

St. Patrick's National School

Ughtyneill, Moynalty, Kells, Co. Meath A82 VW95

Telephone: 046-9244704

Email: secretary@ughtyneillns.com

www.ughtyneillns.com

Roll No: 12879T

Charities No: 20201805

St. Patrick's N.S., Ughtyneill

Child Protection Procedures

(School Year 2023-2024)

Designated Liaison Person (DLP):

Gráinne Flanagan

Deputy Designated Liaison Person (DDL):

Áine Poyntz

- All concerns/disclosures involving Child Protection or child welfare issues will in the first instance be reported to the DLP
- In the absence of the DLP, the Deputy DLP will be informed
- All staff must adhere to maintaining confidentiality

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Safeguarding Children Statement 2023-2024

St. Patrick's National School is a primary school providing primary education to pupils from Junior Infants to Sixth Class. 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, practices and activities. Accordingly, 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 (revised 2023) and Túsla Guidance on the preparation of Child Safeguarding Statements, the Board of Management of St. Patrick's National School, Ughtyneill has agreed the following Child Safeguarding Statement:

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 **Gráinne Flanagan**
3. The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is **Áine Poyntz**
4. The Relevant Person is **Gráinne Flanagan**
5. In its policies, practices and activities, St. Patrick's National School, Ughtyneill 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 cooperate 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
- fully respect confidentiality requirements in dealing with child protection matters.

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

6. The school has put in place the following policies, practices and measures:
 - 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 DES and available on the gov.ie website.

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- In relation to the provision of information to staff in respect of the identification of the occurrence of harm (as defined in the 2015 Act) the school:
 - i. has provided each member of staff with access to the school's Child Safeguarding Statement
 - ii. ensures all new staff are made aware of and given access to the school's Child Safeguarding Statement
 - iii. Encourages staff to avail of relevant training
 - iv. Encourages Board of Management members to avail of relevant training
 - v. The Board of Management maintains records of all staff and Board member training
 - In relation to reporting of child protection concerns to Túsła, 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 relations to mandated reporting 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 gov.ie website or will be made available on request by the school.
 - In this school the Board has appointed the above named 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.
7. This statement has been discussed with all members of school personnel, is on display in the school hall and readily available to parents/guardians on request. A copy of this statement will be made available to the Department and the patron if requested.
8. The Child Safeguarding Statement will be reviewed annually

This Child Safeguarding Statement was adopted by the Board of Management on

20th September 2023.

Signed: _____
Chairperson of Board of Management

Signed: _____
Principal

Date: _____

Date: _____