

## **Portumna Community School** **Child Safeguarding Statement**

### **Child Safeguarding Statement**

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 Portumna Community School 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

The Designated Liaison Person (DLP) is Mr. Shane McClearn, Principal

The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is Ms. Brid Dunne

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.

### **NAME OF SERVICE:**

Portumna Community School

### **NATURE OF SERVICE:**

Portumna Community School is a second level, co-educational school which provides a post-primary education to pupils from First Year to Leaving Certificate (including Established, Vocational Preparation and Applied) Year 2. With approximately 450 students we hope to provide a safe and secure environment for all pupils and educate them to support their own wellbeing and that of others.

### **RISK ASSESSMENT:**

Important Note: It should be noted that risk in the context of this risk assessment is the risk of "harm" as defined in the Children First Act, 2015 and not general health and safety risk. The definition of harm is set out in Chapter 4 of the Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017.

- Risk of harm due to inappropriate relationship/communications between child and another child or adult.
- Risk of harm due to children inappropriately accessing/using computers, social media, phones and other devices while at school.
- Risk of harm caused by member of school personnel communicating with pupils in appropriate manner via social media, texting, digital device or other manner.
- Risk of harm caused by member of school personnel accessing/circulating inappropriate material via social media, texting, digital device or other manner

### **Risk identified**

Procedure in place to manage risk identified

1

Bullying

Anti-bullying policy of the school

Pastoral Support within school (Year heads and SST team)

Friendship Week/Wellbeing Week

Wellbeing Team

2

Unapproved access by adults

DES circulars applicable to recruitment and NVB vetting procedures.

Electronic access to school. Visitors identified and to have limited access to building.

Supervision & Substitution scheme

3

Inappropriate social media engagement

Curricular provision through SPHE, RE, RSE, Wellbeing and IT classes.

AUP policy

Anti-bullying policy including cyber bullying

Friendship week

Use of Microsoft 365 system as basis for all staff student communication

Class behaviour monitored through VS Ware system

Ban on mobile phone usage in school

4

Home circumstances

Child Protection procedures

Student support Team

Referral to appropriate agencies

5

Travelling beyond school

Risk assessments per Health & Safety Authority material for school

#### SPECIFIED PROCEDURES:

Our Child Safeguarding Statement has been developed in line with requirements under the Children First Act 2015, the *Children First: National Guidance*, and TUSLA's *Child Safeguarding: A Guide for Policy, Procedure and Practice*. 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 workers/volunteers
- of a child availing of our service
- Procedure for the safe recruitment and selection of workers and volunteers to work with children
- Procedure for provision of and access to child safeguarding training and information, including
- the identification of the occurrence of harm
- Procedure for the reporting of child protection or welfare concerns to TUSLA
- Procedure for maintaining a list of the persons (if any) in the relevant service who are mandated
- Persons
- Procedure for appointing a relevant person.
- All procedures listed are available upon request.

#### IMPLEMENTATION

We recognize that implementation is an ongoing process. This Child Safeguarding Statement will be reviewed at the conclusion of the school year when it was introduced and annually thereafter or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which this statement refers.

This version of the Child Safeguarding Statement was adopted and renewed by the Board of Management October 2019.

*Next date for review May 2020.*