1. **Mandatory Template 1: Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment Template**

**Child Safeguarding Statement 2023/2024**

Donagh N.S. is a primary school providing primary education to pupils from Junior Infants to Sixth Class.

In accordance with the requirements of the [Children First Act 2015](http://www.irishstatutebook.ie/eli/2015/act/36/enacted/en/pdf), [Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children 2017](https://assets.gov.ie/25844/b90aafa55804462f84d05f87f0ca2bf6.pdf), [the Addendum to Children First (2019)](https://assets.gov.ie/25819/c9744b64dfd6447985eeffa5c0d71bbb.pdf), the [Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools (revised 2023)](https://www.gov.ie/en/collection/12bee3-child-protection-procedures-in-schools/) and [Tusla Guidance on the preparation of Child Safeguarding Statements](https://www.tusla.ie/uploads/content/4214-TUSLA_Guidance_on_Developing_a_CSS_LR.PDF), the Board of Management of Donagh N.S. has agreed the Child Safeguarding Statement set out in this document.

1. The Board of Management has adopted and will implement fully and without modification the Department’s *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and* Post-Primary Schools *(revised 2023)* as part of this overall Child Safeguarding Statement
2. The Designated Liaison Person (DLP) is Caroline Carey
3. The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is Breda McGonagle
4. The Relevant Person is Caroline Carey

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

1. The Board of Management recognises that child protection and welfare considerations permeate all aspects of school life and must be reflected in all of the school’s policies, procedures, practices and activities. In its policies, procedures, practices and activities, the school will adhere to the following principles of best practice in child protection and welfare:

The school will:

* recognise that the protection and welfare of children is of paramount importance, regardless of all other considerations;
* fully comply with its statutory obligations under the Children First Act 2015 and other relevant legislation relating to the protection and welfare of children;
* fully co-operate with the relevant statutory authorities in relation to child protection and welfare matters;
* adopt safe practices to minimise the possibility of harm or accidents happening to children and protect workers from the necessity to take unnecessary risks that may leave themselves open to accusations of abuse or neglect;
* develop a practice of openness with parents and encourage parental involvement in the education of their children; and
* fully respect confidentiality requirements in dealing with child protection matters.

The school will also adhere to the above principles in relation to any adult pupil with a special vulnerability.

1. The following procedures/measures are in place:

* In relation to any member of staff who is the subject of any investigation (howsoever described) in respect of any act, omission or circumstance in respect of a child attending the school, the school adheres to the relevant procedures set out in Chapter 7 of the *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools (revised 2023)* and to the relevant agreed disciplinary procedures for school staff which are published on the gov.ie website.
* In relation to the selection or recruitment of staff and their suitability to work with children, the school adheres to the statutory vetting requirements of the [National Vetting Bureau (Children and Vulnerable Persons)](https://revisedacts.lawreform.ie/eli/2012/act/47/revised/en/pdf) Acts 2012 to 2016 and to the wider duty of care guidance set out in relevant Garda vetting and recruitment circulars published by the Department of Education and available on the gov.ie website.
* In relation to the provision of information and, where necessary, instruction and training, to staff in respect of the identification of the occurrence of harm (as defined in the 2015 Act) the school-
* Has provided each member of staff with a copy of the school’s Child Safeguarding Statement
* Ensures all new staff are provided with a copy of the school’s Child Safeguarding Statement
* Encourages staff to avail of relevant training
* Encourages Board of Management members to avail of relevant training
* The Board of Management maintains records of all staff and Board member training
* In relation to reporting of child protection concerns to Tusla, all school personnel are required to adhere to the procedures set out in the *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools (revised 2023)*, including in the case of registered teachers, those in relation to mandated reporting under the Children First Act 2015.
* All registered teachers employed by the school are mandated persons under the Children First Act 2015.
* In accordance with the Children First Act 2015 and the Addendum to Children First (2019), the Board has carried out an assessment of any potential for harm to a child while attending the school or participating in school activities. A written assessment setting out the areas of risk identified and the school’s procedures for managing those risks is included with the Child Safeguarding Statement.
* The various procedures referred to in this Statement can be accessed via the school’s website, the gov.ie website or will be made available on request by the school.

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

1. This statement has been published on the school’s website and has been provided to all members of school personnel, the Parents’ Association (if any) and the patron. It is readily accessible to parents and guardians on request. A copy of this Statement will be made available to Tusla and the Department if requested.
2. This Child Safeguarding Statement will be reviewed annually or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which this statement refers.

This Child Safeguarding Statement was adopted by the Board of Management on \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ [date].

This Child Safeguarding Statement was reviewed by the Board of Management on\_\_\_[most recent review date].

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Signed: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Chairperson of Board of Management Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_­­­­­­­\_

**Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment**

**Written Assessment of Risk of Donagh N.S.**

In accordance with section 11 of the Children First Act 2015 and with the requirements of Chapter 8 of the *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools (revised 2023)*, the following is the Written Risk Assessment of Donagh N.S.

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| 1. List of School Activities | Risk Level | 2.The School has identified the following Risk of Harm | 3. The School has the following Procedures in place to address risk identified in this assessment |
| Training of school personnel in Child Protection matters | High | Harm not recognised or reported promptly | Child Safeguarding Statement & DES Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017 (Revised 2023) made available to all staff.  School personnel are required to adhere to the Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017 (Revised 2023) and all registered teaching staff are required to adhere to the Children First Act 2015.  DLP & DDLP to attend available OIDE face to face training.  TUSLA Children First E-learning programme for all staff  BOM records all records of staff and Board Training. |
| One to one teaching | Medium | Harm by school personnel | Open classroom door  Glass in door  Permission from parents to participate (School mostly has small groups for SET, where practicable) |
| Care of children with special needs, including intimate care needs | High | Harm by school personnel | Policy will be compiled on intimate care should we have a pupil who requires intimate care |
| Toilet areas | High | Inappropriate behaviour | One child in toilet at a time  Children must ask during lunch to go inside and use toilet. Only one child allowed in at a time. A sibling may accompany them. |
| Curricular provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe | Medium | Non-teaching of same | School implements SPHE, RSE and the revised Stay Safe Programme in full.  Stay Safe taught every second year.  Anti-Bullying Procedures in place |
| Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Children/Pupils perceived as LGBT | Low | Bullying | Anti-Bullying Procedures in place |
| Recruitment of new staff   * Teachers * SNAs * Caretaker/Secretary/Cleaners * Sports coaches * School Completion Facilitators * External Tutors/Guest Speakers * Visitors/contractors present in school during school hours | Low | Harm not recognised or properly or promptly reported | Child Safeguarding Statement & DES procedures made available to all staff  Staff to view TUSLA training module and any other online training offered by OIDE  Vetting procedures  Secretary & SCP tutors have completed Children First E Learning Tusla course. |
| Sports Coaches/Visiting educators | Medium | Harm to pupils | Class teacher present at all times  Child Safeguarding Statement given to Sports Coach/Visitors |
| Contractors in school during school hours | Low | Harm to pupils | No contractors will be permitted to work in any room that has school pupils present. Class teachers remain with their pupils in the event of an emergency e.g. heating has broken down.  Arrange contractor work outside of school hours, when feasible. |
| Students participating in work experience | Low | Harm to pupils | Child Safeguarding Statement  Vetting Procedures  Class teacher/S.N.A. present at all times |
| Volunteers/parents in school activities | Low | Harm to pupils | Vetting Procedures  Class teacher/member of school staff present at all times |
| Use of ICT by pupils in school | Low | Bullying  Viewing inappropriate content | Code of Behaviour  Anti-Bullying Policy  Acceptable Usage Policy  Pupils are not permitted to bring own devices to school.  Children supervised at all times when on the internet  Internet filters have been reviewed September 2023. |
| Use of ICT outside of school as directed by class teachers |  | Harm by others | Updated AUP policy  Safe platforms - Seesaw  Permission from parents to use Seesaw and guidance given around safe use of same  Teachers/SNAs do no communicate with pupils on Seesaw. Teachers/SNAs only post comments/advice in response to tasks. Notifications are for parents and pupils and do not require a response. |
| Recreation breaks for children | High | Bullying  Harm by pupil/school personnel | Yard Supervision Policy  Behaviour Policy |
| School Outings | Medium | Harm by others | Supervision Policy |
| Swimming Lessons | High | Harm by school personnel  Harm by student | Adult/child never alone in changing rooms  Children supervised at the door of the changing room by two adults  Any parent volunteers assisting must be vetted and will never be alone with any child |
| School Transport | Low | Bullying  Harm to pupils | Bus Eireann vetting procedures |
| Toileting incident | High | Harm by school personnel | Children will change themselves. A sibling may help. Two staff members (teacher and SNA or two teachers) must be present if help is required from an adult. Parents will be requested to come to the school if necessary. |
| Arrival/dismissal to school | Medium | Harm by school personnel | Children must not enter the school building prior to the first bus arriving. This is to ensure no adult/child are on their own in a classroom. Children wait for buses at front of school/porch area. No teacher/child should be in classroom alone. |
| Late arrival to school | Medium | Harm to pupils | Parents requested to escort late pupil into the building as security lock on door. |
| Administration of Medicine | Medium | Harm by school personnel | Health and Safety Policy – Administration of Medicine- permission from Principal/BOM required for staff to administer medicine |
| Administration of First Aid | Medium | Harm by school personnel  Negligence | At least one member of staff trained with valid First Aid Cert. Administration of First Aid in the public hall area. Two adults if necessary. |
| Accidents in the school/school playground | Medium | Neglect by  school personnel | Accident will be recorded  in Accident report book. Parents receive a copy. Parents will be called if there is a head /serious injury that we suspect warrants medical attention. |
| Use of photography/video/  other media on school website | Medium | Harm to pupils | Permission sought from parents  School sign or announcement at public events, reminding parents/guests to not share photographs/recordings online. |

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| **Important Note:** It should be noted that risk in the context of this risk assessment is the risk of  “harm” as defined in the Children First Act 2015 and not general health and safety risk. The definition  of harm is set out in Chapter 4 of the *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary*  *Schools (revised 2023)* |

In undertaking this risk assessment, the board of management has endeavoured to identify as far as possible the risks of harm that are relevant to this school and to ensure that adequate procedures are in place to manage all risks identified. While it is not possible to foresee and remove all risk of harm, the school has in place the procedures listed in this risk assessment to manage and reduce risk to the greatest possible extent.

The Addendum to *Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children* published in January 2019 clarifies 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.

The Guidance on Continuity of Schooling for primary and post-primary schools (April 2020) advises of the importance of teachers maintaining the safe and ethical use of the internet during distance learning and assisting parents and guardians to be aware of their role also. Schools should ensure that their Acceptable Use Policy (AUP) informs and guides remote or distance learning activity.

Important Note: It should be noted that risk in the context of this risk assessment is the risk of “harm” as defined in the Children First Act, 2015 and not general health and safety risk. The definition of harm is set out in chapter 4 of the *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools (revised 2023)*.