risk of harm to child while a child is receiving intimate care Risk of child being harmed by a member of school personnel member of staff of another organisation or other person while child participating in out of school activities e.g. school trip, swimming lessons	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Teachers are present throughout swimming session. ● Supervision Policy ● Swimming Procedure Document
School trips involving overnight stay	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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Supervision policy ● Safeguarding statement ● Additional staffing ● Intimate Care Policy ● P/T ratio reduced ● Children are only in the care of GV adults ● Teachers are in supervisory role at all times

List of School Activities	The school has identified the following risk of harm in respect of its' activities	The school has the following procedures in place to address the risks of harm identified in this assessment
<p>Care of children with special needs, including intimate care needs</p>	<p>Risk of harm due to inappropriate relationship/communication between child and another child or adult</p> <p>Risk of harm due to children inappropriately accessing/using computers, social media, phones and other devices while at school</p> <p>Risk of harm to children with SEN who have particular vulnerabilities</p> <p>Risk of harm to child while a child is receiving intimate care</p> <p>Risk of harm in one-to-one teaching, counselling, coaching situation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy on Intimate Care • Robust systems and procedures for working with children with AEN • CPI training provided for staff • AUP in place • Glass doors • Reteaching of Stay Safe/RSE in small groups
<p>Care of pupils with specific vulnerabilities/ needs such as</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pupils from ethnic minorities/migrants • 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 	<p>Risk of harm from not recognising the diverse needs of each group</p> <p>Risk of harm due to bullying of child</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child Safeguarding Statement & DES procedures made available to all staff • Staff to view Tusla training module & any other online training offered by PDST • Vetting Procedures • Policy of Parents / Volunteers • Volunteer Information leaflet • Policy on Visiting Contractors

List of School Activities	The school has identified the following risk of harm in respect of its' activities	The school has the following procedures in place to address the risks of harm identified in this assessment -
Managing of challenging behaviour amongst pupils, including appropriate use of restraint	Risk of harm due to inappropriate relationship/communications between child and another child or adult	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Health & Safety Policy ● Code Of Behaviour ● use of the decision making matrix ● Staff CPD on challenging behaviour (NCSE) ● CPI Training
Curricular provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe	Risk of harm to child if these programmes not being taught, or not taught in their entirety.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● School implements these programmes in full ● Teachers submit CM at the end of these programmes ● Professional learning is encouraged
Use of external personnel to supplement curriculum	Risk of child being harmed in the school by volunteer or visitor to the school	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Vetting procedures in place ● Child Safeguarding Statement ● Teacher remains supervising the class ● Volunteer pact
Sporting Activities Sports Coaches: Gaelic Football Annual Sports Day	Risk of child being harmed in the school by volunteer or visitor to the school	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● First Aid available ● Supervision Policy ● Vetting procedures in place ● Child Safeguarding Statement ● Teacher remains supervising the class ● Volunteer pact
Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst pupils	Risk of harm due to bullying of child	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● RSE, Walk Tall, Stay Safe are utilised in full ● Anti-Bullying Policy and procedures ● Internet Safety
Application of sanctions under the school's Code of Behaviour including detention of pupils, confiscation of phones etc.	Risk of child being harmed in the school by another child	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Code of Behaviour Policy ● Wholes School Response to behaviour strategies ● Monitoring of children's relationships ● Supervision

List of School Activities	The school has identified the following risk of harm in respect of its' activities	The school has the following procedures in place to address the risks of harm identified in this assessment -
Administration of Medicine Administration of First Aid	Risk of child being harmed in the school by a member of school personnel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● First Aid Policy in place ● Administration of medicine guidelines in place
Use of Information and Communication Technology by pupils in school	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 caused by member of school personnel communicating with pupils in appropriate 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● ICT policy ● Anti-Bullying Policy ● Code of Behaviour ● Visit from speaker for Internet Safety Week ● AUP ● Constant monitoring and education about Cyber-safety
Students participating in work experience	Risk of child being harmed in the school by volunteer or visitor to the school	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Work experience guidelines ● Child Safeguarding Statement. ● Supervision Policy
Student ANAs participating in work experience in the school	Risk of harm due to inappropriate relationship/communication between child and another child or adult	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Volunteer Procedures ● Vetting by college/school ● Supervision by cooperating /mentoring teacher
Student teachers undertaking training placement in school	Risk of harm caused by member of school personnel communicating with pupils in appropriate manner via social media, texting, digital device or other manner	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Staff are informed of how to share information ● Phones are not an appropriate media to record children's progress ● Parental Consent is essential ● AUP
Use of video/photography/other media to record school events	Risk of harm caused by member of school personnel accessing/circulating inappropriate material via social media, texting, digital device or other manner	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Staff are informed of how to share information ● Phones are not an appropriate media to record children's progress ● Parental Consent is essential ● AUP

List of School Activities	The school has identified the following risk of harm in respect of its' activities	The school has the following procedures in place to address the risks of harm identified in this assessment -
Use of school premises by other organisation during school day	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children while attending out of school activities	Child Safeguarding Statement & DFS procedures made available to all staff Staff to view Tusla training module & any other online training offered by PDST Vetting Procedures Policy of Parents / Volunteers Volunteer Procedures

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 ~~20 November 2023~~ **3 October 24**. It shall be reviewed as part of the school's annual review of its Child Safeguarding Statement.

Signed: 

Kevin O' Neill

Chairperson of Board of Management

Date: 3 October 2024

Signed: 

Niamh Cullen

Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Date: 3 October 2024