

Child Safeguarding Statement

Lucan East Educate Together National School (LEETNS) 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 LEETNS has 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.

LEETNS operates under the core principles of Educate Together in that we are equality-based, co-educational, child-centred and democratically run. The role of the school is to provide appropriate education for our pupils. A stable, secure learning environment is essential in order to achieve this goal. In LEETNS we adopt safe practices to minimise the possibility of harm or accidents happening to children and to protect workers from taking unnecessary risks that may leave themselves open to accusations of abuse or neglect. We are committed to creating a safe and positive learning environment that is respectful, inclusive and caring for all our pupils.

The Designated Liaison Person (DLP) is Grainne McManus.

➤ *The Deputy Principal, Linda Maher, will deputise for the DLP in her absence.*

The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is Linda Maher.

➤ *The Assistant Principal Niamh Byrne will deputise for the DDLP in her absence.*

The name and contact details of the DLP and DDLP will be displayed at the school entrance, in every classroom and on the school website.

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;

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- adopt safe practices to minimise the possibility of harm or accidents happening to children and to protect workers from taking 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.

We believe that children have the right to learn in an environment in which they feel secure and protected from all forms of harm e.g. neglect, assault, ill-treatment or sexual abuse. Our staff are vigilant for any signs of distress or harm among our pupils and apply our safeguarding procedures diligently to address such problems.

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 DES 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 DES and available on the DES website.
- In relation to the provision of information to and, where necessary, instruction and training of staff in respect of the identification of the occurrence of harm (as defined in the 2015 Act) the school:
 - Has provided each staff member 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;
 - Ensures all staff are informed of child-protection procedures annually;
 - Ensured all staff completed Tusla Child Protection Training in February and March 2018.
 - Encourages staff to avail of relevant training;
 - Encourages Board of Management members to avail of relevant training; and
 - 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 i.e.
 - All mandated persons shall report a mandated concern to Tusla as soon as is practicable in accordance with the Children First Act 2015 and the Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017;

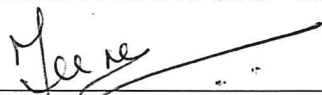
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- The DLP/DDLP shall act as a resource to the mandated person to ensure that reporting procedures are followed correctly and promptly;
 - To protect the identity of the child, each case reported to Tusla is recorded using the year of the record followed by the month and then by the case number e.g. 180101 (Jan 2018);
 - On completion a report shall be forwarded to the relevant Duty Social Worker by the DLP, DDLP or mandated person;
 - In the event that the report is forwarded by a mandated person without the assistance of the DLP/DDLP, the DLP/DDLP shall be informed and any copies provided will be stored securely in a locked filing cabinet in the DLP's office;
 - All SNAs shall report a child protection or welfare concern to the DLP/DDLP as soon as is practicable. The DLP or DDLP will complete a report which shall be forwarded to the relevant Duty Social Worker;
 - All staff will fully respect confidentiality requirements in dealing with child protection matters.
 - All staff can access the Child Protection and Welfare Report Forms at <http://www.tusla.ie/children-first/publications-and-forms#SRP> or on the school's rdrive.
- 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 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, 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.
 - 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.

This statement has been published on the school's website and has been provided to all members of school personnel, the Parents' Association 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.

This Child Safeguarding Statement was **adopted** by the Board of Management on **Friday 9th March 2018** and will be **reviewed on 5th March 2019**.

Signed: 
Chairperson of Board of Management

Signed: 
Principal

Date: 9/03/2018

Date: 9/3/18