

## **Scoil Náisiúnta Ubhla/Oola N.S**



## **Child Safeguarding Statement & Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment**

**Uimhir Rolla: 1718H, Fón 062/4706,  
[www.oolans.ie](http://www.oolans.ie)**



# Child Safeguarding Statement



**Scoil Náisiúnta Ubhla/Oola N.S**

**Uimhir Rolla: 1718H, Fón 062/4706, [www.oolans.ie](http://www.oolans.ie)**

**Oola 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 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 Oola National 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 2017 as part of this overall Child Safeguarding Statement.
- 2 The Designated Liaison Person (DLP) is: **Liam Guiney**
- 3 The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is: **Maria Carrie**
- 4 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. The school will adhere to the following principles of best practice in child protection and welfare. The school will:
  - a. recognise that the protection and welfare of children is of paramount importance, regardless of all other considerations
  - b. fully comply with its statutory obligations under the Children First Act 2015 and other relevant legislation relating to the protection and welfare of children
  - c. fully co-operate with the relevant statutory authorities in relation to child protection and welfare matters
  - d. 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
  - e. develop a practice of openness with parents and encourage parental involvement in the education of their children; and
  - f. 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.

- 5 The following procedures/measures are in place:
  - a. 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 DES website

- b. 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 DES and available on the DES website
  - c. 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:
    - i. Has provided each member of staff with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement
    - ii. Ensures all new staff are provided with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement
    - iii. Encourages staff to avail of relevant training
    - iv. Encourages Board of Management members to avail of relevant training
    - v. The Board of Management maintains records of all staff and Board member training.
  - d. 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
  - e. 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 school's child safeguarding statement.
- 6 All registered teachers employed by the school are mandated persons under the Children First Act 2015
- 7 In accordance with the Children First Act 2015, 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 attached as an appendix to these procedures
- 8 The various procedures referred to in this Statement can be accessed via the school's website, the DES 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

9 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.

10 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

Oola N.S.

This Child Safeguarding Statement was adopted by the Board of Management on March 5<sup>th</sup> 2018

Signed: *Mr John Landers*

Signed: *Mr Liam Guiney*

---

Chairperson of BoM

---

Principal/Secretary to the BoM

Date: 5/3/2018

Date: 5/3/2018



## Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment



### Written Assessment of Risk of Oola National School

In accordance with section 11 of the Children First Act 2015 and with the requirement of Section 8.8 of the Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017, the following is the Written Risk Assessment of Oola National School.

#### 1. List of school activities

One to one teaching  
Care of Children with special needs, including intimate care needs  
Toilet areas  
Curricular Provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe.  
LGBT Children/Pupils perceived to be LGBT  
Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils  
Managing of challenging behaviour amongst pupils, including appropriate use of restraint  
Sports Coaches  
Students participating in work experience  
Recreation breaks for pupils  
Classroom teaching  
Outdoor teaching activities  
Sporting Activities  
Homework club/evening study  
School outings  
Swimming  
Use of toilet/changing/shower areas in schools regarding SEN children  
Annual Sports Day  
Fundraising events involving pupils  
Use of off-site facilities for school activities  
School transport arrangements  
Administration of Medicine  
Administration of First Aid  
Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst pupils  
Training of school personnel in child protection matters

Use of external personnel to supplement curriculum  
List of School Activities  
Care of pupils with specific vulnerabilities

Recruitment of school personnel including -

- 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

Use of Information and Communication Technology by pupils in school  
Student teachers undertaking training placement in school  
Use of video/photography/other media to record school events

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

- Risk of Harm by Inappropriate behaviour
- Risk of Harm from older pupils, unknown adults on the playground
- Risk of harm by Injury to pupils and staff
- Risk of harm Encounters with unknown adults
- Risk of child being harmed by member of school personnel, a member of another organisation or other person while participating in swimming
- Risk of harm from non-school staff
- Risk of Harm from organising volunteers
- Risk of Harm from transport staff
- Risk of harm by the visiting student
- Risk of harm from Inappropriate use of recordings
- Risk of harm not being recognised by school personnel
- Risk of harm not being reported properly and promptly by school personnel
- 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 child being harmed in the school by volunteer or visitor to the school
- 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
- Risk of harm due to bullying of child
- 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
- Risk of harm in one-to-one teaching situation

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

- The school has in place Child Safeguarding Statement & Child Protection Procedures For Primary and Post Primary Schools 2017 are made available to all school personnel.
- DLP& DDLP to attend PDST face to face training
- All Staff to view Túsla training module & any other online training offered by PDS
- BOM maintains records of staff and board member training
- SET rooms located in middle of the school
- Glass panels in room doors
- Glass panel between SET rooms
- One to one in art room- art room door remains open
- School to explore one to one policy
- Policy on intimate care and toileting policy( to examined by meeting in June)
- Usage and supervision policy
- Main toilet doors open
- Staff member on duty at all times
- Only one child from a class uses toilet at one time
- Children tell supervising teacher on yard if they are leaving yard to use toilet.
- School implements SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe in full (mandated to teach Stay Safe)
- We will implement Stay Safe annually across the school.
- Anti-Bullying Policy
- Code of Behaviour
- Arrival and dismissal supervised by designated teacher at the front door.

- Visitor Sign Book
- Explore buzzer and signage
- Restraint Policy to be established urgently(before Easter 2018)
- Health & Safety Policy
- Code Of Behaviour
- Outside coaches to be vetted.
- Work Experience Policy
- Yard Supervision policy to be reviewed by June 2018
- Health and Safety policy
- Staff have First Aid training
- Homework Club procedures
- Children do not bring phones or cameras
- Two adults on a bus (using SEN team and SNAs)
- Parent may accompany SEN child where necessary in agreement with the school
- Pupils will be expected to dress and undress themselves for matches, swimming, drama practices etc. in the school classrooms, bathrooms or dressing rooms. Two adults will be present. Under no circumstances will a staff member be expected or allowed to dress or undress a child unsupervised in a changing room.
- In Tipperary Swimming Pool, special needs children will use the family changing room with two adults present. Two adults will supervise the boys and the girls changing rooms.
- Intimate care policy
- Diabetic policy
- Epilepsy policy
- Administration of medicines policy
- Tusla training, PDST training, risk assessment and child safe guarding statement available to Parents Council and all school personnel and on school website
- Use of Croke Park Hours to review and update regularly.
- Policy of Parents / Volunteers – to be looked at
- Policy on Visiting Contractors –to be looked at
- Acceptable usage policy

Oola N.S.

**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 risks 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 of Oola National School on 5/3/2018. It shall be reviewed as part of the school's annual review of its Child Safeguarding Statement.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Chairperson, Board of Management

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management