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Cloughjordan No.1 N.S. Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment

Child Safeguarding Statement

Cloughjordan No.1 N.S. 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 Cloughjordan No.1 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 (revised (2023) as part of this overall Child Safeguarding Statement
- 2 The **Designated Liaison Person (DLP)** is **Mr. Ivor Hayes (Principal)**.
- 3 The **Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP)** is Ms. **Louise Cromer (Deputy Principal)**.
- 4 The **Relevant Person** is **Mr. Ivor Hayes (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 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 (revised 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 (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.

The school has very clear policies and practices in place that are particularly relevant to child protection. These include:

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|---|--|
| ✓ Acceptable Use Policy | ✓ Policy on First Aid, including Intimate Care |
| ✓ Anti Bullying Policy | ✓ Policy on Parental Involvement |
| ✓ Statement of Strategy for School Attendance | ✓ Policy on Phones and Electronic Gadgets |
| ✓ Code of Behaviour | ✓ Policy on Relationships and Sexuality Education (R.S.E.) |
| ✓ Policy on Confidentiality | ✓ Health and Safety Statement |

- ✓ Policy on Data Protection
- ✓ Data Protection Privacy Statement
- ✓ Policy on Equality of Access and Participation
- ✓ Policy on Family Welfare
- ✓ Policy on Social, Personal and Health Education (S.P.H.E.)
- ✓ Substance Use Policy
- ✓ Policy on Supervision
- ✓ Policy on Work Experience

- 7 This statement has been published on the school's website and has been provided to all members of school personnel, the Parents Teacher 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 **26th February 2024** [date].

This Child Safeguarding Statement was reviewed by the Board of Management on **26th February 2024** [most recent review date].

Signed: Lesley Sandes

Chairperson of Board of Management

Signed: Ivor Hayes

Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Date: 26th February 2024

Date: 26th February 2024

Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment

Written Assessment of Risk of Cloughjordan No.1 N.S.

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 (revised 2023), the following is the Written Risk Assessment of Cloughjordan no.1 N.S.

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 -
(insert list of school activities in this section)	(insert risks of harm identified in this section)	(insert the procedures in place to address risks of harm in this section)
Training of school personnel in Child Protection matters	Harm not recognised or reported promptly	Child Safeguarding Statement & DE procedures made available to all staff Staff & Board members encouraged to avail of Child Protection training DLP & DDLP attended PDST Seminar in LEC for DLP & DDLP on Mon 12 th March 2018 BOM records all records of staff and board training
Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils	Access/harm to pupils by strangers or other adults.	Maglocks fitted at all entrances at the front of the school preventing anybody entering without invitation/permission. CCTV in operation. Pupils, parents and visitors can not gain entry without using the buzzer and intercom (fitted at all entrances at the front of the school) Supervision Policy
Inappropriate behaviour by pupils	Risk of harm to pupils	Anti-Bullying Policy which fully adheres to the requirements of the Department's Anti-Bullying Procedures for Primary and Post Primary School Code of Behaviour for all members of the school

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 –
Children travelling in staff cars	Risk of harm to pupils	Staff will not carry children alone in their cars. At least two children must travel with the staff member in the car or another adult and child.
Children travelling in other cars	Risk of harm to pupils	Only parents/grandparents who are Garda Vetted assist with driving children. Parents/Grandparents will not carry children alone in their cars to/from school events. At least two children must travel with the parent/grandparent in the car or another adult and child.
One to one teaching	Risk of harm by school personnel	Staff are mindful of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement Glass panel in the wall and/or door thus rendering the occupants visible at all times Table between pupil and teacher Special Education Policy
Care of Children with special needs	Risk of harm by school personnel	Special Education Policy
Toileting Accidents	Risk of harm to child while a child is receiving intimate care	Clean underwear and suitable clothing will be kept in the school so that if a pupil has an 'accident' of this nature, they will in the first instance be offered fresh clothing into which they can change. If the pupil for whatever reason cannot clean or change themselves the child will be assisted by two members of staff familiar to the child. In all such situations, two members of staff should be present. The Principal and parents will be informed when a child has a toileting accident/intimate care needs in school and how it was dealt with.

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 -
Swimming	<p>Risk of harm to a child while a child is receiving intimate care</p> <p>Access to pupils by strangers or other adults</p>	<p>All adults assisting with supervision in the changing rooms will be Garda Vetted, act in ‘loco parentis’ and as such will act as prudent parents. Pupils will be expected to dress and undress themselves for swimming. Where assistance is needed this will be done in the communal area and with the consent of parents or in the cubicles with no less than two children present with any one adult. Under no circumstances will members of staff/volunteers be expected to or allowed to dress/undress a child alone in a cubicle/private area. In such situations where privacy is required, the parents/guardians of the child will be asked to assist the child. Specific arrangements will be put in place, where necessary, in agreement with parents for managing the care needs of special needs pupils. These arrangements will be recorded as part of the care needs plan.</p>
Attendance	Risk of harm to pupils	Statement of Strategy for School Attendance Staff monitor non-attendance in correlation with signs of neglect or abuse.
Showing Digital Recordings (Films/videos/DVDs/ T.V. Programmes etc)	Risk of exposure to inappropriate material	Staff will always ensure that any digital recording/programme shown to the children is age appropriate. The only DVDs/films/videos that may be shown to children are those rated General Viewing (G) Universal Suitable for all (U) or Particular Suitability of the Work for Viewing by Children (UC)
Christmas Concert/Carol Service	Risk of harm caused by a parent/visitor posting images/footage on social media/online of pupils without permission	Posting of images of pupils on social media/online, at school events, is strictly forbidden

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 -
Annual Sports Day	Risk of harm caused by a parent/visitor posting images/footage on social media/online of pupils without permission	Posting of images of pupils on social media/online, at school events, is strictly forbidden
Bring & Buy Sale	Risk of harm caused by a parent/visitor posting images/footage on social media/online of pupils without permission	Posting of images of pupils on social media/online, at school events, is strictly forbidden
Use of Information and Communication Technology by pupils and Online Safety	Risk of harm associated with misuse, abuse of devices and various associated technologies Risk of invasion of privacy, online harassment, intimidation or bullying (cyber-bullying) Risk of accessing inappropriate content Phishing and malware	Digital Learning Plan in place Anti-Bullying Policy in place Code of Behaviour in place Acceptable Use Policy – outlines the expected behaviour and responsibilities of both teachers and students when online Phone and Electronic Devices Policy in place covering the use of ipad and smart phones in the classroom during the school day as outlined in Circular 0038/2018 Jamf School – Mobile device management for schools in place Internet safety training for teachers, students and parents Use of secure communication channels for students and parents to communicate with school e.g. school email, Seesaw. Teach digital citizenship as part of the SPHE curriculum Regularly review and update policies

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 -
Online teaching and remote learning	Risk of harm due to inappropriate use of online remote teaching and learning communication platform, namely Seesaw Exposure to environments outside of the school setting. Siblings/Parents/Others on camera Inappropriate content	Acceptable Use Policy in place to include provision for online teaching and remote learning and communicated to parents Appropriate use of Seesaw between school and the individual child/their parents only. Parents to view and supervise all content shared by children at home on Seesaw. Teachers view all content and must approve the children’s work before adding it to their journals on Seesaw.
Use of external personnel to supplement curriculum Use of external personnel to support sports and other extra-curricular activities	Access to pupils by strangers or other adults Risk of child being harmed in the school by volunteer or visitor to the school Risk of harm not being reported properly and promptly by school personnel	School adheres to the requirements of Garda Vetting legislation Parental Involvement Policy Work Experience Policy Policy on Confidentiality
Students participating in work experience in the school Student teachers undertaking training placement in school	Access to pupils by strangers or other adults Risk of child being harmed in the school by volunteer or visitor to the school Risk of harm not being reported properly and promptly by school personnel	School adheres to the requirements of Garda Vetting legislation Parental Involvement Policy Work Experience Policy Policy on Confidentiality
Use of off-site facilities for school Activities/School Tours	Access to pupils by strangers or other adults	Supervision Policy Parental Involvement Policy
After school use of playground facilities by members of the school community, wider community/public – currently closed for any after school use	Access to pupils by strangers or other adults	Users should not access the playground outside of school hours as it is currently closed outside of these times. Fencing and gates locked outside of school hours to restrict access CCTV in place

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 -

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.