



## **Child Safeguarding Statement**

**Gowran NS** 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](#), [Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children 2017](#), [the Addendum to Children First \(2019\)](#), the [Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools 2017](#) and [Tusla Guidance on the preparation of Child Safeguarding Statements](#), the Board of Management of Gowran NS 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 2017 as part of this overall Child Safeguarding Statement
- 2 The Designated Liaison Person (DLP) is **Damien Aylward**
- 3 The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is **Lorraine O' Connell**
- 4 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.

Chairperson, Board Of Management- Canon Pat Dalton

Principal-Damien Aylward

Deputy Principal-Lorraine O'Connell

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**‘Promoting full personal, moral and social development in caring Christian communities of learning and teaching.’**

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

5 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 2017 and to the relevant agreed disciplinary procedures for school staff which are published on the DE 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 DE 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 2017, 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 schools child safeguarding statement.
- All registered teachers employed by the school are mandated persons under the Children First Act 2015.

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- 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 DE 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.

- 6 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.
- 7 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.

This Child Safeguarding Statement will be reviewed by the Board of Management annually.



**Written Assessment of Risk of Scoil Mhuire, Gowran.**

In accordance with section 11 of the Children First Act 2015 and with the requirement of Chapter 8 of the *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017*, the following is the Written Risk Assessment of Gowran National School.

**Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment  
(of any potential harm)**

1. List of School Activities	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
<p>Recruitment of school personnel including access to school by -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Teachers</li> <li>• SNAs</li> <li>• Caretaker/Secretary/Cleaners</li> <li>• Sports coaches</li> <li>• External Tutors/Guest Speakers</li> <li>• Volunteers/Parents in school activities</li> <li>• Visitors/contractors present in school during school hours</li> <li>• Visitors/contractors present during after school activities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Harm not recognised or properly or promptly reported</li> <li>• Harm by school personnel or external parties visiting the school</li> </ul>	<p>Child Safeguarding Statement &amp; DES procedures made available to all staff</p> <p>The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation and relevant DES circulars in relation to recruitment and Garda vetting</p> <p>External third parties are never left alone with children.</p>
<p>Training of school personnel in Child Protection matters</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Harm not recognised or reported promptly</li> <li>• Non training of staff</li> </ul>	<p>The school :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Has provided each member of school staff with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment</li> <li>• Ensures all new staff and substitute teachers are provided with a copy of the school's Safeguarding Statement</li> <li>• Copies of DES procedures and Children First</li> </ul>



		<p>made available to all staff</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Teaching staff to avail of relevant online training on PDST website training</li> <li>• Ancillary staff to view Tusla online training module</li> <li>• Encourages BOM members to avail of relevant training</li> <li>• Maintains records of all staff and board member training</li> </ul> <p>DLP&amp; DDLP to attend PDST and other relevant face to face training</p>
One to one teaching	Harm by school personnel	<p>Open doors</p> <p>Glass panel in door</p>
One-to-one interactions/assessment	<p>Harm by a member of staff of another organization</p> <p>Harm by school personnel</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same procedures for one-to-one teaching- open doors</li> <li>• Glass panel in door</li> </ul>
Use of external personnel to supplement curriculum	<p>Harm caused by personnel accessing/circulating inappropriate material</p> <p>Harm to children with SEN who have particular vulnerabilities</p> <p>Harm by member of staff of another organisation</p> <p>Inadequate supervision</p> <p>Harm not being reported properly and promptly</p>	<p>The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation and relevant DES circulars in relation to recruitment and Garda vetting</p> <p>The school has a Code of Conduct. Supervision policy-regular reminders and reviews</p> <p>Class teacher is always present with class.</p>



<b>List of School Activities</b>	<b>The School has identified the following Risk of Harm</b>	<b>The School has the following Procedures in place to address risk identified in this assessment</b>
Classroom teaching	Harm not being reported properly and promptly Harm by school personnel Harm by another child	All school personnel are provided with a copy of the school's <i>Child Safeguarding Statement</i>  The <i>Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017</i> are made available to all school personnel  School Personnel are required to adhere to the <i>Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017</i> and all registered teaching staff are required to adhere to the <i>Children First Act 2015</i>  The school adheres to the teaching council Professional Codes of Conduct for teachers
Curricular Provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay safe.	Non-teaching of same	School implements SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe in full
Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils	Harm from older pupils, unknown adults on the playground. Possibility of negative behavior.	Supervision Policy- Supervision of yard at arrival and dismissal times Older pupils are separated from younger pupils on the yard before school.
Pupils leaving during the school day	Harm by adults.  Possibility of negative behavior.	The school has in place a procedure for early departures. Parent/Guardian calls to school office to sign out pupil and state reason. Adults other than parent identify themselves to school secretary who collects pupil from classroom. GDPR compliant pupil sign out book in use.



<p>Recreation breaks for pupils</p>	<p>Harm by another child Bullying</p>	<p>Anti-Bullying Policy Code of Behaviour The school has a yard/playground supervision policy to ensure appropriate supervision of children during, assembly, dismissal and breaks and in respect of specific areas such as toilets, changing rooms etc.</p>
<p>Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst pupils</p>	<p>Escalation of bullying leading to Child Protection issues Harm in counselling</p>	<p>The school has an Anti-Bullying Policy which fully adheres to the requirements of the Department's <i>Anti-Bullying Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools</i> One-to-one procedures including restorative practices. Provision of adequate physical activities/games to encourage children's group play and/or cooperative games</p>
<p>Outdoor teaching activities</p>	<p>Harm to pupils</p>	<p>Health and Safety Policy Codes of Behaviour</p>
<p>Sporting Activities(during and after school)</p>	<p>Harm by another child Harm not being reported properly and promptly Harm by school personnel Harm due to inadequate supervision</p>	<p>Code of Behaviour Supervision Policy Health &amp; Safety Policy</p>



<b>List of School Activities</b>	<b>The School has identified the following Risk of Harm</b>	<b>The School has the following Procedures in place to address risk identified in this assessment</b>
Active Week / Sports Day	Inappropriate behaviour Harm by another child Harm not being recognised by school personnel Harm by a visitor to the school	Health & Safety policy Code of Behaviour SEN Policy Supervision Policy
School outings	Harm not being recognised by school personnel Harm by school personnel/non-school personnel Harm by another child Inappropriate behaviour	The school has clear procedures in respect of school outings.  First Aid procedures, children with serious allergies, bus safety, pupil teacher ratios are adhered to.  Code of Behaviour, Supervision Policy, Antbullying policy
Use of toilet/changing areas in school	Harm by school personnel/non-school personnel Bullying Harm by another child Inappropriate behaviour	Code of Behaviour  Supervision Policy Usage procedures: sign out sheets in senior classes
Use of off-site facilities for school activities e.g. Swimming lessons School matches	Harm not being recognised by school personnel Inadequate supervision Harm by another adult/child	Health & Safety Policy Code of Behaviour Consent for transport sought from parents Supervision policy All teams are looked after by mandated staff members. No children are left alone until all are collected after an activity
Administration of Medicine Administration of First Aid	Harm not being recognised by school personnel Harm by a member of school personnel Harm by a volunteer or visitor to the school	The school has in place a policy and procedures for the Administration of Medication to pupils.  Adequate training is provided.





	Harm due to inadequate supervision Harm to child while a child is receiving intimate care	
Care of Children with special needs, including intimate care needs.  Showering facility in school	Harm by school personnel	The school has an Intimate Care Policy.  No staff can use the showering facility.
Care of pupils with specific vulnerabilities/needs such as <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pupils from ethnic minorities/migrants</li> <li>• Members of the Traveller community</li> <li>• Lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender (LGBT) children</li> <li>• Pupils perceived to be LGBT</li> <li>• Pupils of minority religious faiths</li> <li>• Children in care</li> </ul>	Harm not being recognised by school personnel Harm by school personnel Harm by another child Inappropriate behaviour Bullying Harm not being reported properly and promptly	The school has an Anti-Bullying Policy which fully adheres to the requirements of the Department’s <i>Anti-Bullying Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools</i>  The school has a Special Educational Needs policy
Managing of challenging behaviour amongst pupils, including appropriate use of restraint when required	Injury to pupils and staff	Health & Safety Policy Code Of Behaviour CPD for staff Challenging Behaviour Policy
Use of Information and Communication Technology by pupils in school	Bullying Harm by pupils/school personnel accessing/circulating inappropriate material via social media, digital service or other manner Harm by school personnel communicating with pupils in inappropriate manner Harm due to pupils inappropriately accessing/using computers, social media, phones and other devices while	ICT policy Anti-Bullying Policy Code of Behaviour Acceptable Use Agreement for ICT Equipment



	at school	
<b>List of School Activities</b>	<b>The School has identified the following Risk of Harm</b>	<b>The School has the following Procedures in place to address risk identified in this assessment</b>
Application of sanctions under the school's Code of Behaviour including detention of pupils, confiscation of phones etc.	Harm due to poor application of Code of Behaviour Harm by member of school personnel Harm not reported properly and promptly	The school has in place a Code of Behaviour for pupils. All staff are aware of the C.O.B
Participation by pupils in religious ceremonies/religious instruction associated with the school	Inappropriate behaviour Harm not reported properly and promptly Harm by volunteer or other personnel	The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation and relevant DES circulars in relation to recruitment and Garda vetting Consent from parents and no one to one participation
Students studying teaching / child care undertaking training placement in school	Inappropriate behaviour Harm not reported properly and promptly	The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation and relevant DES circulars in relation to recruitment and Garda vetting.  The school has in place a policy and procedures in respect of student teacher placements. Student teachers on placement are not left alone with the class.
Transition year students participating in work experience	Harm by student Inappropriate behaviour	Work Experience Policy Child Safeguarding Statement.  The school has in place a policy and procedures in respect of students undertaking work experience in the school.  The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation and relevant DES circulars in relation to recruitment and Garda vetting. Communication with Secondary Schools.  TY students not left alone with children



Use of video/photography/other media to record school events	Bullying Harm by pupils/school personnel /parents and relatives accessing/circulating inappropriate material via social media, digital service or other manner	The school has in place an ICT policy in respect of usage of ICT by pupils The school has in place a mobile phone policy in respect of usage of mobile phones by pupils Anti-Bullying Policy Children not left alone with photographers

**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*

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.

This Child Risk Assessment was adopted by the Board of Management. It will be reviewed as part of the school’s annual review of its Child Safeguarding Statement.