

## Child Safeguarding Statement

### Ballyfacey National School

Roll Number: 18257N

Ballyfacey National School 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 2023 and Tusla Guidance on the preparation of Child Safeguarding Statements, the Board of Management of Ballyfacey N.S. 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 2023 as part of this overall Child Safeguarding Statement

2 The Designated Liaison Person (DLP) is Mr. Tommie O' Gorman Principal

3 The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is Mrs. Ciara O' Connor

4 The Relevant Person is Mr. Tommie O' Gorman

(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 2023 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 2023, 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.

- 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 has been adopted by the Board of Management of Ballyfacey N.S.

This Child Safeguarding Statement was reviewed by the Board of Management on 11<sup>th</sup> February 2025.

This Statement will be reviewed again in February 2026.

Signed: James O'Seale

Chairperson of Board of Management

Signed: Terence O'Garra

Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Date: 11/2/25.

Date: 11/2/25.

## Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment

### Written Assessment of Risk of Ballyfacey National School 18257N

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 2023*, the following is the Written Risk Assessment of Ballyfacey National School.

<p><b>1. List of school activities:</b></p> <p>Training of school personnel in Child Safeguarding matters.</p>	<p><b>2. The school has identified the following risk of harm in respect of its activities:</b></p> <p>Harm not recognised or reported promptly.</p>	<p><b>3. The school has the following procedures in place to address the risks of harm identified in this assessment:</b></p> <p>Child Safeguarding Statement &amp; DES procedures made available to all staff.  DLP &amp; Deputy DLP to attend face to face training.  All staff to view training modules &amp; any other online training provided by PDST.  BOM records all records of staff and board training.</p>
--	--	--

<p>One-to-one teaching.</p>	<p>Harm by school personnel.</p>	<p>School policy in place for one-to-one teaching. Open doors/ glass window on doors. Table between teacher and pupil during lessons.</p>
<p>1. List of school activities:  Care of children with special needs, including intimate care needs.</p>	<p>2. The school has identified the following risk of harm in respect of its activities:  Harm by school personnel.</p>	<p>3. The school has the following procedures in place to address the risks of harm identified in this assessment:  S.E.N. Policy. Policy on Intimate Care.</p>
<p>Toilet Areas.</p>	<p>Inappropriate behaviour.</p>	<p>Additional toileting facilities added to the school during extension work 2021. Code of Behaviour.</p>
<p>Curricular Provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe.</p>	<p>Non-teaching of same.</p>	<p>School implements these subjects/ programmes in full.</p>
<p>Access/ Egress.</p>	<p>Access to pupils by strangers and other adults Potential flight risk of pupils.</p>	<p>Adequate Supervision. Gates closed at break times. Close supervision by SNAs (where SNA is employed). Two entrance doors to be kept closed where effective ventilation can be provided through the opening of windows instead.</p>

Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils.	Harm from other pupils, unknown adults around playground.	Adequate Supervision. Communications to parents about prompt collection and observation of correct drop/ collection times. Communication to parents that entry into the school grounds is not permitted – children will meet parents/ guardians at the school gate.
Managing of challenging behaviour amongst pupils, including appropriate use of restraint.	Injury to pupils or staff members.	Physical Intervention policy. Health and Safety Policy. Code of Behaviour.
1. List of school activities:	2. The school has identified the following risk of harm in respect of its activities:	3. The school has the following procedures in place to address the risks of harm identified in this assessment:
Students participating in work experience/ student training.	Harm by student	Work experience/ teacher training policy. Garda Vetting procedures Child Safeguarding Statement.
Recreation breaks for pupils.	Access to pupils by strangers/other adults. Risk of harm from other pupils.	Adequate supervision at break times – rota in place. Specific duties allocated to SNA if applicable. School behaviour rules clearly defined for children.
Classroom teaching	Harm to pupils	Vetting Procedures. Appropriate training. Code of Behaviour. Glass in classroom doors.
Swimming Lessons/ sporting events	Potential for unsupervised times in changing areas. Access to pupils by strangers/ other adults.	Trained lifeguards at pool. Adequate supervision by teaching staff members at pool. Multiple Staff members to provide safeguarding cover for one another – important that no teacher is left in a vulnerable position of being alone with a child. Discussion in SPHE lessons about appropriate

			behaviour in changing areas and respect for others.
Transport to sporting events/ Church practices/ etc.	Harm to pupils.	Permission slips signed by parents – otherwise those parents must provide transportation for their child(ren) if they wish for them to attend these events.	
School outings.	Access to pupils by strangers. Inappropriate activity by pupils. Dangers posed by unfamiliar environment.	Adequate supervision Careful planning and preparation by staff prior to outing. School Tour Policy.	
<b>1. List of school activities:</b>	<b>2. The school has identified the following risk of harm in respect of its activities:</b>	<b>3. The school has the following procedures in place to address the risks of harm identified in this assessment:</b>	
Annual Sports Day.	Harm to pupils.	Adequate planning and preparation by staff. Activity supervision rotas. Adequate supervision of all pupils at all times.	
Administration of medicines Administration of First Aid.	Harm to pupils through inappropriate use of medicine. Harm to pupil through inadequate First Aid provision.	Policies in place. Clearly specified instructions from parents for correct administration of medication. First Aid refresher courses for staff.	
Prevention of and dealing with bullying amongst pupils.	Harm to pupils.	Anti-bullying Policy – reviewed annually. Code of Behaviour. SPHE and Stay Safe instruction on respect and care towards others, as well as advice on how to ask for help if experiencing bullying.	

<p>Care of pupils with specific vulnerabilities/ needs such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pupils from ethnic minorities/ migrants.</li> <li>• Members of Traveller Community.</li> <li>• Lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender pupils.</li> <li>• Pupils perceived as being LGBTQIA+.</li> <li>• Pupils of minority religious faiths.</li> <li>• Children in care.</li> <li>• Children on CPNS (Child Protection Notification System).</li> </ul>	<p>Harm to pupils – bullying.</p>	<p>Staff training where necessary. Adequate supervision. Appropriate communications where necessary. Anti-bullying Policy. Code of Behaviour.</p>
<p><b>1. List of school activities:</b></p> <p>Recruitment of school personnel including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Teachers</li> <li>• SNAs</li> <li>• Caretaker/ Secretary/ Cleaner</li> <li>• Sports coaches</li> <li>• External guest speakers</li> <li>• Volunteers for school activities</li> <li>• Visitors/ contractors present in school during school hours (only where necessary).</li> </ul>	<p><b>2. The school has identified the following risk of harm in respect of its activities:</b></p> <p>Harm to pupils. Inappropriate conduct in dealing with pupils. Lack of awareness of child safety issues.</p>	<p><b>3. The school has the following procedures in place to address the risks of harm identified in this assessment:</b></p>
		<p>Child Safeguarding Statement &amp; DES procedures made available to all staff. Staff training modules &amp; any other online training from PDST. Vetting procedures. Policy on Volunteers. Policy on Visiting Contractors. Tutors/ coaches from reputable organisations with necessary vetting. Make visitors familiar with Child Safeguarding Statement as well as the school Code of Behaviour where necessary. Teacher present and within view at all times. Open door policy.</p>

Use of Information and Communication Technology by pupils.	Potential for cyber bullying and grooming of children.	Acceptable usage policy Personal mobile phones, tablets, smart devices strictly prohibited for pupils. Anti-bullying Policy. Code of Behaviour. All Internet access filtered by NCTE in accordance with school policy as well as teacher monitoring use. Use of SPHE lessons for online etiquette and safety. Information sessions for pupils, parents and staff members.
Use of video/ photography/ other media to record school events.	Inappropriate use of images/ footage by individuals.	Private use Policy Reminders at live events to audience members about the above policy.
1. List of school activities:  Online Teaching and Learning Remotely	2. The school has identified the following risk of harm in respect of its activities:  Risk of harm from inappropriate use of online remote learning and teaching communication platforms such as an uninvited person accessing lesson links.	3. The school has the following procedures in place to address the risks of harm identified in this assessment:  Acceptable Usage Policy in place which includes provision for online teaching and remote learning. Use of password secure remote learning platform (Seesaw) if required.

**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.

This risk assessment has been fully reviewed using the mandatory checklist by the Board of Management of Ballyfacey National School on 11<sup>th</sup> February 2025 and it will receive an annual review in February 2026.

Signed: James O'Leary Date: 11/2/25

Chairperson, Board of Management, Ballyfacey N.S.

Signed: Tomie O'Garra Date: 11/2/25

Principal & Secretary of Board of Management, Ballyfacey N.S.