

EUREKA



## Child Safeguarding Statement

**Eureka Secondary School** is a post-primary school providing post-primary education to students 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 Eureka Secondary School 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 **Mary Mullaghy**
- 3 The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is **David Wright**
- 4 The Relevant Person is **Mary Mullaghy**  
*(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. This person can also be the DLP)*
- 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.

- 7 This statement has been published on the school's website and has been provided to all members of school personnel, the Parents' Association (if any) 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 4/3/24

This Child Safeguarding Statement was reviewed by the Board of Management on 4/3/24

Signed: Mary Byrne Date: 4/3/24 Signed: Mary Mullen Date: 4/3/24

Chairperson of Board of Management

Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

# Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment

## Written Assessment of Risk of Eureka Secondary School

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 Eureka Secondary School.

### 1. List of school activities

1. Daily arrival and dismissal of students
2. Recreation breaks for students
3. Classroom teaching
4. One-to-one teaching and oral exams
5. Special exam centres
6. One-to-one counselling
7. One-to-one meetings
8. Outdoor teaching activities
9. Sporting Activities
10. School Clubs
11. School Outings
12. Medical needs of students on trips/ outings
13. School trips involving overnight stay
14. School trips involving foreign travel
15. Use of toilet/changing/shower areas in schools
16. Annual Sports Day/End of year activities
17. Fundraising events involving students
18. Fundraising events involving students outside the school premises
19. Use of off-site facilities for school activities
20. School transport arrangements including use of bus escorts
21. Care of children with special educational needs, including intimate care where needed,
22. Care of any vulnerable adult students, including intimate care where needed
23. Management of challenging behaviour amongst students, including appropriate use of restraint where required
24. Administration of Medicine
25. Administration of First Aid
26. Curricular provision in respect of SPHE and RSE
27. Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst students
28. Training of school personnel in child protection matters
29. Use of external personnel to supplement curriculum
30. Use of external personnel to support sports and other extra-curricular activities
31. Care of students with specific vulnerabilities/ needs such as
  - Students from ethnic minorities/migrants/ refugees
  - Students with physical conditions e.g. wheelchair
  - Members of the Traveller community
  - Lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender (LGBTQIA+) children
  - Students perceived to be LGBTQIA+
  - Students of minority religious faiths
  - Children in care
  - Children on Child Protection Notification System (CPNS)
  - Students with mental health conditions
32. Recruitment of school personnel including -
  - Teachers/SNAs
  - Caretaker/Secretary/Cleaners
  - External Tutors/Guest Speakers/Coaches
  - Volunteers/Parents in school activities
  - Visitors/contractors present in school during school hours
  - Visitors/contractors present during after school activities
33. Participation by students in religious ceremonies/religious instruction external to the school
34. Use of Information and Communication Technology by students in school
35. Application of sanctions under the school's Code of Behaviour including detention of students, confiscation of phones
36. Students from the school participating in work experience outside school
37. Students involved in after school activities
38. Students from the school participating community links
39. Student teachers undertaking training placement in school
40. Use of video/photography/other media to record school events
41. After school use of school premises by other organisations
42. Use of school premises by other organisation during school day
43. Evening study
44. Parent-Teacher Meetings
45. Open Days

- The school –
  - Has provided each member of school 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
  - Maintains records of all staff and board member training
- The school has in place a Code of Behaviour for students
- The school has in place an ICT policy in respect of usage of ICT by students
- The school has in place a mobile phone policy in respect of usage of mobile phones by students
- The school has in place a Critical Incident Management Plan
- The school has in place a policy and procedures for the use of external persons to supplement delivery of the curriculum
- The school has in place a policy and procedures for the use of external coaches
- The school has in place a policy and clear procedures for one-to-one teaching activities
- The school has in place a policy and procedures for one-to-one counselling
- The school has in place a policy and procedures in respect of student teacher placements
- The school has in place a policy and procedures in respect of students of the school undertaking work experience in external organisations#
- Visitors/contractors will sign-in at the office and be given a visitor’s badge

**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.