

Lucan CNS

Roll No: 20426w



Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment

Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment

For:	Lucan Community National School	(School Name)
At:	Balgaddy Road, Lucan, Co. Dublin, K78 TF76	(School Address)

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):

Claire Downes

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

Paul O'Callaghan

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

Name of Relevant Person

Claire Downes

(In schools this person is the DLP)

Relevant Person can be contacted on:

01 4570432

info@lucancns.ie

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 DDLETB or their delegate:

Nichola Spokes 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.

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
Arrival and dismissal of pupils	Inadequate supervision; unauthorised collection; unknown adults accessing school grounds	Supervision procedures; controlled access; sign in/sign out procedures; Anti-Bullying Policy; Procedure for informing re changes to adults dropping/collecting
Recreation breaks / yard time	Bullying; inadequate supervision; peer conflict	Yard supervision rota; restorative practice approaches; Anti-Bullying Policy; controlled access
Classroom teaching	Risk of harm not recognised; inappropriate peer interactions	Staff training in Child Protection Procedures 2025; glass panels; supervision procedures
One-to-one teaching/support	Inappropriate contact; allegations; inadequate visibility	Visibility panels; supervision arrangements; Garda vetting compliance
One-to-one counselling/play therapy/regulation support	Increased vulnerability; inappropriate contact; distress	Vetted personnel; safeguarding procedures; supervision arrangements
SEN supports/intimate care/toileting	Increased vulnerability; inappropriate contact	Intimate Care Policy; SEN Policy; individual care plans where applicable
Sensory/regulation spaces	Isolation; lack of visibility	Supervision procedures; visibility arrangements; staff training
Online teaching/remote learning	Cyberbullying; inappropriate communication; harmful content	Acceptable Use Policy; filtering/firewalls; online safety teaching
ICT/device use	Exposure to harmful content; inappropriate image sharing	Acceptable Use Policy; in-school filtering/firewalls; supervised use of devices; online safety education
Photography/video/social media	Non-consensual image sharing; misuse of images	Photography consent procedures; staff guidance; social media procedures

Staff communication	Boundary concerns; inappropriate communication	Communication protocols; AUP; Staff adhere to Child Protection Procedures 2025
Sporting activities	Inappropriate contact; inadequate supervision	Supervision procedures; Garda vetting compliance
School outings/day trips	Missing child; inadequate supervision; transport concerns	Supervision ratios; risk assessments
After-school activities/external clubs	Unvetted adults; safeguarding gaps	External provider procedures; supervision arrangements
Visitors/contractors/tradespeople	Unauthorised access to pupils	Visitor sign-in/sign-out procedures; supervised access
Student teachers/work experience/volunteers	Lack of safeguarding awareness	Induction procedures; Garda vetting requirements
Administration of medication	Incorrect administration; safeguarding concerns	Medication Administration Policy; secure storage
First aid/intimate medical assistance	Inappropriate touching allegations	First Aid Policy; trained staff; recording of procedures
Challenging behaviour/de-escalation/restrictive practice	Physical harm; injury; inappropriate restraint	Positive behaviour approaches; de-escalation procedures; trained staff; Understanding behaviours of Concern guidance; Code of Behaviour
Bullying/cyberbullying	Emotional harm; online abuse	Anti-Bullying Policy; SPHE/RSE; restorative practice; AUP; staff training; pupil online safety training/lessons
Child protection reporting	Failure to report concerns; delayed reporting	Staff training; DLP/DDLP procedures; mandatory reporting awareness
Child protection records	Data breach; confidentiality concerns	Secure hard-copy storage; restricted access
Recruitment and vetting	Unsuitable adults accessing pupils	Garda vetting procedures; recruitment procedures
Late collection of pupils	Child left unsupervised	Late collection procedures; parent contact procedures; Non-contact procedures
Retrospective abuse disclosures	Failure to respond/report appropriately	DLP procedures; staff awareness/training
Toilets/changing areas.	Inappropriate behaviour amongst pupils; Harm by school personnel; Harm by adults	Toileting/changing facilities - one child at a time; All personnel vetted; Door must remain ajar when assisting with changing; ICPs in place where necessary.

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

24/06/26 (most recent review date)

Signed:*	<i>Stacey McAuley</i>	Date:	<i>24-06-26</i>
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Chairperson of the board of management

Signed:*	<i>Clare Downes</i>	Date:	<i>24/06/26</i>
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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 JUNE 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.tusla.ie/uploads/content/Children_First_National_Guidance_2017.pdf), and stating the number and location of hard copies of these procedures available in the school.

Child Protection Procedures 2025: www.gov.ie/childprotectionschools

Children First National Guidance 2017:

https://www.tusla.ie/uploads/content/Children_First_National_Guidance_2017.pdf

Hard copies of all available in Principal's office.