

Breifne College

CHILD SAFEGUARDING STATEMENT 2026-27

Date for review: September 2027

Carmel Brady

Chairperson

Board of Management

Date ratified by the Board of
Management

Breege Reilly

Principal/

Secretary to the Board of Management

Date

INTRODUCTION

Breifne College is a post-primary school providing post-primary education to students. It delivers a six-year cycle from first to sixth year.

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 & 2025), the Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools 2025 and Tusla Guidance on the preparation of Child Safeguarding Statements, the Board of Management of Breifne College 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 2025 as part of this overall Child Safeguarding Statement
- 2 **The Designated Liaison Person (DLP) is Breege Reilly**
- 3 **The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (DDLDP) is Jason Murphy**
- 4 Retrospective Disclosures of Childhood Abuse

The school recognises that disclosures of abuse may be made by adults in relation to abuse experienced during their childhood. In accordance with the Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025 and the Addendum to Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children (2025), all retrospective disclosures will be responded to sensitively and appropriately.

Where a retrospective disclosure gives rise to a reasonable concern that a child may currently be at risk of harm, the Designated Liaison Person (DLP) will consult with and/or make a report to Tusla in accordance with Children First requirements. The welfare and safety of any child who may currently be at risk will remain the primary consideration.

- 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;
- recognise and manage risks associated with online safety, including cyberbullying, harmful online content, online grooming, image-based abuse, the non-consensual sharing of intimate images and other forms of online harm affecting children and young people;
- promote safe, responsible and age-appropriate use of digital technologies and online platforms by students;
- 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 student 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 by the Department of Education and 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 Children First Act 2015) 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 2025, 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 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 & 2025), 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 gov.ie website or will be made available on request by the school.

Child Protection Records

The school maintains child protection and welfare records in accordance with the Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025, relevant data protection legislation and Children First requirements.

All child protection records are maintained securely, separately from other student records, and are accessible only to authorised personnel with a legitimate role in child protection matters. Records are retained and managed in accordance with Department of Education and Youth guidance and statutory requirements.

Note 1: 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.

Note 2: Appendix 2: CMETB Procedures for Safe Recruitment of Staff and Volunteers to work with Children

- 7 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.
- 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.

APPENDIX 1

CSS1

2.1 CHILD SAFEGUARDING STATEMENT AND RISK ASSESSMENT

For:	Breifne College	<i>(School Name)</i>
At:	Cullies , Cavan H12 H798	<i>(School Address)</i>

This school is a: (tick appropriate) ☐ primary ☒ post-primary ☐ special school

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) and 2025, Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025 and Child Safeguarding: A Guide for Policy, Procedure and Practice, 2nd ed. (Tusla, 2024), the board of management has adopted the Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment 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 Schools 2025 as part of this overall Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment.

Name of the Designated Liaison Person (DLP):

Breege Reilly

Name of the Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP/DDLP):

Jason Murphy

In the absence of the DLP, the Deputy DLP shall assume responsibilities of the DLP

Name of Relevant Person

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(In schools this person is the DLP)

Relevant Person can be contacted on:

(insert phone)	(insert email)
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Under the Children First Act 2015 Relevant Person means a person who is appointed by a provider of a relevant service to be the first point of contact in respect of the Child Safeguarding Statement. This person is nominated by the board of management to manage and provide oversight of child protection concerns/allegations of child abuse.

Name of Chief Executive of CMETB or their delegate:

Paddy Flood Director of Schools

In the event that both DLP and DDLP are absent and unavailable, and where there is no staff member formally acting in their role, the chairperson of the board of management, or in an ETB school the chief executive or their delegate, assumes the role of DLP.

The board of management recognises that child protection and safeguarding permeate all aspects of school life and must be reflected in all of the school's policies, procedures, practices and activities. In all of these, 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 happening to children and protect members of school personnel from the necessity to take unnecessary risks that may leave themselves open to accusations of child abuse.
- ☒ Develop a practice of openness with parents and encourage parental involvement in the education of their children.
- ☒ Fully respect confidentiality requirements as set out in the Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025 in dealing with child protection matters.
- ☒ Adhere to the above principles in relation to any vulnerable adult.

2.2 PROCEDURES AND MEASURES IN PLACE

Our Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment has been developed in line with requirements under the Children First Act 2015, the *Children First: National Guidance 2017*, and *Child Safeguarding: A Guide for Policy, Procedure and Practice, 2nd ed. (Tusla, 2024)*, and the *Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025*. In addition to the procedures listed in our risk assessment, the following procedures support our intention to safeguard children while they are availing of our service:

> Procedure for the Management of Allegations of Abuse or Misconduct against School Personnel Relating to a Child Availing of Our Service

~ Where any member of school personnel is the subject of any investigation in respect of any act, omission or circumstance in relation to a child attending the school, the school is required to adhere to the relevant procedures set out in Chapter 7 of *the Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025* and to the relevant agreed disciplinary procedures for school staff which are published on the gov.ie website.

> Procedure for the Safe Recruitment and Selection of School Personnel to Work With Children

~ The school is required to adhere to the requirements of the Vetting Act. The selection or recruitment of staff and their suitability to work with children, requires the school to adhere 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 Youth and available on the gov.ie website and as outlined in Chapter 10 of the procedures.

~ A written protocol is in place authorising immediate action for cases which require an employee to be immediately absented from school for child safeguarding reasons.

> Procedure for Provision of and Access to Child Safeguarding Training and Information, Including the Identification of the Occurrence of Harm

~ The school provides information and training to members of school personnel in relation to the identification of the occurrence of harm (as defined in the 2015 Act) as follows:

~ The school has provided each member of school personnel, including any new members of school personnel, (employees and volunteers, board of management members, student teachers and those on work experience) with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment.

~ The school ensures that members of school personnel have availed of relevant training and completed child protection training.

~ The school encourages board of management members to avail of any relevant training and complete child protection training.

~ The board of management ensures that records of all staff and board member child protection training are maintained.

> Procedure for the Reporting of Child Protection or Welfare Concerns to Tusla

~ All members of school personnel are required to adhere to the procedures set out in the *Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025*, in relation to reporting of child protection concerns to Tusla. Mandated reporting applies to all registered teachers and any other mandated person who may be employed by the school, for example a chaplain or nurse. A full list of those people who are mandated persons is set out in Appendix 1 procedures.

> Procedure for Maintaining a List of the Persons (if any) in the Relevant Service Who Are Mandated Persons

~ There is a procedure in place to maintain a list of mandated persons. Schools may on occasion employ additional staff who are mandated by virtue of their profession. This list will include all registered teachers and identify additional employees that are not registered teachers.

> Procedure for Appointing a Relevant Person (In schools this person is the DLP)

~ There is a procedure in place for appointing a relevant person.

The various procedures referred to in this Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment can be accessed via the school's website, the gov.ie website or will be made available on request by the school.

In accordance with the Children First Act 2015, the Addendum to Children First 2019 and 2025, and the *Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025*, the board of management 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.

This statement has been published on the school's website or will be made available on request by the school. It has been provided to all members of school personnel, the parents' association (if any), the patron and parents. A copy of this statement and risk assessment will be made available to Tusla and the department if requested.

This Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment will be reviewed annually or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which this statement refers.

CHILD SAFEGUARDING RISK ASSESSMENT

Risk in the context of this Child Safeguarding Statement and 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 the Children First Act 2015: 'harm' means, in relation to a child— (a) assault, ill-treatment or neglect of the child in a manner that seriously affects or is likely to seriously affect the child's health, development or welfare, or (b) sexual abuse of the child, whether caused by a single act, omission or circumstance or a series or combination of acts, omissions or circumstances, or otherwise.

School Activity	Risks Identified	Procedures / Measures in Place
Daily arrival & dismissal	Risk of harm to pupils due to inadequate supervision during arrival and dismissal, including risk of unauthorised persons accessing pupils	The school has in place a supervision rota and clear procedures for the safe arrival and dismissal of pupils. The school has a Code of Behaviors and an Anti-Bullying Policy(Bi Cinealta).
Recreation / breaks	Risk of harm due to bullying and risk of harm due to inadequate supervision during recreation breaks	The school has in place an Anti-Bullying Policy(Bi Cinealta) and supervision procedures to minimise risk.
Classroom teaching	Risk of harm not being recognised by school personnel and risk of inappropriate behaviour occurring in the classroom. Risk of inappropriate peer interactions	The school ensures all staff are trained in child protection procedures and adhere to reporting procedures. All staff are Garda vetted.Students must abide by the code of behaviour and staff are bound by the Teaching Council Professional Code of Conduct.
One-to-one teaching/support/counselling	Risk of inappropriate interaction between a member of school personnel and a pupil in a one-to-one setting and risk due to lack of visibility. Risk of boundary issues and inappropriate relationships developing in a	The school has in place procedures for one-to-one teaching including use of visible spaces and record keeping. The school follows professional guidelines and ensures appropriate supervision and parental awareness.students must abide by the code of behaviour and staff are bound by the Teaching Council Professional Code of Conduct.

School Activity	Risks Identified	Procedures / Measures in Place
	one-to-one counselling context.	
Online teaching / learning	Risk of harm due to inappropriate use of online platforms, including unauthorised access, cyberbullying and unsupervised interaction	The school has in place an Acceptable Use Policy .The school implements SPHE including online safety. Firewalls are in place via Schools Broadband.
Use of ICT / social media	Risk of harm due to inappropriate communication, access to harmful content and misuse of digital technologies	The school has in place an Acceptable Use Policy . Firewalls are in place via Schools Broadband.
Sporting activities	Risk of harm due to injury and inappropriate physical contact during sporting activities. Risk of harm via unvetted adults.	The school ensures appropriate supervision and that all activities are led by trained personnel. The school adheres to Garda Vetting legislation.
School outings / day trips	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision and unfamiliar environments during school outings. Risk of harm from staff/strangers/peers.	The school obtains parental consent for all outings. The school has a school outings/trips policy including supervision. The school adheres to Garda Vetting legislation. Students must abide by the code of behaviour and staff are bound by the Teaching Council Professional Code of Conduct.
Overnight trips / foreign travel	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision and safeguarding risks in overnight or foreign travel situations. Risk of harm from staff/strangers/peers.	The school carries out risk assessments and obtains parental consent for all outings. The school has a school outings/trips policy including supervision. The school adheres to Garda Vetting legislation. Students must abide by the code of behaviour and staff are bound by the Teaching Council Professional Code of Conduct.

School Activity	Risks Identified	Procedures / Measures in Place
Use of toilets/changing areas	Risk of harm due to privacy breaches or inappropriate behaviour in toilet and changing areas. Risk of bullying. Risk of harm due to lack of supervision.	The school has in place supervision protocols and clear guidelines governing these areas. The school has an Anti-Bullying Policy(Bi Cinealta). The school has a Code of Behaviour.
Annual Sports Day	Risk of harm due to injury and inadequate supervision during large-scale school events	The school implements a supervision plan and ensures first aid provision. The school adheres to Garda Vetting legislation
Fundraising events	Risk of harm due to interaction with members of the public and reduced supervision	The school carries out risk assessments and ensures appropriate supervision. The school adheres to Garda Vetting legislation
Use of off-site facilities	Risk of harm due to use of external facilities where the school has reduced control	The school ensures appropriate vetting and safeguarding checks of external providers.
School transport	Risk of harm due to one-to-one situations and safety risks during transport	The school has in place procedures for transport including parental consent and supervision. The school adheres to Garda Vetting legislation. The school has a Code of Conduct for school personnel. The school implements SPHE/RSE training for students.
Care of students with SEN	Risk of harm due to increased vulnerability and intimate care needs	The school has in place SEN policies, care plans and ensures staff are appropriately trained
Care of vulnerable students	Risk of harm due to increased dependency and safeguarding concerns	The school has in place individual support plans and safeguarding procedures.
Behaviour management	Risk of harm due to escalation of behaviour and inappropriate disciplinary practices. Risk of physical	The school implements a Code of Behaviour and provides staff training. The school uses 'Understanding Behaviours of Concern' guidance.

School Activity	Risks Identified	Procedures / Measures in Place
	harm and improper restraint.	
Administration of medication	Risk of harm due to incorrect administration of medication and unsafe handling.	The school has in place procedures for the administration of medication and trained staff.
First aid provision	Risk of harm due to injury or improper administration of first aid.	The school ensures staff are trained in first aid and maintains records
SPHE / RSE delivery	Risk of harm due to inappropriate delivery of sensitive curricular content.	The school follows curriculum guidelines and ensures staff are appropriately trained.
Bullying prevention	Risk of harm due to peer-to-peer abuse including bullying and cyberbullying	The school has in place an Anti-Bullying Policy(Bi Cinealta) and reporting procedures. The school implements SPHE including online safety. The school implements a Code of Behaviour.
External tutors / coaches	Risk of harm due to unvetted or unsupervised external personnel	The school adheres to Garda vetting requirements and ensures supervision.
Visitors / contractors	Risk of harm due to unauthorised or unsupervised access by visitors	The school has in place visitor management procedures and supervision.
Student teachers	Risk of harm due to inexperience or lack of safeguarding awareness	The school ensures supervision and guidance is provided
Photography / media use	Risk of harm due to misuse of images or lack of consent.	The school has in place procedures governing the use of images and obtains consent.
Homework club / study	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision or one-to-one situations	The school has in place supervision procedures. The school adheres to Garda vetting requirements. Students must abide by the code of behaviour and staff are bound by

School Activity	Risks Identified	Procedures / Measures in Place
		the Teaching Council Professional Code of Conduct.
Breakfast club	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision during early arrival	The school has in place supervision Students must abide by the code of behaviour and staff are bound by the Teaching Council Professional Code of Conduct.
Provision of food and drink	Risk of harm due to allergies, choking or inadequate supervision	The school has in place food safety and supervision procedures. The school has in place supervision procedures. Students must abide by the code of behaviour.
Communication	Risk of inappropriate communication between school personnel and pupils	The school ensures professional boundaries are maintained. Students must abide by the code of behaviour and staff are bound by the Teaching Council Professional Code of Conduct. The school has in place an Acceptable Use Policy and uses monitored platforms for communication.
Record keeping	Risk of incomplete, inaccurate or insecure recording of safeguarding concerns	The school has in place secure record-keeping procedures. Staff are bound by the Teaching Council Professional Code of Conduct.
Confidentiality	Risk of breach of confidentiality or misuse of sensitive information	The school adheres to data protection and confidentiality procedures. Staff are bound by the Teaching Council Professional Code of Conduct.

Chapter 9 of the Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025, the following is the written Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment.

In undertaking this Child Safeguarding Statement and 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.

This Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment was reviewed by the board of management on 10th Sept 2026

Signed:*		Date:
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Chairperson of the board of management

Signed:*		Date:
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Principal/Secretary to the board of management

This Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment is expected to be reviewed again ,

on September 2027 (expected review date in 12 months time)

** Document to be printed and signed with original signatures*

Appendix - Location of copies of the Child Protection Procedures and Children First Guidance

This may be in the form of specifying the online location for the procedures (Department of Education and Youth website www.gov.ie/childprotectionschools and/or the school website), providing a link to the Children First National Guidance 2017 [Children First National Guidance 2017.pdf](https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/children-first-national-guidance-2017/), and stating the number and location of hard copies of these procedures available in the school.

Online Access

- Copies of the school's child protection and safeguarding policies are available on the school website at:
https://www.breifnecollege.ie/files/ugd/024943_5ab03221443b452b8378b90f2ad24a80.pdf
- The Department of Education and Youth Child Protection Procedures can be accessed at:
www.gov.ie/childprotectionschools
- Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children (2017) is available at: <https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/children-first-national-guidance-2017/>

Hard Copies

- Hard copies of the Child Protection Procedures and Children First Guidance are available for inspection in the **Main Office** of the school.

Designated Liaison Person (DLP) and Deputy Designated Liaison Person (DDLDP)

- The names and contact details of the Designated Liaison Person (DLP) and Deputy Designated Liaison Person (DDLDP) are displayed on visible signage located in the **Main Entrance Reception Area**.
- Staff, students, parents/guardians and visitors may refer to this signage to identify the current DLP and DDLDP.

APPENDIX 2

CSS 2

2.3 REVIEW OF THE CHILD SAFEGUARDING STATEMENT AND RISK ASSESSMENT

The *Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025* require that the board of management must undertake a review of its Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment. The following template must be used for this purpose. The review must be completed every calendar year or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which the Child Safeguarding Statement refers. Undertaking an annual review will ensure that a school also meets its statutory obligation under section 11(8) of the Children First Act 2015, to review its Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment every two years.

As part of the overall review process, boards of management should also assess relevant school policies, procedures, practices and activities and their adherence to the principles of best practice in child protection and welfare as set out in the school's Child Safeguarding Statement, the Children First Act 2015 and *Children First National Guidance 2017, the Addendum to Children First (2019)* and *2025, Children First National Guidance 2017, the Addendum to Children First (2019)* and *(2025)*, and the *Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025*.

Designated Liaison Person

Name: Breege Reilly

Date Appointed: 10th Sept 2026

Relevant Person

(In schools this is the DLP)

Name: _____

Contact details: _____

Date Appointed: _____

Deputy Designated Liaison Person

Name: Fr Jason Murphy

Date Appointed:

10th Sept 2026

Contact details for Tusla

Contact Name:

Tusla Offices

Address:

Hampton Court, Cootehill Road, Cavan, Co. Cavan, H12 YY84

Contact Number:

049 4369800

Contact details for An Garda Síochána

Contact Name:

Cavan

Address:

Farnham Street, Cavan, Co. Cavan, H12 HH56.

Contact Number:

049 436 8800

Checklist for review of the Child Safeguarding Statement

1. When did the board first formally adopt a Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment in accordance with the *Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025*? For most schools this will be March 2018, as outlined in Section 9.9 of the procedures.

Date first Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment adopted by the school:

10/06/2026

- 2(a) Where is the Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment displayed in the school? For example, in a prominent place near the main entrance to the school.

Main entrance reception area

- (b) Is there a student-friendly version, with a photograph of the Designated Liaison Person, displayed beside the Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment?

Yes

- (c) Other than displaying in a prominent place near the main entrance to the school, how have students been made aware of the student-friendly version?

Displayed at all student entrances

- ☐ School assemblies
- ☐ Other: (please state)

3. Has the board used the most recent *Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment Template* and formally adopted, without modification, the *Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025*?

Yes

What is the date of the previous review of the Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment?

Date: 10th Sept 2025

4. Has the Board included a written assessment of risk as required under the Children First Act 2015? (This includes considering the specific issue of online safety as required by the *Addendum to Children First (2019)*)?

Yes

5. Is there a written protocol in place authorising immediate action for cases which require an employee to be immediately absented from school for child safeguarding reasons in line with Appendix C of the *Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025*?

Yes

6. Has the Board reviewed and updated the written assessment of risk as part of this overall review (for example, to include shower facilities, changing rooms, swimming, online engagements to facilitate learning). Boards should refer to the Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment Template for examples.

10th Sept 2026 Yes

Date of this review:

7. How has the Board ensured that the Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment is provided to the patron, the parents' association and all parents of children in the school? Give dates of emails/letters/texts/links provided.

All emailed on 10/09/2025 and again on 10/09/2026.

8. How has the Board sought the feedback of parents, students and school personnel (teaching and non-teaching) on the Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment?

Has the school engaged with each of the above through, for example, a meeting or survey. The support documents CSS 5, CSS 6 and CSS 7 can be used to support this engagement. Details of how feedback was sought should be outlined below.

(a) Parents

Requesting feedback from parents via the Parents Association as per email 15/09/2025

(b) Students

Student council under Rachel McLoughlin

(c) School Personnel

Email requesting feedback from staff, discussed at staff meetings
Emailed to all 15/09/2025

9. Outline any aspects of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment and/or its implementation that require further improvement, including any complaints or suggestions for improvements, which the Board has identified:

N/A

10. Outline details of how areas for improvement have been adequately addressed including whether an action plan with appropriate timelines has been put in place:

N/A

11. Has the template for *Notification regarding the board of management's review of the Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment* been used to inform the school community and relevant parties that they have fulfilled their statutory obligation to annually review the school's Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment?

☐ Yes

Training

12. Give details of when the DLP and DDLP most recently attended child protection training for DLP/DDLPs:

DLP: Breege Reilly DLP Training 24th Sept 2025
Date: 15/04/2026

18/11/2025

DDLP: Jason Murphy Date: 25/09/25 18/11/2025, 15/04/2026

13. Give details of child protection training attended by any members of the Board and dates attended:

All BOM members attended the training provided by CMETB in April 2026

14. How has the Board ensured that all school personnel (including new school personnel, temporary staff and substitutes) have been made aware of their responsibilities under the *Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025* and the Children First Act 2015? For example, completing e-learning or other training, use of department's supports for school personnel when reviewing the Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment, induction/mentoring system for new personnel, or other measures. How are records of the training completed maintained by the school?

All new staff must sign to say they have read and are familiar with same as well as Child Protection Guidelines and Children First
Whole school Oide staff training day on Child Protection on 18/11/2025

Child Protection Oversight Report (CPOR)

15. Has the Board received a Principal's Child Protection Oversight Report (CPOR) at every ordinary meeting of the Board held since the last review of the Child Safeguarding Statement was undertaken which contains all the information required under each of the four headings set out in Section 12.3 of the *Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025*?

Yes

16. Since the Board's last review of the Child Safeguarding Statement, if there have been cases presented for oversight as part of the CPOR, has the Board been provided with and reviewed all records relevant to the CPOR?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A

17. Have these cases been anonymised and redacted as necessary?

☐ Yes

☐ No

☐ N/A

18. Since the Board's last review Child Safeguarding Statement, if there have been cases presented for oversight as part of the CPOR, do the minutes of the board meeting:

(a) specify the anonymised documents provided to the board as part of the CPOR

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A

(b) use unique codes to record child protection matters?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A

19. The board has undertaken the review of the Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment and has issued/published notification confirming same.

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A

Reporting

20. Where are all records relating to child protection filed and stored in a secure manner? For example, stored securely in the principal's office in such a manner as only the DLP and DDLP and the chairperson when acting as DLP will have access to these records.

stored securely in the principal's office

21. How does the Board ensure that child protection procedures in relation to reporting to Tusla/An Garda Síochána are followed in full? The Board should indicate that the DLP follows the procedures outlined in the *Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025* for reporting of all child protection concerns.

Curriculum

22. The Board should outline the steps it has taken to ensure that the SPHE, RSE, and Wellbeing curriculum is appropriately planned for and delivered to the children and young people in the school.

For primary schools, it should confirm that:

- > Aspects of all three strands (SPHE, RSE, Wellbeing) are covered each year.
- > The Stay Safe programme is taught in its entirety in one year – at least once during infants, 1st/2nd class, 3rd/4th class, and 5th/6th class. Schools will be informed if, in the future, the Department approves an alternative or replacement to the Stay Safe Programme.
- > The school plan outlines provision for RSE across each of the different class levels/stages.
- > The date of the most recent policy review or curricular implementation is noted.

For post-primary schools, it should confirm that:

- > The Wellbeing Programme for Junior Cycle is being implemented.
- > RSE and SPHE are being appropriately delivered.
- > The date of the most recent policy review or curricular implementation is noted.

Vetting and Recruitment

The board should be satisfied that procedures to ensure that all statutory requirements in relation to vetting, statutory declarations and forms of undertaking are met. The board should refer to the school's recruitment procedures about how references of all school personnel are checked and how vetting outcomes are managed before appointment or work in the school is undertaken. Schools under the aegis of Education and Training Boards (ETB) should outline how they adhere to ETB recruitment processes.

If joint agreements are used for the visiting coaches or for school placement students, this should be included. If the school is part of teacher sharing arrangements (see section 10.2 of the procedures), the vetting oversight actions taken should be included.

23. The Board should indicate how it is satisfied that:

- (a) the statutory requirements for Garda Vetting are met.

- (b) the department's requirements in relation to the provision of a child protection related statutory declaration and associated form of undertaking are met.

- (c) thorough recruitment and selection procedures are applied by the school in relation to all school personnel (employees and volunteers).

CMETB HR conduct vetting procedures in consultation with the school

Statement by the Board

The Board should make an overall statement as to its satisfaction that the Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment and child protection procedures are being fully and adequately implemented by the school.

Having reviewed the Child Safeguarding Statement, Risk Assessment and child protection procedures, the Board of Management is satisfied that these are fully and adequately implemented throughout the school. The Board is satisfied that the DLP and DDLP have correctly followed all required procedures and that the Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment accurately reflect the safeguarding practices and actions of the school.

Signed:*

Date:

Chairperson of the board of management

APPENDIX 3

CSS 3

2.4 NOTIFICATION REGARDING THE BOARD OF MANAGEMENT'S REVIEW OF THE CHILD SAFEGUARDING STATEMENT AND RISK ASSESSMENT

This template must be used by the board of management to inform the school community and relevant parties that they have fulfilled their statutory obligation to annually review the school's Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment.

To:

The board of
management of
wishes to inform
you that:

- (a) The board of management's annual review of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement was completed at the Board meeting of Breifne College on _
(date).
- (b) This review was conducted in accordance with the board of management's review of the Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment published on www.gov.ie/childprotectionschools.

Signed:*

Chairperson, board of management

Date:

Signed:*

Principal/Secretary to the board of management

Date:

Child Friendly Safeguarding Statement

Student-friendly Child Safeguarding Statement (post-primary)



Child Safeguarding in our School



Child safeguarding is what we do in our school to keep children and young people safe from harm.

We think about how to keep everyone safe and we write down how we will do that.

This is called our **Child Safeguarding Statement**. We check this every year. When we do this we will ask you what you think about safeguarding in our school. It is important that you feel safe at school and in your life outside of school too.



If someone says or does something to hurt you or makes you feel uncomfortable, you can tell an adult that you trust.

Who to go to:



Any trusted adult

For example, your Year Head or Tutor, a teacher, SNA, the Principal or Deputy

What we will do:

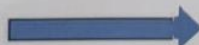


Listen and understand



Guide or look for help

Every school has a person in charge of child safeguarding. This person is called the **Designated Liaison Person** or **DLP**. The DLP for our school is



APPENDIX 4

Tusla Child and Family Agency – Cavan

Hampton Court

Cootehill Road

Cavan

H12 YY84

Phone: 049 436 9800

Children First Information & Advice Officer – Cavan/Monaghan

Deirdre Horan Martin

Children First Information and Advice Officer

Tusla Child and Family Agency

Tusla Wellbeing Centre

Bree, Castleblayney

Co. Monaghan

Email: deirdrem.horanmartin@tusla.ie

Cavan Garda Station

Farnham Street, Cavan, H12 HH56

Phone: 049 436 8800

Emergency: 999 / 112

National Counselling Service – Cavan

Freephone: 1800 234 117

Email: refnrcs.lmcm@hse.ie

Rape Crisis / Sexual Violence Support

National 24-hour Rape Crisis Helpline: 1800 77 88 88

HSE

HSE Live: 1800 700 700

Department of Social Protection

01 704 3000

Cavan Citizens Information Centre

Ground Floor, Elm House

Elm Bank, Cavan

H12 A8H7

Phone: 0818 07 5200

Email: cavan@citinfo.ie

Cavan and Monaghan ETB – Cavan Office

Church View Square

H12 A592

Phone: 049 433 1044

APPENDIX 5

4.1 CMETB Procedures for Safe Recruitment of Staff and Volunteers to work with Children

To ensure safe recruitment of staff, volunteers and/or work experience people, all CMETB staff (teaching and non-teaching) and volunteers/work experience people working at our schools/colleges and services are screened and Garda vetted.

To support best practice and ensure CMETB 's procedures are robust and effective, all recruitment processes are conducted in compliance with (i) CMETB recruitment and vetting policy and procedures and (ii) Department of Education circular instructions on recruitment and vetting.

- Circular 0031/2011 – Teacher Recruitment Registration and Qualifications
- Circular 0063/2010 – Recruitment Procedures – requirement for Garda vetting
- Circular 0031/2016 – Commencement of Statutory Requirements for Garda Vetting
- Circular 0016/2017 – Statutory Requirements for the Retrospective Vetting of Teaching Staff, Non-Teaching Staff and Others

Persons who are considered for employment at CMETB schools/colleges and services which includes direct employees, volunteers and/or work experience people are Garda vetted in accordance with CMETB 's Vetting Policy which is underpinned by the National Vetting Bureau (Children and Vulnerable Persons) Acts 2012 to 2016.

Before staff are appointed, checks will be taken on identity, validity of qualifications, references and previous employment history.

Recruitment checklists ensures all reference checks and screening activities have been carried out and completed. Application forms are used in conjunction with interviews and reports from referees which provide cross-checking information.

Staff and volunteers and/or work experience people will not commence in posts until all reference checks including Garda vetting are shown to be fully satisfactory.

All staff working with children will be re-vetted every five years.

A child protection component will be part of induction training for all new staff and board members.

4.2 Procedures for the Management of Allegations or Suspicions of Child Abuse against Teachers and other Employees

Teachers and school support staff are particularly vulnerable to accusations of abuse from pupils or their parents. Such allegations may be false or misplaced or the allegations may be true. For this reason, it is essential that everyone involved maintains an open mind in dealing with such allegations.

Where an allegation of child abuse, (as defined in section 2 of the Children First Act, 2015 and in The Children First National Guidance, 2017 - neglect, emotional abuse, physical abuse and sexual abuse) is made against a school employee in this context, employee also includes an unpaid volunteer.

The protection of children and their safety and well-being shall be the priority however, CMETB also have a duty of care to employees. Any allegation/suspicion of child abuse made against a teacher or member of staff or volunteer in a school will be dealt with as quickly as possible, in a fair and consistent way that provides effective protection for the child and at the same time supports the person who is the subject of the allegation.

Two procedures shall be followed when dealing with allegations/suspicions. These procedures need to be applied with common sense and judgement:

- 4.2.1 Reporting procedure to Tusla in respect of the allegation/suspicion;
- and
- 4.2.2 Procedure for dealing with the employee.

In general, the same person shall not have responsibility for dealing with (1) the reporting issue and (2) the employment issues.

- The designated liaison person (DLP) is responsible for reporting the matter to Tusla, and
- CMETB is responsible for the employment issue.

Where an allegation/suspicion relates to the DLP, then CMETB shall assume responsibility for seeking advice from and reporting the matter to Tusla.

The first priority is to ensure that no child is exposed to unnecessary risk. CMETB shall as a matter of urgency ensure that any necessary protective measures are taken, including where there is an urgent child safeguarding requirement, invoking its Protocol Authorising Immediate Action. The overriding guiding principle that informs this protocol and its application is the protection and welfare of children.

It is important to note that actions under the protocol are intended to be precautionary and not disciplinary.

Tusla shall be informed as to whether the employee has been formally placed on administrative leave or where it has been decided not to place the employee on administrative leave, Tusla shall be informed of the alternative child safeguarding actions that have been taken.

Any action taken by CMETB shall comply, as applicable, with the relevant provisions of employment legislation and relevant disciplinary procedures. The principles of natural justice and fair procedures shall be applied.

4.2.1 Procedure where an allegation/suspicion of child abuse is made against a school employee

As a general principle, it is recommended that DLPs seek up to date advice from the ETB's senior management team and Tusla, to ensure that the correct action is taken.

- 1.1 Once a disclosure is made, the DLP shall immediately act in accordance with the reporting procedures. A written record of the disclosure shall be made as soon as possible by the person receiving it.
- 1.2 School employees, other than the DLP, who receive allegations of abuse against another school employee, shall report the matter without delay to the DLP.
- 1.3 Where the allegation relates to the DLP, the matter shall be reported to the Chief Executive (CE) and the CE shall assume the role normally undertaken by the DLP.
- 1.4 School employees who form a suspicion regarding the conduct of another employee shall consult with the DLP. If the DLP is satisfied that there are reasonable grounds, he/she shall report the matter to Tusla immediately. A report shall be submitted to Tusla as a mandated report or joint mandated report.
- 1.5 Whether or not the matter is reported to Tusla, the DLP shall also inform CMETB of an allegation of abuse against a school employee.

Initial Considerations

Where an allegation/concern is raised the DLP should immediately contact the ETB's Director of Schools, Director of Further Education and Training.

Actions to be agreed:

- What further information is required?

-
- Whether any immediate action needs to be taken to protect students
 - When and what should the parents be told
 - What should be said to the adult facing the allegation?
 - Whether putting the member of staff on administrative leave is required
 - Administrative Leave should not be an automatic response

Possible outcomes of the initial discussion:

- Referral to Tusla
- Referral to Gardai for investigation
- No Referral to Tusla and/or Gardai.

After consulting the ETB/Tusla, the person who the allegation is made against should be told about the allegation. The amount of detail should be agreed with Tusla and will range from the minimum (where a Tusla assessment and/or Garda investigation) to the greatest amount of detail following a no referral decision. The person should be told about the likely courses of action. They should be advised to contact their union representative and be provided with EAP supports available.

4.2.2 CMETB Procedure for dealing with the employee

CMETB have a duty of care to its employees and will act to manage and minimise the stress inherent in the allegations process. Support for those involved is vital in fulfilling this duty.

- Employees shall be informed of concerns or allegations as soon as possible and given an explanation of the likely course of action, unless there is an objection by Tusla or the Gardaí.
- Employees should also be advised of services provided by the ETB's Employee Assistance Programme.
- Every effort will be made to resolve cases as quickly as possible. Individuals shall be treated fairly and will not be judged in advance of a full and fair process, in accordance with the relevant procedures.

CMETB will make every effort to maintain confidentiality at all times while an allegation is being investigated or considered. The identity of individuals shall not be disclosed, other than as required under the reporting procedures.

- 4.3 The ETB shall arrange to privately inform the employee that an allegation has been made against him/her, the nature of the allegation and whether or not the allegation has been reported to Tusla.
- 4.4 The employee shall be offered the opportunity to respond to the allegation in writing to CMETB within a specified time period.
- 4.5 The ETB will take legal advice as to whether disciplinary proceedings should proceed or be stayed pending the outcome of the Tusla assessment/An Garda Síochána investigation, if involved.
 - The CE will make a decision on whether or not to proceed with disciplinary proceedings in light of that advice.
 - The decision to stay disciplinary proceedings pending the outcome of any Tusla assessment and the reasons for that decision shall be communicated to the employee.
 - In the communication, the ETB shall make clear that
 - (a) it reserves the right to continue disciplinary proceedings at a later point or once the Tusla assessment/An Garda Síochána investigation is complete irrespective of the outcome of that assessment/investigation.
 - (b) CMETB may have regard to the outcome of any such assessment/investigation in deciding what, if any, disciplinary action to take.
- 4.6 Where a decision is made to stay disciplinary proceedings pending the outcome of a Tusla assessment and/or an An Garda Síochána investigation, insofar as is possible, the employee shall be kept up to date on progress.

-
- 4.7 Any action taken by CMETB , including disciplinary proceedings shall be handled in the strictest confidence. The principles of due process, fair procedures and natural justice shall be adhered to by CMETB .
- 4.8 Any disciplinary action shall accord with established disciplinary procedures and shall only be taken following consultation with Tusla and An Garda Síochána, if involved.
- 4.9 Whilst CMETB has the right to conduct its own disciplinary investigation independent of any Tusla assessment or An Garda Síochána investigation, the ETB shall take care to ensure actions do not undermine or frustrate any assessment/investigation being conducted by Tusla or An Garda Síochána.

Child Protection Protocol Authorising Immediate Action

The following protocol authorises immediate action under section 7.2 of the ‘Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools 2017’.

Post-Primary schools and primary schools under the patronage of an ETB

- (A) In the context of these procedures, where circumstances warrant it, as an essential precautionary measure in order to protect the children in the school, the school principal is authorised by the school management authority to direct an employee to immediately absent himself or herself from the school without loss of pay until the matter has been considered by the employer. It is very important to note that the action under the protocol is intended to be precautionary and not disciplinary. The action under this protocol is an interim measure pending the employer’s further consideration of the matter.

The employee will be invited to a meeting with the principal, the purpose of which is to inform the employee of the allegation and the action being taken. The employee may be accompanied by an appropriate person of his or her choice and will be so advised.

In any event, the employee will also be advised of the matter, in writing.

The principal shall make a record of the meeting which shall be retained on the relevant case file.

- (B) In the case of a school or college under the aegis of ETB, the decision to absent an employee in the circumstances outlined at (A) above will be taken by the Chief Executive of the ETB or a person to whom this authority has been delegated.

APPENDIX 6

2019 Addendum to *Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children*



Addendum to *Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children*

Online Safety

Action Plan for Online Safety

This addendum is intended to supplement *Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children* [DCYA, 2017] which are the national guidelines to assist professionals, organisations and individuals to recognise and report child abuse and neglect. It has been issued by the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs under section 6 of the Children First Act 2015 following a commitment made in the Government's Action Plan for Online Safety 2018 – 2019, which states:

"We will amend the Children First guidance to include a specific reference to the need to consider online safety in the context of completing the child safeguarding statement."

Obligations on organisations to safeguard children and young people

One of the main objectives of the Children First Act 2015 is to ensure that children and young people are kept safe from harm while using the services of relevant organisations. The Act does this by placing the following specific statutory obligations on organisations:

- To keep children safe from harm while they are using the service
- To carry out a risk assessment to identify whether a child or young person could be harmed while using the service
- To develop a Child Safeguarding Statement that outlines the policies and procedures which are in place to manage the risks which have been identified
- To appoint a relevant person to be the first point of contact in respect of the organisation's Child Safeguarding Statement

The types of organisations and services that have statutory responsibilities under the Children First Act 2015 are listed in full in [Appendix 1 of the Children First Guidance](#).

This addendum does not alter or increase these obligations. It has been published to clarify that organisations providing relevant services to children should consider the specific issue of online safety when carrying out their risk assessment and preparing their Child Safeguarding Statement.

Keeping children and young people safe from harm online

The Government's Action Plan for Online Safety notes that *"it is now almost impossible to imagine a world without the internet or to imagine a future where the internet has less of a role in our lives than it does today."*

It is important that we acknowledge the central role of the internet in all of our lives and that we support children and young people to take advantage of all of the unprecedented opportunities to learn, discover, create and communicate that new technologies provide.

However, while they are often confident and competent users of new technologies, children and young people may be less aware of the inherent risks involved. Children First operates on the premise that it is the responsibility of everyone in society to keep children and young people safe from harm. This responsibility includes keeping children safe from harm online.

Children should be supported and encouraged to develop safe and responsible online behaviours. If a relevant service is allowing children access to the internet where they could become exposed to harm, including harm of assault or sexual abuse (as set out in Section 2 of the Act), there is an obligation on the service provider to ensure that the risk is identified and that the policies and procedures that are in place to manage the risk are set out in the Child Safeguarding Statement. Further detailed information on undertaking a risk assessment is set out in the Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children [DCYA, 2017] and Guidance on Developing a Child Safeguarding Statement [Tusla, 2017].

You should always contact Tusla if you have reasonable grounds for concern that a child may have been, is being, or is at risk of being harmed.

Guidance on what constitutes a reasonable concern is set out in chapter 2 of the Children First: National Guidance.

Concerns can be reported to Tusla using its [web portal](#).

If you think that a child is in immediate danger and you cannot contact Tusla should contact the Gardaí without delay.

Further resources:

[Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children](#) [DCYA 2017]

[Guidance on Developing a Child Safeguarding Statement](#) [Tusla 2017]

[Child Safeguarding: A Guide for Policy, Procedure and Practice](#) [Tusla 2017]

[Be Safe Online: Ireland's Official Online Safety Hub](#) [Government of Ireland]

[www.webwise.ie](#)

[www.hotline.ie](#)

[www.watchyourspace.ie](#)

***Department of Children and Youth Affairs
January 2019***

APPENDIX 7

2025 Addendum to *Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children*

1 | Addendum to *Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children* (2017)
Dealing with Adult Retrospective Disclosures of Childhood Abuse.

DEALING WITH ADULT RETROSPECTIVE DISCLOSURES OF CHILDHOOD ABUSE

Background

This addendum modifies a portion of the text contained in *Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children* (Department of Children and Youth Affairs, 2017), which are the national guidelines to assist professionals, organisations and individuals to recognise and report child abuse and neglect. Paragraphs 1 and 2 under the 'Dealing with a retrospective allegation' heading on page 23 of the National Guidance are being replaced (see new text below under the 'Mandated Persons and Adult Retrospective Disclosures of Childhood Abuse' heading).

The addendum also restates the legal obligation of mandated persons to report the harm of children above a defined threshold to Tusla under the Children First Act 2015, which is described in chapter 3 of the Children First National Guidance. It also restates the non-statutory best practice for all individuals, including mandated persons, to report reasonable concerns about the welfare or protection of a child to Tusla under the National Guidance (in chapter 2). Finally, the addendum outlines how to report child protection or welfare concerns, which supplements the text about 'Reporting a Concern about a Child' and 'Making a Mandated Report' contained in the National Guidance (on pages 13/14 and 24/25 respectively).

The addendum has been issued by the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality under section 6 of the Children First Act 2015. It follows a Court of Appeal Judgment on 8 December 2023 ([2023] IECA 298) regarding section 14(1)(a) of the Children First Act 2015 relating to mandatory reporting.



In relation to physical abuse, emotional abuse/ ill-treatment and neglect, mandated persons who believe that a child's health, development or welfare have been or are being seriously affected or are likely to be seriously affected, must make a mandated report to Tusla. As all sexual abuse falls within the category of seriously affecting a child's health, development or welfare, all concerns about sexual abuse must be submitted as a mandated report to Tusla. Further information about the threshold of harm for each category of abuse, at which mandated persons have a legal obligation to report concerns, can be found in chapter 3 of the Children First National Guidance.



MANDATED PERSONS AND ADULT RETROSPECTIVE DISCLOSURES OF CHILDHOOD ABUSE

[The following three paragraphs replace paragraphs 1 and 2 under the 'Dealing with a retrospective allegation' heading on page 23 of the Children First National Guidance (in chapter 3)]

Some adults may disclose abuse that took place during their childhood. Such disclosures may come to light when an adult attends counselling or is being treated for a psychiatric or health problem. If, as a mandated person, you receive a retrospective disclosure of childhood abuse from an adult, you must report this information to Tusla if a current child (ie person who is under the age of 18 at the time of the disclosure) has been, is being or is at risk of being harmed.

It is recommended that mandated persons working with adults, particularly in the provision of counselling or health supports, explain to clients in advance about the limits of confidentiality where child protection is concerned. That is, if during the provision of the service, the mandated person comes to know, believe or reasonably suspect that a person who is currently a child has been, is being or is at risk of being harmed, they must pass this information on to Tusla. When the person making the disclosure is able to support the mandated person's report to Tusla, it will greatly assist Tusla to examine the current or potential future risk to children.

Having received a retrospective disclosure of childhood abuse from an adult, the mandated person must make a professional judgement as to whether any person who is currently a child (identifiable or not) is at risk of harm from the person who is the subject of the abuse allegations. They must consider whether the person who is the subject of the allegations may have access to or contact with children. If the mandated person suspects on reasonable grounds that a child is at risk, then a mandated report must be made to Tusla. As noted earlier, the Children First Act does not require mandated persons to report to Tusla the childhood abuse of a person who is now an adult, in circumstances where harm or risk of harm to a current child (ie person who is under the age of 18 at the time



The Judgment has confirmed that if, as a result of information received from an adult (in the course of the mandated person's employment or profession), the mandated person knows, believes or has a reasonable suspicion that a person who is currently a child has been harmed, is being harmed or is at risk of being harmed, they must report this information without delay to Tusla under the Act. However, the Judgement also clarified that mandated persons are not required by the Children First Act to report adult retrospective disclosures of childhood abuse to Tusla, in circumstances where harm or risk of harm to a person who is currently a child (ie person who is under the age of 18 at the time of the disclosure) has not been identified or is not suspected. This clarification regarding the legislative definition of a 'child' who 'has been harmed' in section 14(1)(a) of the Act is reflected in the addendum.

This addendum should be read alongside the Children First Act 2015 and the Children First National Guidance (2017). The addendum is not intended as legal opinion or advice and, if in doubt, you should seek your own independent legal advice.

Mandated Persons

[The following is a restatement of the mandated reporting legal obligation described in chapter 3 of the Children First National Guidance]

Mandated persons are people who have contact with children and/or families and who, because of their qualifications, training and/or employment role, are in a key position to help protect children from harm. The list of mandated persons is set out in [Schedule 2](#) of the Act and it includes teachers, members of the Gardaí, probation officers and certain categories of health care professionals. Some professionals who may not work directly with children, such as those in adult counselling or psychiatry, are also mandated persons.

Under the Children First Act, mandated persons are required to report child protection concerns at or above a defined threshold to Tusla. Under section 14, mandated persons must report to Tusla any knowledge, belief or reasonable suspicion, based on information acquired in the course of their employment or profession, that a child (person aged under 18 at the time the information is acquired) has been harmed, is being harmed or is at risk of being harmed. In section 2, the Children First Act defines harm as assault, ill-treatment, neglect or sexual abuse, and covers single and multiple instances.

of the disclosure) has not been identified or is not suspected. For example, this may be the case when the person who is the subject of the abuse allegations is known to be deceased. If, based on the information they hold, the mandated person is unsure as to whether the person who is the subject of the allegations poses a risk to children, they should contact the Tusla social work department to discuss the concern.



MANDATED PERSONS AND REPORTING UNDER THE CHILDREN FIRST NATIONAL GUIDANCE

[The following is a restatement of the non-statutory best practice for mandated persons to report reasonable concerns about the welfare or protection of a child to Tusla under the Children First National Guidance (in chapter 2)]

A mandated person can also make a non-mandated report to Tusla. The Children First Act operates side-by-side with the non-statutory best practice obligations provided for in the Children First National Guidance. Under the Guidance, any person who has reasonable grounds for concern that a child may have been, is being, or is at risk of being abused or neglected should report that concern to Tusla. As a mandated person, if your concern does not reach the legal definition of harm for mandated reporting but you feel that it is a reasonable concern about the welfare or protection of a child, you should report it to Tusla under the Guidance. This includes mandated persons with reasonable grounds for concern about a child under the age of 18 years, following receipt of a disclosure from an adult that they were abused as a child.

General obligation to report child protection or welfare concerns

[The following is a restatement of the non-statutory best practice for all individuals to report reasonable concerns about the welfare or protection of a child to Tusla under the Children First National Guidance (in chapter 2)]

As members of the public, we all have a responsibility to keep children and young people as safe as possible. As noted above, under the Children First National Guidance, you should always inform Tusla when you have reasonable grounds for concern that a child may have been, is being or is at risk of being abused or neglected. Further information about how to recognise the different types of child abuse can be found in chapter 2 of the Guidance.

Following receipt of a disclosure from an adult that they were abused as a child, anyone with a reasonable concern about the welfare or protection of a person who is currently a child (ie person who is under the age of 18 at the

time of the disclosure) should report that concern to Tusla. This is because the person against whom an allegation has been made may pose a current or potential future risk to children.

How to report child protection or welfare concerns

[The following supplements the text about 'Reporting a Concern about a Child' and 'Making a Mandated Report' contained in the Children First National Guidance (on pages 13/14 and 24/25 respectively).]

Reports to Tusla can be made through the [Tusla Online Portal](#), in person, by telephone or in writing to the duty social work office in the area where the child lives. The Tusla Portal allows users to securely submit Child Protection and Welfare Report Forms (CPWRFs) and Retrospective Abuse Report Forms (RARFs) to Tusla online.

Contact details for duty social work offices nationwide are available on the Tusla website [here](#).

More information for mandated persons about reporting concerns at or above the threshold of harm can be found on the Tusla website [here](#).

More information for the general public about reporting reasonable concerns about child abuse or neglect can be found on the Tusla website [here](#).

An e-learning module on the role and responsibilities of mandated persons is available on the Tusla website [here](#).

An introductory Children First e-learning programme to support people of all backgrounds and experience to recognise and report reasonable concerns about child abuse and neglect is available on the Tusla website [here](#).

In cases of emergency, where a child or young person appears to be at immediate and serious risk, contact An Garda Síochána.

FURTHER RESOURCES

[Children First Act 2015](#)

[Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children \(2017\)](#)

Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration & Youth
April 2025