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**Roll # 20300A Principal:** Catherine Sadlier **Deputy Principal:** Helen McClelland  
Chairperson Board of Management – Liam Friel

## Child Safeguarding Statement

### Greystones Educate Together National School

#### 1. Introduction and Name of service being provided:

Our Child Safeguarding Statement has been developed in line with requirements under the Children First Act 2015, *Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children* (2017), and Tusla's *Child Safeguarding: A Guide for Policy, Procedure and Practice*.

Greystones Educate Together National School (GETNS) is a Primary National School, state-funded by the Department of Education and Skills. The school was established under the patronage of Educate Together in September 2008, as vertical school for both boys and girls. We opened two Special classes in 2015. We are based in Blacklion, Greystones, Co. Wicklow. We are situated on the same campus as Gaelscoil na gCloch Liath National school and Templecarrig Secondary School. GETNS provides primary education for children aged 4 to 12 years. We currently employ 18 teachers, 7 Special Needs Assistants, 2 caretakers and one secretary and school bursar/ admissions officer.

We also employ two supervisors to manage an Infant Club during the school's Infant Hour at the end of the day.

#### 2. Nature of service and principles to safeguard children from harm

GETNS operates under the core principals of Educate Together in that we are:

- ✓ Equality-based
- ✓ Co-educational
- ✓ Child-centred
- ✓ Democratically run

The role of the school is to provide an appropriate education for our pupils. A stable, secure learning environment is essential in order to achieve this goal. Here in GETNS, we are committed to create a safe and positive learning environment that is respectful, inclusive and caring for all our pupils.

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.

Activities and services provided include:

Daily activities to educate the children in line with the National Curriculum. Lessons are conducted through a range of methodologies including:

- Whole class teaching
- Team teaching - i.e. 2 or more adults co-teaching a class
- Small group and station teaching - i.e. one adult and six children
- Withdrawal teaching - i.e. small groups of children or individual children receiving additional instruction with a support teacher outside of the main classroom

Visitors to the school include:

G.A.A coach, Music Generation teachers, storytellers, writers, science speakers, people visiting from different faith communities, Visiting Teacher for the Deaf, sensory workshop providers, NEPS psychologist, SENO, Speech and Language Therapist.

School-based activities 'off-campus' include:

Swimming lessons in the local swimming pool, sporting events, school tours, shopping trips, social skills group trips, horse-riding (for our Special Classes), visits to the Theatre or Cinema.

After-school clubs run on the school premises with school staff or independent businesses include drama, music, sport, arts and crafts, religious instruction, science, Homework Club.

Engagement with representatives of local initiatives, e.g. Barnardos, Roots of Empathy,

School Events

- Sport's Day
- Science Week
- Engineer's Week
- Green School Action Week
- Active Week
- Intercultural Day
- Heritage Week
- Maths Week
- World Book Day
- Seachtain na Gaeilge.

Parental involvement in the classroom include:

Mindfulness, Shared Reading, Grandparent's Day, Intercultural projects.

### 3.Procedures

In addition to the procedures listed in our attached risk assessment, the following procedures support our intention to safeguard children while they are availing of our service:

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 and with a copy of the Risk Assessment
  - 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 Principal, Catherine Sadlier, 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 and has appointed Deputy Principal Helen Mc Clelland, DDLP, to be the first point of contact, in the absence of the DLP.
- 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 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 attached as an appendix to this statement.

*Procedure for the management of allegations of abuse or misconduct against workers/volunteers of a child availing of our service:*

- Complaints about staff are managed in line with the complaint's procedure
- Allegations against staff of abuse or misconduct are managed according to the new Child Protection Children First Guidelines.

*Procedure for the safe recruitment and selection of workers and volunteers to work with children:*

- Only teachers who are Garda vetted are employed. All temporary and permanent teachers are registered with the Teaching Council, and Garda vetted by the T.C.
- All SNAs who are employed in the school in a temporary or permanent capacity are Garda vetted by Educate Together. Substitute SNAs will also be Garda Vetted by Educate Together.
- References from previous employers are obtained before employment in the school.
- Form of Undertaking and Statutory Declaration completed before commencing in the school.
- Parents and volunteers who work with the children on a long-term and/or consistent basis are Garda vetted by Educate Together.
- All volunteers sign a Volunteers agreement of confidentiality.

*Procedure for provision of and access to child safeguarding training and information, including the identification of the occurrence of harm:*

- Staff are informed of school child-protection and anti-bullying procedures during staff induction at the beginning of each school year
- School policies are provided to all staff and discussed. Staff are informed of the relevant person to direct queries to for each policy.
- Staff are informed of reporting procedures and provided with a copy of the Child Safeguarding Statement.
- All staff must sign a document to acknowledge that they have received and read the Child Safeguarding Statement.
- The school Child Protection Policy and Anti-Bullying Procedures are available to download from our school website. Child Protection and Anti-Bullying documents, e.g. reference sheets, reporting templates, are available for staff from the school office.
- Child Protection Guidelines, including names of the DLP and DDLP and reporting procedures are in a red file in every classroom.
- The DLP/DDLP/Board of Management engage with Child Protection training through local education centres.
- School management stay updated on current Child Protection guidelines and circulars. School management will update staff and BoM and provide any training required where appropriate.

Procedure for the reporting of child protection or welfare concerns to Túsla:

- All mandated persons shall report a mandated concern to Túsla as soon as practicable in accordance with the Children First Act.
- The DLP or DDLP shall act as a resource to the mandated person to ensure that reporting procedures are followed correctly and promptly.
- On completion, a report shall be forwarded to the relevant Duty Social Worker by the DLP, DDLP or Mandated Person.
- In the event the report is forwarded by the DLP or DDLP, the Mandated Person shall be informed in writing that the report has been forwarded.
- In the event that the report is forwarded by a mandated person without the assistance of the DLP/DDLP, the DLP or DDLP shall be informed and any copies provided to be stored securely in a locked filing cabinet in the DLP's office

Procedure for maintaining a list of the persons (if any) in the relevant service who are mandated persons:

- All teachers in the school are mandated persons. Mandated persons, as defined in the Children First Act 2015, have a statutory obligation to report concerns which reach a particular threshold to Túsla and to cooperate with Túsla in the assessment of mandated reports.

Procedure for appointing a relevant person.

- The name and contact details of the current DLP and DDLP will be displayed at the school entrance, in every classroom and on the school website.

### **3. Implementation**

We recognise that implementation is an on-going process. Our service is committed to the implementation of this Child Safeguarding Statement and the procedures that support our intention to keep children safe from harm while availing of our service. This document will be published on our school website and will be circulated to all members of our school community including parents and staff. A hard copy of the policy can be available on request.

While it is not possible to foresee and remove all risk of harm, the school has in place the procedures listed in the annual risk assessment to manage and reduce risk to the greatest extent possible.

- 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 **Principal Catherine Sadlier**
- 3 The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (DDLP) is **Deputy Principal Helen McClelland**

#### **4. Publication**

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.

#### **5. Review**

This Child Safeguarding Statement will be reviewed on an ongoing basis, where necessary, or at the latest, by the second week of February in 2019, or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which the statement refers.

#### **6. Ratification**

This Child Safeguarding Statement was adopted by the Board of Management on 12<sup>th</sup> March 2018

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
Chairperson of Board of Management

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

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

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