

Mandatory Template 1: Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment Template

Child Safeguarding Statement

Limerick Community Special School Child Safeguarding Statement

Limerick Community Special School is a special school providing primary/post-primary education to pupils from four to eighteen years of age who have a diagnosis of a Moderate General Learning Disability, many pupils have other comorbid conditions such as Autism or Downs Syndrome.

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 \(revised 2023\)](#) and [Tusla Guidance on the preparation of Child Safeguarding Statements](#), the Board of Management of Limerick Community Special 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 (revised 2023)* as part of this overall Child Safeguarding Statement

2. The Designated Liaison Person (DLP) is Ms Deirdre Bourke

3. The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is Ms Niamh Cooke

4. The Relevant Person is Ms Deirdre Bourke

(The relevant person is one who can provide information in respect of how the child safeguarding statement was developed and will be able to provide the statement on request. In a school setting the relevant person shall be the designated liaison person.)

5. 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.

6. 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 (revised 2023)* and to the relevant agreed disciplinary procedures for school staff which are published on the gov.ie 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 gov.ie 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 (revised 2023)*, including in the case of registered teachers, those in relation to mandated reporting under the Children First Act 2015.

- 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 gov.ie website or will be made available on request by the school.

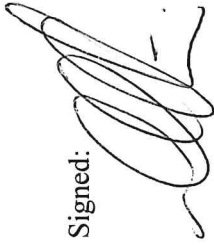
Note: The above is not intended as an exhaustive list. Individual Boards of Management shall also include in this section such other procedures/measures that are of relevance to the school in question.

7. 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 accessible to parents and guardians on request. A copy of this Statement will be made available to Tusla and the Department if requested.

8. 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 the 24th September 2025.

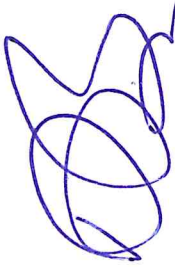
Signed:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'M. Mac Curtain', written in a cursive style.

Chairperson to the Board of Management

Mr Michael Mac Curtain

Signed:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'D. Bourke', written in a cursive style.

Principal

Ms Deirdre Bourke

Date: 24th September 2025

Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment

Written Assessment of Risk of Limerick Community Special School

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 (revised 2023)*, the following is the Written Risk Assessment of Limerick Community Special School.

List of School Activities	The School has identified the following Risk of Harm in respect of respect of its activities-	The School has the following Procedures in place to address risk identified in this assessment
Training of all school personnel in Child Protection matters	To ensure harm is recognise or reported promptly. All new staff training is essential.	Child Safeguarding Statement & DES procedures made available to all staff DLP& DDLP to attend TULSA/OIDE face to face/remote training when available All Staff to completed Children’s First on an annual basis & any other online training offered by OIDE/TULSA BOM records all records of staff and board training Yearly Child Protection Checklist completed by each staff Posters explaining Types of Abuse on display and Child Protection procedures brought to staff attention on an annual basis Emergency Contacts to TULSA/Emergency Procedures brought to staff attention and displayed in each classroom
Care of Children with special needs, including intimate care needs	Harm by school personnel Risk of harm due to compromised communication skills of student.	Policy on intimate care Intimate care plan for students Supervising changing or toileting standing at entrance to toilet and student aware of who is present
Toilet areas	Inappropriate behaviour Risk of harm due to compromised communication skills of student.	Policy on intimate care Intimate care plan for students as required Visual schedules

List of School Activities	The School has identified the following Risk of Harm in respect of respect of its activities--	The School has the following Procedures in place to address risk identified in this assessment
Ensuite bathrooms	Harm by school personnel Risk of harm due to compromised communication skills of student.	Policy on intimate care Intimate care plan for students as required Visual schedules Supervision Policy
Curricular Provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay safe.	Non-teaching of same	School implements SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe Information talks for parents on SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe Primary and Post Primary Wellbeing Curriculum Staff CPD when available
Care of pupils with specific vulnerabilities/ needs such as • Pupils from ethnic minorities/migrants • Members of the Traveller community • LGBTQ children • Pupils perceived to be LGBTQ • Pupils of minority religious faiths • Children in care Children on CPNS	Bullying Harm from peers and staff Inappropriate behaviour Risk of harm due to compromised communication skills of student.	Bi Cinealta Policy Supervision on Yard Junior Cycle Curriculum SPHE Curriculum Supports from outside agencies, HSE, NEPS, NCSE, Tusla interpreter where required. Code of Behaviour School implements SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe Information talks for parents on SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe Primary and Post Primary Wellbeing Curriculum Staff CPD when available
Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils.	Harm from peers Risk from Buses/Cars/Road	Arrival and dismissal supervised by Teachers, SNAs and Bus Escorts Revised protocols in place. Zoned arrival doors Bus Management Plan
Break and Lunch Time	Bullying Harm from peers Witnessing challenging behaviour	Adequate staff on duty Behaviour Support plans Proactive Strategies Activities during break and lunch

		Bi Cinealta Policy	
Managing of challenging behaviour amongst pupils	Injury to pupils/ staff Risk of harm due to compromised communication skills of student. Witnessing of challenging behaviour	Low Arousal Training for all permanent staff. Low Arousal Training Temporary staff when possible. Information booklets available for parents re Low Arousal Approach Clear pathways to exit or quiet space Health & Safety Statement Code of Behaviour Bi Cinealta Policy Record assessment sheets: ABC, Scatterplots, 5 point scale Stay Safe Programme Risk assessment for targeted behaviours eg identifying safe times for playground use, sharing bus, seating plan. Individual Behaviour Support Plans Dignity comes first. A blanket or towel will accompany student to ensure dignity in maintained at all times.	
Stripping Off Clothes	Harm from other students, staff, public Dignity of the student		
Seeking inappropriate physical contact	Risk of harm by staff members	Physical affection and touching in school including tickles to body, sitting on laps not appropriate and should be discouraged. Teaching of Relationship and Sexual Education (RSE) programme with students. Direct teaching of what is and is not appropriate	

List of School Activities	The School has identified the following Risk of Harm in respect of respect of its activities	The School has the following Procedures in place to address risk identified in this assessment
Administration of medicine for Children with Medical Needs	Injury to student Risk of harm to student	Administration of Medicine Policy Secures stored in office Administration dosage cross checked by 2 staff, supervised dosing and recorded Parent consent obtained Child Safeguarding Statement, Child Protection Procedures, Intimate Care Policy First Aid Training Medical Plan Emergency contact details at reception
Administration of first aid	Injury to student	Intimate Care Policy, Child Safeguarding Statement, Child Protection Procedures, Incident Record, communication with parents. First Aid Training Emergency contact details at reception
Sports Coaches/ Visitors to the school	Harm to pupils Risk of harm due to compromised communication skills of student.	Garda Vetting, External Coaches/Visitor Policy Child Safeguarding Statement, Child Protection Procedures Passcode access to school grounds, fobbed access to school building and yards

Students participating in work experience	Harm to placement student Harm to students of school Risk of harm due to compromised communication skills of student.	Child Safeguarding Statement. Child Protection Procedures Placement Policy
Recreation breaks for pupils	Harm from peers Harm from staff	Supervision Policy Low Arousal Training for all permanent staff. Low Arousal Training Temporary staff when possible. Information booklets available for parents re Low Arousal Approach Health & Safety Statement Code of Behaviour Risk Assessments Individual Behaviour Support Plans

List of School Activities	The School has identified the following Risk of Harm in respect of its activities	The School has the following Procedures in place to address risk identified in this assessment
Classroom teaching	Harm by school personnel and peers Risk of harm due to compromised communication skills of student.	Low Arousal Training for all permanent staff. Low Arousal Training Temporary staff when possible. Teacher/SNA ratio to student support child protection. Garda Vetting Glass panel in doors Information booklets available for parents re Low Arousal Approach Health & Safety Statement Code of Behaviour Risk Assessments Individual Behaviour Support Plans
1:1 Teaching/ Activities	Harm by school personnel Risk of harm due to compromised communication skills of student.	Staff training on 1:1 Aware of harmful behaviours to self and others Follow behavior plans Clear pathway to exit/ quiet space Visual Supports Other staff aware of activity taking place Timetabled to rejoin room Rotating staff
School outings./swimming Use of toilets/showers	Harm from peers and staff Exposure to members of the public Lack of Supervision Risk of harm due to compromised communication skills of student.	Garda Vetting Supervision Policy Risk Assessment Toileting before leaving the school, use disability facilities. Encourage students to shower and change as independently as possible.

List of School Activities	The School has identified the following Risk of Harm in respect of res p ect of its activities	The School has the following Procedures in place to address risk identified in this assessment
Fundraising events involving pupils	Harm from peers and staff Exposure to members of the public Lack of Supervision Bullying Inappropriate behaviour	Garcia Vetting Supervision Policy Risk Assessment Bi Cinealta Policy Parental consent/participation
Use of off-site facilities for school activities Eg use of St Gabriels Hydrotherapy Pool	Harm from peers and staff or members of the public Lack of Supervision Bullying Inappropriate behaviour	Garcia Vetting Supervision Policy Risk Assessment Bi Cinealta Policy Trained staff for emergency medications. Intimate Care Policy
Outdoor teaching activities Gardening, Physical Education	Harm from peers and staff Harm from external persons on site Bullying Lack of supervision	Garda Vetting Supervision policy Risk Assessments No staff member outside school ground along unless sanctioned by principal
Cooking Room Therapy Rooms Gym Soft Play Room Sensory Room	Harm from peers and staff Lack of Supervision Risk of harm due to compromised communication skills of student.	Garda Vetting Supervision Policy Risk Assessment Glass in Door Open Door Timetabled access Non Classroom Area Policy & Procedures

List of School Activities	The School has identified the following Risk of Harm in respect of respect of its activities	The School has the following Procedures in place to address risk identified in this assessment
• Volunteers/Parents in school activities • Visitors/contractors present in school during school hours • Visitors/contractors present during after school activities	Harm not recognised or properly or promptly reported. Risk of harm due to compromised communication skills of student.	Child Safeguarding Statement & DES procedures made available to all staff Vetting Procedures Supervision & Garda Vetting to be completed where appropriated. Policy on Visiting Contractors
Use of Information and Communication Technology by pupils in school	Bullying Risk of harm due to children inappropriately accessing/using social media, phones and other devices at school	Acceptable Use Policy, supervised when using technology No student phones or personal Ipads in school bar communication devices Bi Cinealta Policy Code of Behaviour Parents Information Session to be organized Parent consent re Photographic and Video Graphic Image consent form Videos or photos only take on school devices Uploaded and deleted ASAP
School transport arrangements including use of bus escorts	Harm from peers and staff Lack of Supervision Bullying Inappropriate behaviour	Garda Vetting Supervision Policy Risk Assessment Transport Policy & Procedures in place Bi Cinealta Policy Reporting procedures Trained in administering medication

List of School Activities	The School has identified the following Risk of Harm in respect of respect of its activities	The School has the following Procedures in place to address risk identified in this assessment
Staff communicating to students	Harm to student through offensive language or bullying	Dignity and respect are shown to students by staff at all times by: Use if appropriate language Respectful tone Not speaking about a child in front of the child Not speaking about a sensitive subject about a child in staffroom or communal areas A school wide low arousal approach Using visuals and reduced verbal demands Student data of a sensitive nature not be to displayed publicly Staff follow dignity at work policy of LCETB
Online Teaching, Learning remotely	Harm from peers and staff Lack of Supervision Bullying Inappropriate behavior Bullying Risk of harm due to children inappropriately accessing/using social media, phones and other devices at school Grooming	Acceptable Use Policy, supervised when using technology No student phones or personal Ipads in school bar communication devices Bi Cinealta Policy Code of Behaviour Parents Information Session to be organized if teaching online occurs Parent consent re Photographic and Video Graphic Image consent form Videos or photos only take on school devices

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 (revised 2023)*

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.