

**Child Safeguarding  
Statement**

**&**

**Risk Assessment  
2023-2024**

**Christ Church National School**

## Child Safeguarding Statement 2023-2024

Christ Church 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 2017](#) and [Tusla Guidance on the preparation of Child Safeguarding Statements](#), the Board of Management of Christ Church 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 Hazel Hemmingway
- 3 The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is Sonja Coulter
- 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. 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.

- 5 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 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 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 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 school's 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.
- 6 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.
- 7 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 11/3/2023 [date].

This Child Safeguarding Statement was reviewed by the Board of Management on 11/3/2023 [most recent review date].

Signed: Chawille

Chairperson of Board of Management

Signed: M. Henningway

Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Date: 11/03/2023

Date: 11/03/2023

## **Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment 2023-2024**

### **Written Assessment of Risk of Christ Church National School, Lower Newtown, Waterford**

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 Christ Church NS.

#### **List of school activities**

- Dismissal of children in infant classes when class teacher is absent and substitute teacher is working in the classroom.
- Use of toilet/changing/shower areas in school.
- Use of external personnel to support curriculum/sports and extra-curricular activities.
- Volunteers/Parents in school activities.
- Dismissal of pupils at 2:10 or half days.
- Online/remote teaching during school closures/medically vulnerable pupils who cannot attend school.
- Unloading/loading of children from/to the school bus.

#### **The school has identified the following risk of harm in respect of its activities-**

- Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children at infant dismissal time.
- Risk of harm while a child is receiving intimate care.
- Risk of harm to child by a volunteer/visitor to the school.
- Risk of harm due to inappropriate relationship/communication between child and another adult.
- Risk of a child departing from school with an unauthorised adult.
- Risk of inappropriate pupil behaviour online.
- Pupils could disclose information that would lead to child protection referral.
- Risk of harm to child if left unattended

#### **The school has the following procedures in place to address the risks of harm identified in this assessment-**

- The school has a supervision policy to ensure appropriate supervision of pupils during infant dismissal time.
- The school has an intimate care plan in respect of children who require such care.
- The school has in place a policy and procedures for the use of external sports coaches.
- The school has in place a code of conduct for school personnel (teaching and non-teaching.)
- Adequate supervision by staff at dismissal time.
- Stagger bus departures/d dismissal on half days.
- At least two staff members attend class, group or individual online activities or zoom calls.
- Pupils must stay on the school bus until the school opens in the mornings. In the afternoon, the children travelling by bus, leave the school first and are escorted to their bus by nominated teacher.
- Internet Safety to be taught annually in every classroom

**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.

Signed C. Bawille Date 1/03/2023

Chairperson, Board of Management

Signed M. Hemmingway Date 1/03/2023

Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

**Note:** Where a school is undertaking its first review, references in this checklist to the "last review" shall be taken to refer to the date on which the Child Safeguarding Statement was put in place.