



Goatstown Stillorgan
Educate Together
National School

Grafton House
Ballymoss Road
Sandyford Industrial Estate
D18P274
Roll No: 20523U

Goatstown/Stillorgan Educate Together National School

Child Protection – Safeguarding Statement



Child Safeguarding Statement of Goatstown/Stillorgan Educate Together N.S. 2020/2021

Goatstown/Stillorgan Educate Together National School (GSETNS) is a primary school providing primary education to pupils in Junior Infants and Senior Infants in the 2020/2021 school year. As a developing school, GSETNS will grow each year, with First Class in 2021/2022 and so on.

This Child Safeguarding Statement, and associated Risk Assessment, was developed in collaboration with the school Board of Management and teaching and non-teaching staff of Goatstown/Stillorgan Educate Together National School in August 2020.

This Child Safeguarding Statement is in line with our patron (Educate Together) requirements. 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 Goatstown/Stillorgan Educate Together National School has agreed to the Child Safeguarding Statement set out in this document.

1. The School 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 **Diane Devereux** (Principal). The **Deputy Designated Liaison Person** is **Catherine Lynch** (Senior Infants Class Teacher)

Note: Where the DLP and the DDLP is absent, the substitute employed to replace the principal shall assume the relevant duties relating to the role of the DLP. The school employer will ensure that any substitute employed in such circumstances is made fully aware of the duties associated with the DLP role and that he or she can effectively assume the responsibilities involved.

3. The School 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.



4. 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 DES 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 DES and available on the DES 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.
- The school's template for recording any child protection concerns is attached as Appendix 1. The school's template for recording any communication with Tusla is attached as Appendix 2. The Child Protection and Welfare Reporting Form is available at :
https://www.tusla.ie/uploads/content/Child_Protection_and_Welfare_Report_Form_FINAL.pdf

In this school the Board of Management 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.

The DLP (Principal; Diane Devereux) will present a Child Protection Oversight Report to the Board of Management at each meeting, in accordance with relevant legislation. The Child Protection Oversight Report to the BOM is attached as Appendix 3.

- All registered teachers employed by the school are mandated persons under the Children First Act 2015.
- In accordance with the Children First Act 2015, the School management 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 attached to this statement, in the form of a Written Assessment of Risk.
- Appendix 4 outlines the template to be completed for after-school use of premises for extra-curricular activities, not run by school personnel.
- The various procedures referred to in this Statement can be accessed via the school's website, the DES website or will be made available on request by the school.



5. This statement will be published on the school's website (upon the establishment of such) and has been provided to all members of school personnel, the Parent body and the patron. It is readily accessible to parents and carers on request. A copy of this Statement will be made available to Tusla and the Department if requested.
6. 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 School Management on 30th of November 2020

<p>Signed: <u><i>N O Fanelly</i></u> Chairperson, Board of Management</p> <p>Date: 30/11/2020</p>	<p>Signed: <u><i>Diane Devereux</i></u> Principal</p> <p>Date: 30/11/2020</p>
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