

# **Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment**

## **Mandatory Template 1**

**Drimoleague N.S.  
Uimhir Rolla 18296A**

### **Child Safeguarding Statement**

**Drimoleague National School** is a primary school providing primary education to pupils from Third 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 Drimoleague 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 **Patrick Collins**
- 3 The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is **Cathy Ward**
- 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 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 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.
- 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.

**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.

- 6 This statement has been published on the school’s website and has been provided to all members of school personnel, the Parents’ Body 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 reviewed and adopted by the Board of Management on February 11th 2025

## **Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment**

### **Written Assessment of Risk of Drimoleague National 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 Drimoleague National School.

<b>1. List of school activities</b>	<b>2. The school has identified the following risk of harm in respect of its activities –</b>	<b>3. The school has the following procedures in place to address the risks of harm identified in this assessment -</b>
Training of school personnel in Child Protection matters	Harm not recognised or reported promptly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Child Safeguarding Statement &amp; DES procedures made available to all staff</li> <li>● DLP &amp; DDLP have received PDST face to face training</li> <li>● All staff have engaged in Túsla training module &amp; any other online training offered by PDST</li> <li>● BOM records all records of staff and board training</li> <li>● Periodic review of Child Protection Procedures at staff meetings</li> </ul>
One to one teaching	Harm by school personnel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● School has policy in place for one to one teaching</li> <li>● Policy on Special Educational Needs in place</li> <li>● Open doors</li> <li>● Table between teacher and pupil</li> <li>● Window in all doors - kept clear at all times when doors are closed</li> </ul>
Care of Children with special needs, including intimate care needs	Harm by school personnel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Policy on intimate care</li> <li>● SNA Policy</li> </ul>
Toilet areas	Inappropriate behaviour Bullying	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Bathroom Policy</li> <li>● Supervision policy</li> <li>● Child Protection Procedures</li> <li>● Only one boy/girl from each class permitted to go to the bathroom at a time</li> <li>● Windows in bathrooms are frosted</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Access to bathrooms to be limited to one or two from each class at a time</li> <li>• Code of Behaviour</li> </ul>
Curricular Provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe.	Non-teaching of same	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• School implements SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe in full and record reported to the BOM</li> <li>• Stay Safe, RSE and SPHE discussed at staff meetings</li> </ul>
<p>Care of pupils with specific vulnerabilities/needs such as</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Pupils from ethnic minorities/migrants</li> <li>▪ Members of the Traveller community</li> <li>▪ Pupils of minority religious faiths</li> <li>▪ Lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender (LGBT) children</li> <li>▪ Pupils perceived to be LGBT</li> <li>▪ Children in care</li> <li>▪ Children with medical needs</li> </ul>	Bullying	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Anti-Bullying/Cinealtas Policy</li> <li>• Code of Behaviour</li> <li>• Implementation of Stay Safe and SPHE programme</li> <li>• School encourages inclusivity through the informal curriculum</li> <li>• Implementation of other programmes to promote inclusivity – e.g. Show Racism the Red Card</li> <li>• Anti-bullying posters on display in corridor periodically while Stay Safe Programme is being taught</li> <li>• Robust Pastoral Care System - wellbeing of vulnerable pupils discussed periodically at staff meetings.</li> <li>• School Improvement Plan to promote social skill development</li> </ul>
Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils	Harm from older pupils, unknown adults on the playground	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Arrival and dismissal supervised by teachers</li> <li>• Supervision times communicated clearly with parents via enrolment policy and during school year in parent notes</li> <li>• School door buzzer</li> <li>• Supervision Policy</li> <li>• Parents to provide Early Leaving slip with name of collecting adult when children leave school early</li> </ul>
Managing of challenging behaviour amongst pupils, including appropriate use of restraint	Injury to pupils and staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Individual behaviour plans in place for pupils with behavioural challenges</li> <li>• Health &amp; Safety Policy</li> <li>• Code of Behaviour</li> <li>• Policy on Dignity in the Workplace</li> </ul>
Sports Coaches	Harm to pupils	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coaches are vetted before commencing work with children</li> <li>• Policy on Volunteers and External Personnel</li> <li>• Supervision Policy</li> </ul>

Transition year students participating in work experience	Harm by student	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work Experience Policy</li> <li>• Work experience students to be vetted by respective secondary schools – minimum age of 16</li> <li>• Child Safeguarding Statement.</li> </ul>
Student teachers undertaking training placement in school	Harm by student	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work Experience Policy</li> <li>• Student teachers vetted by colleges of education</li> <li>• Child Safeguarding Statement.</li> </ul>
Recreation breaks for pupils	Inappropriate behaviour Bullying	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Code of Behaviour</li> <li>• Supervision Policy</li> <li>• Anti-Bullying Policy</li> <li>• Pastoral care of pupils discussed regularly at staff meetings</li> </ul>
Use of external personnel to supplement curriculum	Harm to pupils	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• External personnel are vetted before commencing work in school</li> <li>• Policy on Volunteers and External Personnel</li> <li>• Supervision Policy</li> <li>• Class teacher to remain with external personnel at all times</li> </ul>
Photographer	Harm to pupils by unknown adults	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supervision Policy</li> <li>• School photographs to be taken by prior arrangement</li> <li>• SNA or class teacher to accompany older siblings to Junior School for photographs in that school</li> <li>• Data Protection and GDPR Policy</li> <li>• Third Party Written Service agreement to be signed in line with GDPR</li> </ul>
Entry by visitors/ parents to the school via the front door	Harm to pupils	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parents to notify school if collecting a child early</li> <li>• Front door to be locked from outside via switch by staff after break times.</li> <li>• Entry to school is only gained via buzzer and approval by teacher in room 2 or 3</li> </ul>
Classroom teaching	Harm by school personnel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Policy on one-to-one teaching</li> <li>• Child Safeguarding Statement</li> <li>• DES Child Protection Procedures</li> <li>• Teaching staff familiar with Code of Professional Conduct for Teachers provided by the Teaching Council</li> </ul>

Substitute teachers/ SNAs	Harm to pupils	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Only garda vetted individuals permitted to work in the school</li> <li>● Collection of children during the school day, if in a substitute's class - to be referred to a permanent member of staff who is familiar with the family.</li> <li>● Longer term substitutes provided with a copy of the school's CSS &amp; Risk Assessment</li> <li>● Substitutes to be made aware of any children under their care who suffer from allergies.</li> </ul>
Outdoor teaching activities	Harm to pupils by unknown adults Injury to pupils	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Ratio of 1 member of staff to every 12 students to be maintained on trips where possible.</li> <li>● Children taught about the dangers of strangers as part of the Stay Safe Programme.</li> <li>● Bathroom Policy</li> <li>● Children reminded of importance of staying with class grouping prior to commencing trip</li> <li>● Supervision Policy</li> <li>● Health and Safety Policy</li> </ul>
Sporting Activities	Harm to pupils by unknown adults Risk of using bathrooms Bullying	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Policy on Volunteers and External Personnel</li> <li>● Bathroom Policy</li> <li>● Supervision Policy</li> <li>● Swimming Policy</li> </ul>
School outings	Harm to pupils by unknown adults Risk of using bathrooms Injury to pupils	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Children taught about the dangers of strangers as part of the Stay Safe Programme.</li> <li>● Children are reminded to stay in groups at all times.</li> <li>● Supervision Policy</li> <li>● Ratio of 1 member of staff to every 12 students to be maintained on trips where possible.</li> </ul>
Walking on public road	Harm to pupils by oncoming traffic Harm to pupils by unknown adults	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Supervision Policy</li> <li>● Road safety taught as part of SPHE</li> <li>● Children walk in single file or two abreast</li> <li>● Children to remain on footpaths at all times if one is present</li> <li>● Provision of high-visibility jackets in school for use by children on longer walks, or children use their own.</li> <li>● Accompanying adults to wear high visibility jackets and use whistles to ward off oncoming traffic.</li> </ul>

Collection of balls/ playground equipment that have rolled out towards the school gate or onto the road.	Harm to pupils by oncoming traffic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• School gate to be closed at first break and remains closed until home time to prevent ball from rolling out and children following.</li> </ul>
Unsupervised children	Harm by older pupils or unknown adults	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supervision Policy</li> <li>• Children allocated jobs throughout the school have their duties clearly communicated to them by a member of staff.</li> <li>• Outside door buzzer left on while children are in class</li> </ul>
Collection by unknown adults	Harm to pupils by unknown adults	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Staff are familiar with names of adults permitted to collect as per enrolment forms.</li> <li>• New members of staff or substitute teachers will refer to principal or deputy principal if unsure of who the collecting adult is.</li> <li>• Children not permitted to leave school premises unaccompanied as per supervision policy.</li> <li>• Parents send in a note with time of collection, reason and name of person collecting. A standard form is given to parents as part of the enrolment pack</li> </ul>
Contact with unknown adults within school	Harm to pupils by unknown adults	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Buzzer on door. Adults only allowed entry by teacher in Room 2 or 3 once they have presented themselves.</li> <li>• Adults collecting their child early remain at front door while their child's class teacher is notified that their parent/collecting adult has arrived.</li> </ul>
School grounds	Harm to pupils by unknown adults Injury to pupils Bullying	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supervision Policy</li> <li>• Children supervised always if around by the back of the school e.g. school garden or creative space</li> </ul>
Collection of children after out-of-school events	Harm to pupils by unknown adults	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Collection procedures clearly communicated to parents</li> <li>• Class teacher to remain with children until adult collects.</li> </ul>
Collection for after-school club	Harm to pupils by unknown adults, late collections	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Member of staff hands over children to person responsible</li> <li>• In situations of late collections, children return to school and wait in the sensory room.</li> </ul>
Couriers	Harm to pupils by unknown adults	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children taught about the dangers of strangers as part of Stay Safe Programme.</li> <li>• Outside door buzzer left on while children in class.</li> </ul>



Visiting Contractors	Harm to pupils by unknown adults	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Policy on Visiting Contractors to be formulated by the school in the next school year.</li> <li>• Children taught about the dangers of strangers as part of Stay Safe Programme.</li> <li>• Visiting contractors to carry out work after 3pm where possible</li> </ul>
Sports Days/ Leagues and Tournaments	Harm to pupils by unknown adults	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children to use bathroom in groups accompanied by a member of staff while on the pitch.</li> <li>• Supervision Policy</li> <li>• Bathroom Policy</li> </ul>
Flight Risk	Injury to pupils Harm to pupil by unknown adults	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Individual Pupil's Behaviour Plan: Flight risk procedure to be followed</li> <li>• Supervision Policy</li> <li>• Parents to be contacted once child leaves the school perimeter, failing contact being made, gardaí to be informed</li> </ul>
School transport arrangements	Harm to pupils Harm by unknown adults Harm by school personnel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Policy on supervision</li> <li>• School Transport Policy</li> </ul>
Administration of Medicine Administration of First Aid	Harm to pupils	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Policy on Administration of Medicine</li> <li>• Policy on Allergies &amp; Anaphylaxis</li> <li>• Intimate Care Policy</li> <li>• All staff to be made aware of children with medical needs at the beginning of each school year</li> </ul>
Allergic Reactions	Harm to pupils	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Policy on Allergies &amp; Anaphylaxis</li> <li>• School designated as nut-free as of September 2019</li> <li>• Individual Health Management Plans devised for pupils with specific medical needs</li> <li>• Staff training on the use of epipens received in August 2019</li> <li>• All staff aware of individual pupils with allergies and substitute teachers made aware on a needs basis</li> </ul>
Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst pupils	Harm not recognised Harm to pupils	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Anti-Bullying/ Cinealtas Policy</li> <li>• Code of Behaviour</li> <li>• Implementation of the Stay Safe Programme</li> <li>• Robust Pastoral Care system</li> <li>• School Improvement Plan on the development of social skills.</li> </ul>

<p>Recruitment of school personnel including –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Teachers</li> <li>• SNA's</li> <li>• Caretaker/Secretary/Cleaners</li> <li>• Sports coaches</li> <li>• External Tutors/Guest Speakers</li> <li>• Visitors/contractors present in school during school hours</li> <li>• Visitors/contractors present during after school activities</li> </ul>	<p>Harm not recognised or properly or promptly reported</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Child Safeguarding Statement &amp; DES procedures made available to all staff</li> <li>• Staff to view Tusla training module &amp; any other online training offered by PDST</li> <li>• Vetting Procedures</li> <li>• Policy on Volunteers and External Personnel</li> </ul>
<p>Use of Information and Communication Technology by pupils in school and phone usage</p>	<p>Bullying Inappropriate behaviour Inappropriate images/videos being shared on social media</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Internet Acceptable Usage Policy:</li> <li>• School implements SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe in full</li> <li>• School engages with local community garda to give workshops to children on the dangers of internet and social media</li> <li>• School reminds parents regularly of minimum age for social media sites.</li> <li>• Anti-Bullying Policy</li> <li>• Code of Behaviour</li> <li>• ICT equipment in the IT room is kept with screen facing teacher at all times</li> <li>• Personal phone usage not allowed in any school related activity.</li> <li>• Stay Safe Programme</li> </ul>
<p>Online safety</p>	<p>Bullying Inappropriate behaviour Inappropriate images/videos being shared on social media</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Online safety taught as part of Stay Safe and through the informal curriculum</li> <li>• Code of Behaviour</li> <li>• Acceptable Usage Policy</li> </ul>
<p>Application of sanctions under the school's Code of Behaviour including detention of pupils, confiscation of phones etc.</p>	<p>Harm by school personnel</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Code of Behaviour adhered to by staff</li> <li>• Appropriate sanctions applied as per code of behaviour</li> <li>• Policy on one-to-one teaching: refer to section on dealing with pupils on an individual basis</li> <li>• School records kept and stored in office</li> <li>• Acceptable Usage Policy incorporating the school policy on mobile phones</li> </ul>

Use of video/photography/other media to record school events	Harm by school personnel Inappropriate images/videos being shared on social media Harm by unknown adults	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Acceptable Usage Policy</li> <li>• Photos or events or activities taken by the class teacher to be uploaded onto school data storage system and deleted from source as soon as possible.</li> <li>• Data Protection and GDPR Policy</li> <li>• Third Party Written Service agreement to be signed in line with GDPR</li> </ul>
Online teaching and learning remotely	Harm by school personnel Inappropriate images/videos being shared Harm by known adults/ siblings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Care to be taken when screen sharing</li> <li>• Two staff members to be present in any live video teaching or engagement with pupils one-to-one</li> <li>• One parent to be in ear shot at all times when pupil is interacting live with a teacher or class via Zoom</li> <li>• Acceptable Usage Policy</li> <li>• Teachers aware of Children First Guidelines</li> <li>• Reporting and referral procedures to be followed as per normal</li> </ul>
Hazards	Risk to physical safety of children	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Health and Safety Statement</li> <li>• General maintenance by caretaker, overseen by the Board of Management</li> <li>• Safety audits undertaken regularly on an informal basis by Principal and caretaker</li> <li>• Concerns re. hazards reported to the Principal</li> </ul>

**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.