



GARDINER STREET PRIMARY SCHOOL

CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

This Child Protection Policy has been developed in accordance with the requirements of the *Children First Act 2015*, *Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children (2017)*, and *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools (2017)* issued by the Department of Education and Skills (DES). It applies to all school staff, parents, visitors, volunteers, and others working in or visiting Gardiner Street Primary School.

Designated Liaison Person (DLP) and Deputy DLP

The Designated Liaison Person (DLP) is

Mr Eoin Murphy

The Deputy Designated Liaison person (DDL) is

Ms. Lisa Murphy

Introduction

The Board of Management of Gardiner Street Primary School recognises that child protection and welfare considerations permeate all aspects of school life and must be reflected in all of the schools policies, practices and activities. Accordingly, in accordance with the requirements of the Department of Education and Skills' Child Protection Procedures for primary and post primary schools, the Board of Management of Gardiner Street Primary School has agreed the following Child Protection Policy:

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, as part of this overall Child Protection Policy.
2. In its policies, practices and activities, Gardiner Street Primary 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 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 the children and protect workers from the necessity to take on necessary risks that may leave themselves open to accusations of abuse and 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 special vulnerability.

3. The following policies, practices and activities support the child protection policy:

- Code of Behaviour
- Use of Discipline for Learning
- Anti-Bullying policy
- Friendship Slogans
- ‘Say No to Bullying’ Week
- Pupil Attendance Strategy
- SPHE policy
- RSE policy
- All Administrative Policies
- Supervision of Pupils
- School Trip Policy

- Sporting Activities
- School Outings
- Involvement in Committees - Active Schools, Green Schools

The Board has ensured that the necessary policies, protocols and practices as, appropriate, are in place in respect of each of the above.

4. This policy has been made available to school personnel and the Action Partnership Team and is readily available for parents to access in the Parents' Room and on the website. A copy of this policy will be made available to the Patron.
5. This policy will be reviewed by the Board of Management once in every school year.

This policy was adapted by the Board of Management on _____

Signed: _____

Signed: _____

Chairperson of Board of Management

Principal

Date: _____

Date: _____

Date of next review: _____



GARDINER STREET PRIMARY SCHOOL

CHILD SAFEGUARDING STATEMENT & RISK ASSESSMENT

School Contact Details:

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- In accordance with the requirements of the Children First Act 2015, 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 2017 and Tusla Guidance on the preparation of Child Safeguarding Statements, the Board of Management of Gardiner Street Primary School agreed the Child Safeguarding Statement set out in this document.
- 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 2017 as part of this overall Child Safeguarding Statement
- The Designated Liaison Person (DLP) is:

Mr. Eoin Murphy 01 8722894
principal@gardinerstreetschool.ie

- The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is:
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Ms. Lisa Murphy 01 8722894
lisa@gardinerstreetschool.ie

- 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 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 DE 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 DE 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 members 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
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- 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 2017, 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 above named 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. The school maintains a register of all mandated persons including, but not limited to, registered teachers.
 - 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.
 - This statement has been published on the school's website and has been provided to all members of school personnel, the Action Partnership Team 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.

Risk Assessment

The definition of “harm” as outlined in the Children's First Act 2015 in relation to a child means:

- (a) assault, ill-treatment or neglect of the child in a manner that seriously affects or is likely to seriously affect the child's health, development or welfare, or
- (b) sexual abuse of the child, whether caused by a single act, omission or circumstance or a series or combination of acts, omissions or circumstances, or otherwise;

In accordance with section 11 of the Children First Act 2015 and with the requirements of Chapter 8 of the *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017*, the following is the Written Risk Assessment of GARDINER STREET PRIMARY SCHOOL:

1. List of school activities

- All school personnel are provided 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
- The school maintains a list of all employees who are mandated persons which is available on request, and which includes registered teachers, SNAs, external tutors, School Completion Programme (SCP) workers, and visiting clergy.

	Risk identified	Procedure in place to manage identified risk
1	Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils	The school has a yard/playground supervision policy to ensure appropriate supervision of children during, assembly, dismissal and breaks and in respect of specific areas such as toilets
2	Recreation breaks for pupils	The school has a yard/playground supervision policy to ensure appropriate supervision of children during, assembly, dismissal and breaks and in respect of specific areas such as toilets
3	Classroom teaching	The school has a Health and Safety policy

4	One-to-one teaching	<p>The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation and relevant DES circulars in relation to recruitment and Garda vetting.</p> <p>The school has a Code of Conduct for school personnel (teaching and non-teaching staff).</p> <p>The school has in place policy and procedures for the use of external persons to supplement the curriculum, and deliver programmes to children.</p>
5	One-to-one counselling	The school has in place a policy and procedures for one-to-one counselling.
6.	Online or remote teaching or co-curricular activities	<p>The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation and relevant DES circulars, in relation to recruitment and Garda vetting.</p> <p>The school has a Code of Conduct for school personnel (teaching and non-teaching staff). The school has an Acceptable Use Policy and Agreement for iPads Policy.</p>
7.	Outdoor teaching activities	<p>The school has in place a policy and procedures for the use of external persons to supplement delivery of the curriculum.</p> <p>The school has in place a policy and procedures for the use of external sports coaches.</p>
8.	Sporting Activities	<p>The school has in place a policy and procedures for the use of external persons to supplement delivery of the curriculum.</p> <p>The school has in place a policy and procedures for the use of external sports coaches.</p>
9.	School outings	<p>The school has in place a policy and clear procedures in respect of school outings.</p> <p>The school has attached a safeguarding statement on all consent forms for trips.</p>
10.	Use of toilets	The school has a yard/playground supervision policy to ensure appropriate supervision of children during, assembly, dismissal and breaks and in respect of specific areas, such as toilets.

11.	Sports Day	The school has a code of conduct for school personnel (teaching and non-teaching staff). The school has in place a policy and procedures for the use of external sports coaches.
12	Use of off-site facilities for school activities	The school has in place a policy and clear procedures in respect of school outings
13	School transport arrangements	The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation and relevant DES circulars in relation to recruitment and Garda vetting
14	Care of children with special educational needs, including intimate care where needed	The school has a Special Educational Needs policy. The school has an Intimate Care Policy in respect of students who require such care.
15	Management of challenging behaviour amongst pupils, including appropriate use of restraint where required	The school has in place a Code of Behaviour for pupils and staff.
16	Administration of Medicine	The school has in place a policy and procedures for the administration of First Aid.
17	Administration of First Aid	The school has in place a policy and procedures for the administration of First Aid.
18	Curricular provision in respect of SPHE, RSE	The school implements in full the SPHE/RSE curriculum.
19	Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst pupils	The school has an Anti-Bullying Policy which fully adheres to the requirements of the Department's Bí Cineálta guidelines.
20	Training of school personnel in child protection matters	The school – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has provided each member of school staff with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement (once completed) • Ensures all new staff are provided with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement – staff induction (once completed) • 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
21	Use of external personnel to supplement curriculum	The school has in place a policy and procedures for the use of external persons to supplement delivery of the curriculum.

22	Use of external personnel to support sports and other extracurricular activities	The school has in place a policy and procedures for the use of external sports coaches.
23	<p>Care of pupils with specific vulnerabilities/ needs such as</p> <p>Recruitment of school personnel including -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teachers/SNA's • Caretaker/Secretary/Cleaners • Sports coaches • External Tutors/Guest Speakers • Volunteers/Parents in school activities • Visitors/contractors present in school during school hours • Visitors/contractors present during after school activities 	<p>The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation and relevant DES circulars in relation to recruitment and Garda vetting</p> <p>Opportunities to work with a Life Skills Coach provided.</p>
24	Participation by pupils in religious ceremonies/religious instruction external to the school	The school has in place a policy and procedures in respect of pupils of the school participating in religious ceremonies in the church
25	Use of Information and Communication Technology by pupils in school	The school has in place an ICT policy which includes an iPad agreement in respect of usage of ICT by pupils
26	Application of sanctions under the school's Code of Behaviour including detention of pupils, confiscation of phones etc.	The school has in place a code of behaviour for pupils with clear procedures
27	Students participating in work experience in the school	The school has in place a policy and procedures in respect of students undertaking work experience in the school
28	Student teachers undertaking training placement in school	The school has in place a policy and procedures in respect of student teacher placements
29	Use of video/photography/other media to record school events	<p>The school has in place a code of behaviour for pupils and staff</p> <p>The school has in place an ICT policy in respect of usage of ICT by pupils and staff</p>
30	After school use of school premises by other organisations	The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation and relevant DES circulars in relation to recruitment and Garda vetting
31	Homework Club	The school has in place a Code of Behaviour for pupils.

		The school has a Code of Conduct for school personnel (teaching and non-teaching staff).
32	DEIS Summer Programme	<p>The school has the following policies in place;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supervision Policy. • Bí Cineálta Policy. • Health and Safety Policy. • Healthy Eating Policy. • Educational Trips Policy. • Code of Behaviour. • Low Pupil Teacher Ratio. • Summer Programme Manager. • Training Webinars from DEIS Summer Programme.
33	Use of Information and Communication Technology by pupils in school	<p>The school has the following policies in place;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ICT policy • Bí Cineálta Policy • Code of Behaviour • Acceptable Use Policy

2. The school has identified the following risk of harm in respect of its activities;

1	Risk of harm not being recognised by school personnel	<p>The school –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has provided each member of school staff with a copy of the school’s Child Safeguarding Statement (once completed) • Ensures all new staff are provided with a copy of the school’s Child Safeguarding Statement – staff induction (once completed) • Encourages staff to avail of relevant training • Encourages Board of Management members to avail of relevant training • Reminds Staff from time to time during the school year of their responsibilities
2	Risk of harm not being reported properly and promptly by school personnel	<p>The school –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has provided each member of school staff with a copy of the school’s Child

		<p>Safeguarding Statement (once completed)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensures all new staff members are provided with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement – staff induction (once completed) • 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 • Reminds staff from time to time during the school year of their responsibilities
3	Risk of child being harmed in the school by a member of school personnel	<p>The school -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has a yard/playground supervision policy to ensure appropriate supervision of children during assembly, dismissal and breaks and in respect of specific areas such as toilets, changing rooms etc. • Adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation and relevant DES circulars in relation to recruitment and Garda vetting. • Has a Code of Conduct for school personnel (teaching and non-teaching staff). • Has in place a policy and procedures for the use of external persons to supplement delivery of the curriculum, deliver programmes to children.
4	Risk of child being harmed in the school by another child	<p>The school-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has yard/playground supervision policy to ensure appropriate supervision of children during assembly, dismissal and breaks and in respect of specific areas such as toilets, changing rooms etc. • Has a Code of Conduct and an Anti-Bullying Policy in place in the school.
5	Risk of child being harmed in the school by volunteer or visitor to the school	<p>The school-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation and relevant DES circulars, in relation to recruitment and Garda vetting. • Has in place a policy and procedures for the use of external persons to supplement delivery of the curriculum.

6	Risk of child being harmed by a member of school personnel, a member of staff of another organisation or other person while child participating in out of school activities e.g. school trip, swimming lessons or online teaching	The school- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Has in place a policy and procedures for the use of external persons to supplement delivery of the curriculum.
7	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 left unsupervised for long periods of time in breakout rooms	The school- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Has in place an ICT policy in respect of usage of ICT by pupils and by staff. Has in place a mobile phone policy in respect of usage of mobile phones by pupils. Has in place a policy governing the use of smartphones and tablet devices in the school by pupils, as per circular 38/2018
8	Risk of harm due to bullying of child	The school- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Has an Anti-Bullying Policy which fully adheres to the requirements of the Department's Bí Cineálta Anti-Bullying Procedures.
9	Risk of harm due to racism	The school- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Has an Anti-Bullying Policy which fully adheres to the requirements of the Department's Bí Cineálta Anti-Bullying Procedures.
10	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children in school	The school- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Has a yard/playground supervision policy to ensure appropriate supervision of children during, assembly, dismissal and breaks and in respect of specific areas such as toilets.
11	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children while attending out of school activities	The school- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Has in place a policy and clear procedures in respect of school outings. Has attached a safeguarding statement on all consent forms for trips.
12	Risk of harm due to inappropriate relationship/communications between child and another child or adult	The school- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Has a code of conduct for school personnel (teaching and non-teaching staff). Has in place an Acceptable Use Policy in respect of usage of ICT by pupils.
13	Risk of harm due to children inappropriately accessing/using computers, social media, phones and other devices while at school	The school- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Has in place an Acceptable Use Policy in respect of usage of ICT by pupils.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Has in place a mobile phone policy in respect of usage of mobile phones by pupils. The school has in place a policy governing the use of smartphones and tablet devices in the school by pupils, as per circular 38/2018
14	Risk of harm to children with SEN who have particular vulnerabilities	The school- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Has a Special Educational Needs policy.
15	Risk of harm to child while a child is receiving intimate care	The school- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Has an intimate care policy/plan in respect of students who require such care.
16	Risk of harm due to inadequate code of behaviour	The school- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Has in place a Code of Behaviour for pupils, which is reviewed annually.
17	Risk of harm in one-to-one teaching, counselling, coaching situation	The school- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Has in place a policy and clear procedures for one-to-one teaching activities. Has in place a policy and procedures for one-to-one counselling.
18	Risk of harm caused by member of school personnel communicating with pupils in appropriate manner via social media, texting, digital device or other manner	The school- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Has a code of conduct for school personnel (teaching and non-teaching staff).
19	Risk of harm caused by member of school personnel accessing/circulating inappropriate material via, online educational platforms, social media, texting, digital device or other manner	The school- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Has a code of conduct for school personnel (teaching and non-teaching staff).

3. The school has the following procedures in place to address the risks of harm identified in this assessment:

1. The school maintains a list of all employees who are mandated persons which is available on request, and which includes registered teachers and clergy employed by the College.
2. All school personnel are provided with a copy of the school's *Child Safeguarding Statement*.
3. The *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017* are made available to all school personnel.
4. 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 and its Addendum (2019).

5. The school implements in full the SPHE curriculum.
6. The school has an Anti-Bullying Policy which fully adheres to the requirements of the Department's *Bí Cineálta Procedures to Prevent and Address Bullying Behaviour*.
7. The school undertakes anti-racism awareness initiatives.
8. The school has a yard/playground supervision policy to ensure appropriate supervision of children during, assembly, dismissal and breaks and in respect of specific areas such as toilets.
9. The school has in place a policy and clear procedures in respect of school outings.
10. The school has a Health and Safety policy.
11. The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation and relevant DE circulars in relation to recruitment and Garda vetting.
12. The school has a Code of Conduct for school personnel (teaching and non-teaching staff).
13. The school complies with the agreed disciplinary procedures for teaching staff.
14. The school has a Special Educational Needs policy.
15. The school has an intimate care policy/plan in respect of students who require such care.
16. The school has in place a policy and procedures for the administration of medication to pupils.
17. The school;
 - a. Has provided each member of school staff with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement
 - b. Ensures all new staff members are provided with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement
 - c. Encourages staff to avail of relevant training
 - d. Encourages board of management members to avail of relevant training
 - e. Maintains records of all staff and board member training
18. The school has in place a policy and procedures for the administration of First Aid.
19. The school has in place a Code of Behaviour for pupils.
20. The school has an Acceptable Use Policy in place, to include provision for online teaching and has communicated this policy to parents.
21. The school has in place a policy governing the use of smartphones and tablet devices in the

school by pupils as per circular 38/2018.

22. The school has in place a Critical Incident Management Plan.
23. The school has in place a Home School Liaison policy and related procedures.
24. The school has in place a policy and procedures for the use of external persons to supplement delivery of the curriculum.
25. The school has in place a policy and procedures for the use of external sports coaches.
26. The school has in place a policy and clear procedures for one-to-one teaching activities.
27. The school has in place a policy and procedures for one-to-one counselling.
28. The school has in place a policy and procedures in respect of student teacher placements.
29. The school has in place a policy and procedures in respect of students undertaking work experience in the school.
30. Staff members receive annual training regarding not communicating with pupils in an inappropriate manner via social media, texting, digital device or other manner.
31. Staff members receive annual training regarding accessing / circulating inappropriate material via:
social media, texting, digital device or other manner.
32. Staff use of school communications' platforms is monitored and discoverable.
33. Staff are aware that the inappropriate use of social media and digital communications platforms is subject to the agreed disciplinary procedures for teaching and non-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 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 Child Safeguarding Statement was ***adopted*** by the Board of Management on _____.

This Child Safeguarding Statement was ***reviewed*** by the Board of Management on _____.

Signed: _____

Chairperson of Board of Management

Date: _____

Signed: _____

Principal / Secretary to the Board of Management

Date: _____

Contact Person; Eoin Murphy

The School address is: Gardiner Street Primary School, Belvedere Court, Dublin 1, DO1 H9C5

Phone Number: 01 8722894 Email: principal@gardinerstreetschool.ie