



Roll No.	19266T
Principal Teacher	Glenda McKeown
Policy	Child Protection
Date created	12 th March 2012
Date reviewed	<p>Originally Ratified by the Board of Management on <u>12th March 2012.</u></p> <p>Reviewed: 23rd September 2014; 22nd September 2015; 27th September 2016</p> <p>This version ratified by the BOM on: <u>21st November 2017</u></p> <p>Reviewed on 15th September 2021 Reviewed on 14th September 2022 Reviewed on 27th September 2023 Reviewed on 25th September 2024 Reviewed on 17th September 2025 Reviewed on 30th September 2026</p>
Date reviewed	17 th September 2025
Approved by	
	Chairperson, Board of Management
Date for review	Annually

Our Lady of Fatima



Mission Statement

Our Lady of Fatima School seeks to provide a happy and secure learning environment for all our students where they can be confident that if they have concerns, they will be listened to with understanding and respect and they will be acted on.

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 Department of Education, *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools (revised 2023)*, the Board of Management of Our Lady of Fatima School has agreed the following child protection policy:

1. The Board of Management of Our Lady of Fatima School has adopted and will implement fully and without modification the DES Child Protection Procedures as part of this policy. This policy is an outline of how Our Lady of Fatima School proposes to implement these procedures in order to ensure the protection and welfare of all students attending our school.
2. The Designated Liaison Person (DLP) is Glenda McKeown
3. The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is Bridget Leacy
4. In its policies, practices and activities, Our Lady of Fatima 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 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.

Guidelines for school personnel

- 1.0 Appointment of a Designated Liaison Person (DLP)
- 2.0 Roles, Responsibilities and Guidelines.
 - 2.1 Role of the Board of Management.
 - 2.2 Role of the Staff Members (Teachers, SNAs, Caretakers, Secretary)
 - 2.3 Role of the Designated Liaison Person.
- 3.0 Child Protection meetings / care conferences.
- 4.0 Organisational implications.
- 5.0 Curriculum implications.

1.0 Appointment of a Designated Liaison Person (DLP)

- The Board of Management has appointed Glenda McKeown as the Designated Liaison Person (DLP) in Our Lady of Fatima School to have specific responsibility for child protection.
- Bridget Leacy has been appointed as Deputy DLP to take the place of the DLP if she is unavailable for whatever reason.
- The position of DLP will be addressed at the first meeting of each new Board of Management. The DLP will continue to act as such until such time as she is replaced by the Board of Management for whatever reason.

2.0 Roles of Responsibilities

- The Board of Management has primary responsibility for the care and welfare of their pupils.
- The DLP has specific responsibility for child protection in the school.
- All staff have a general duty of care to ensure that arrangements are in place to protect students from harm.

2.1 Role of the Board of Management

- To arrange for the planning, development and implementation of an effective child protection programme.
- To monitor and evaluate its effectiveness.
- To provide appropriate staff development and training.

Specifically, they will

- Appoint a DLP and deputy DLP.
- Have clear procedures for dealing with allegations or suspicions of child abuse (see below).
- Monitor the progress of students at risk.
- Ensure that curricular provision is in place for the prevention of child abuse.
- Investigate and respond to allegations of child abuse against one of the school's employees which have been reported to the Health Service Executive (HSE) or Gardaí.
- To decide on teachers' attendance at child protection meetings / case conferences and to advise teachers before attending such meetings / conferences.

Procedures for BOM in cases of allegation or suspicions of child abuse by a school employee:

A. Reporting

In the event of receiving a complaint or suspicion regarding an employee:

- The DLP will immediately inform the chairperson.
- She will seek a written statement of the allegation from the person/agency making the allegation. Parents/Guardians may make a statement of behalf of a student.
- The DLP will seek advice from the relevant HSE and will take responsibility for reporting, based on this advice.
- If the DLP, following consultation with the HSE, decides that this matter is not for reporting, she must inform the Chairperson. They must then inform, in writing, the person or agency making the allegation, of the reasons for this decision. If the person or agency still has concerns, they are free to consult with or report to the relevant HSE or Gardaí on an individual basis. The provisions of the Protection for Persons reporting Child Abuse Act 1998 apply, once they report reasonably and in good faith.
- If the DLP, following consultation with the HSE, decides that this matter is for reporting she should inform the Chairperson, who should proceed in accordance with the procedures in the Child Protection Procedures.
- The DLP/Deputy DLP completes a standard reporting form as comprehensively as is possible.
- When the Chairperson becomes aware of an allegation of abuse s/he will always seek legal advice and base her response on this advice.
- S/he will privately inform the employee of the fact and nature of the allegation and whether or not it has been reported by the DLP to the HSE. The Chairperson has a duty to afford the employee fairness and due process – s/he is entitled to details and a copy of the written allegation, to advice and representation and an opportunity to respond to the Board within a week.

B. Responding

- When the Chairperson becomes aware of an allegation of abuse s/he will always seek legal advice and base his/her response on this advice.
- The Chairperson will consider whether there is any risk of pupils. If the Chairperson considers that there is a risk – s/he may require the employee to take immediate administrative leave. If unsure the Chairperson will consult with the HSE/Gardaí.
- If administrative leave has been invoked, the Chairperson will inform the DES. The HSE or Gardaí may also be notified in accordance with legal advice received.

- Once it is deemed necessary by the DLP and Chairperson to make a report (after receiving advice from the HSE) the Chairperson will convene and inform a meeting of the BOM as soon as possible.
- Where the alleged abuse has taken place within the school or relates to the abuse of pupils of the school, by school employees outside of school time, the BOM will investigate the matter. They will convene a further meeting, once the relevant information has been gathered. At this meeting the BOM will consider in detail.
 - The allegations made and their source.
 - The advice given by relevant authorities.
 - The written responses of the employee
- At this meeting also
 - The person/agency who is alleging abuse by the school employee should be offered an opportunity to present his/her case to the BOM and may be accompanied by another person.
 - Parents/Guardians may act on behalf of student.
 - The employee should also be afforded an opportunity to present his/her case and may also be accompanied.
- The BOM must deal with the matter sensitively and the employee must be fairly treated.
- The BOM will make a decision on action, if any, based on their investigation and will inform the employee of this in writing. They will also inform the DES of the outcome, if the employee has been absent on administrative leave.
- Where it is not possible for the BOM to conduct an enquiry into allegations (e.g., where abuse has occurred in past employment, or where the employee is undergoing investigation by relevant authorities), the Chairperson will act on advice of authorities. The Chairperson will maintain close contact with the HSE and receive reports and records from them where appropriate.

2.2 Role of the Staff Members (Teachers, SNAs, Caretaker, Secretary....)

- Staff are provided with copies of the following Procedures, and it is the responsibility of all staff to familiarise themselves with the Procedures.
 - Child Protection Procedures for Primary & Post Primary Schools.
 - Children First National Guidelines for the Protection and Welfare of Children.

Guidelines for teachers and staff members in handling

Disclosures from students

Where a child discloses alleged abuse to a staff member, the person receiving that information should listen carefully and supportively. Great care must be taken not to abuse the student's trust. This should not be a formal interview.

The following advice is offered:

- Listen to the student.
- Do not ask leading questions or make suggestions to the student.

- Do not stop a student recalling significant events.
- Do not over-react.
- Confidentiality should not be assured – explain that further help may have to be sought.
- Record the discussion accurately noting:
 - What, where and when?
 - Descriptions and possible sketches of physical injuries.
 - Explanations of injuries using direct quotations if appropriate.
- Retain the record securely.
- The staff member should obtain only necessary relevant facts. It is not the responsibility of school personnel to investigate allegations of abuse.
- The DLP should then be informed and given relevant records.
- If the suspected abuser is the DLP then the suspicion and any records will be passed on to the Chairperson who will proceed as per guidelines.

Suspensions of Abuse

- Staff members who suspect abuse should refer to Children First National Guidelines for the Protection and Welfare of Children 2011.
- Staff members should observe and record over time and dates, signs, symptoms, behaviour causing them concern.
- They should inform the DLP and pass on all records.

2.3 Role of the Designated Liaison Person (DLP)

- The DLP acts as a liaison with outside agencies, HSE, Gardaí and other parties with child protection concerns.
- The DLP will inform all school personnel of the availability of the Child Protection Procedures, and Children First Guidelines in the school.
- The DLP will be available to staff for consultation regarding suspicions or disclosures of abuse. She will keep records of these consultations.
- The DLP will seek advice from the HSE.
- The DLP will report suspicions and allegations of child abuse to the HSE or/and An Gardaí Síochána based on this advice.
- The DLP will maintain proper records in a secure, confidential manner and in a secure location.
- The DLP will keep up to date on current developments regarding child protection.

Guidelines for the DLP in handling reported concerns and disclosures

- Where the DLP/Deputy DLP have concerns about a child but are not sure whether to report the matter to the HSE, they should seek appropriate advice. To do this the DLP/Deputy should make informal contact with the assigned (on duty) Social Worker. The DLP/Deputy in this case, should be explicit that she is requesting advice and not making a report. If advised to report the matter, the DLP will act on that advice.
- A report will then be made to the HSE by the DLP/Deputy in person, by telephone and in writing. In the event of an emergency or non-availability of HSE staff, the report should be made to the Gardaí. The DLP should also report the matter to the Chairperson of the BOM, who should then follow the procedures as outlined in Children First National Guidelines for the Protection and Welfare of Children, 2011.

- A standard reporting form is completed by the DLP/Deputy as comprehensively as possible (See Appendix 1)
- Parents/Guardians will normally be informed that a report is being made. It may be decided that informing the parent/carer is likely to endanger the student or place the student at further risk. The decision not to inform the parent/carer should be briefly recorded together with the reasons for not doing so.
- When the allegation is against the DLP, the chairperson then assumes responsibility for reporting the matter to the HSE and filing in the standard reporting form.
- Where there are allegations or suspicions of Peer Abuse the DLP will follow the same procedures.
 - Parents of all parties will be notified and the DLP will inform the Chairperson.
 - Principal and class teachers will make arrangements to meet separately with all parents, to resolve the matter.
 - The school will make arrangements to minimise the possibility of the abusive behaviour recurring.

3.0 Child Protection Meetings/Case Conference

- A request is made from the HSE through the DLP who should consult with the Chairperson of the BOM of the school. The Chairperson may seek clarification through the DLP as to why the attendance of the school employee is necessary and ascertain who else will be present.
- The school employee may complete a report for the meeting/conference.
- The school employee will be advised if students/parents/guardians are going to be present. The school employee may contact the Chairperson of the Child Protection Meeting for advice.
- The school employee may keep a child's behaviour under closer observation, if requested to do so. This may include observing the child's behaviour, peer interactions, school progress or informal conversations.
- In all cases, individuals who refer or discuss their concerns about the care and protection of children with HSE staff, should be informed of the likely steps to be taken by the professionals involved. Where appropriate and within the normal limits of confidentiality, reporting staff will be kept informed about the outcomes of any enquiry or investigation following on from their report.
- Teachers attending a child protection meeting/case conference should familiarise themselves with protocol.

4.0 Organisational Implications

School procedures already in place and new procedures being put in place will be examined with reference to the Children First Guidelines and any Child Protection issues that may arise will be addressed.

The following policies have been addressed in this review:

- Internet Acceptable Use Policy
- Bí Cineálta Policy
- Bí Cineálta Student Friendly Policy
- Behaviour Management Policy
- School Attendance Policy

- Code of Behaviour
- SPHE Policy
- Data Protection Policy
- Child Safeguarding Statement
- Supervision Policy
- Swimming Policy
- School Tours Policy
- Work Experience Policy
- Visibility
- Visitors

Accidents

While every precaution will be taken under our Health and Safety Statement to ensure the safety of students, we realise that accidents will happen. Accidents will be noted in our Incident book and will be addressed under our accident policy as part of Health and Safety.

Attendance

Our school attendance will be monitored as per our attendance policy. With regard to child protection, we will pay particular attention to trends in non-attendance. We will also monitor non-attendance in correlation with signs of neglect/physical/emotional abuse.

Bí Cineálta

Bullying behaviour will be addressed under our Bí Cineálta and Behaviour Management Policy. If the behaviour involved is of a sexualised nature or regarded as being particularly abusive then the matter will be referred to the DLP.

Code of Behaviour

Students are encouraged at all times to play co-operatively, and inappropriate behaviour will be addressed under our Code of Behaviour, Bí Cineálta and Behaviour Management Policy. If an incident occurs which we consider to be of a sexualised nature, we will notify the DLP who will record it and respond to it appropriately.

Communication

Every effort will be made to enhance pupil-teacher communication. If pupils have concerns, they will be listened to sympathetically. The SPHE/Oral Language/RE programme/Nurture programme and Restorative Practice allow for open pupil-teacher communication, which is hoped will aid the pupil-teacher relationship. If teachers have to communicate with pupils on a one-to-one basis, they are requested to leave the classroom door open.

Induction of Staff

The DLP will be responsible for informing all new teachers and ancillary staff of the Child Protection Guidelines and Procedures, DES, 2001 and Children First Guidelines, 1999. The DLP will give a copy of the Child Protection Guidelines and Procedures, Chapters 3 & 4 and

Appendix 1 of Children First and this Child Protection Policy to all new staff. All new teachers are expected to teach the designated SPHE objectives for their class. Bridget Leacy is responsible for the mentoring of new teachers and will be responsible for supporting new teachers as they implement the SPHE objectives. Bridget Leacy is also responsible for ensuring that new teachers know how to fill in Aladdin correctly and informing the teacher of record keeping procedures within the school.

Induction of Pupils

All parents and students will be made aware of attendance rules and their implications as laid down in the Education Welfare Act (2000). All parents will be informed of the programmes in place in the school that deal with personal development e.g., RSE, Walk Tall, Stay Safe and SPHE. Parents are encouraged to make an appointment with the class teacher/principal if they wish to discuss their child's progress. All parents are given a copy of the school's Code of Behaviour, Bí Cineálta and Behaviour Management policies. Access to all school policies e.g., Admissions, Code of Behaviour, Bí Cineálta and Behaviour Management Policies.

Record Keeping

Teachers will keep each student's file updated with results of assessments carried out, dates and details of meetings with parents and notes from parents. The records are kept in the principal's office locked at all times. Aladdin will be updated daily. Sensitive information regarding students will be shared on a need-to-know basis. All education files of pupils who no longer attend this school are kept in the filing cabinet in the administrative office indefinitely. Further details on record keeping are found in the school's Record Keeping Policy.

Sporting Activities

Students will be closely supervised during all sporting activities. Where contact is a necessary part of the lesson it will be rigorously monitored to ensure that all contact is appropriate.

Supervision

The school's supervision policy will be followed by all staff to ensure that there is comprehensive supervision of children at all breaks and before and after school. Principal/Deputy Principal and APII post holders will be involved in before/after school supervision. A rota is displayed to cover break and lunchtime breaks. See supervision policy for agreed rules around break-times, procedures around teacher absences.

Swimming

Students will be brought by bus to the swimming pool. They will be supervised in the changing rooms in order to ensure their safety. All adults will act in 'loco parentis'.

Tours

During any outing, whether a short walk, or a day away, students will be given clear instructions on appropriate behaviour, both from themselves and from others. Staff will ensure that everyone is kept safe and closely monitored and that each student is collected by an appropriate adult in a designated place. Risk assessments will be carried out prior to each activity.

Work Experience

All personnel coming to Our Lady of Fatima School on placement will produce proof of having being Garda vetted and will sign additional documentation to this effect. (See Appendix 3)

Visibility

Teachers will ensure that students are visible in the school playground. Students will not be allowed to spend time in classrooms, toilets or elsewhere where they would not be under adult supervision. They are not to leave the school playground or to engage with adults who are outside of the school playground.

Visitors

Teachers on playground duty will be aware of visitors entering the school playground and will ascertain their intentions.

5.0 Curriculum Implications

Introduction

In Our Lady of Fatima School all students will be cherished and in fulfilling the general aims of the Primary and Post Primary Curriculum we will

- Enable the student to live a full life as a student and to realise his or her potential.
- Enable the student to develop as a social being through living and co-operating with others and so contribute to the good of society.
- Prepare the child for further education and lifelong learning.

In endeavouring to realise these aims we will create a positive school climate which is open, inclusive, respectful, fair, democratic and tolerant and which seeks to support the holistic development of all children and all adults working with our children. The strategies we will use to create this environment are detailed in our SPHE Plan and will involve:

- Creating a health-promoting physical environment
- Enhancing self-esteem
- Fostering respect for diversity
- Building effective communication within the school
- Developing appropriate home-school communication.
- Catering for individual needs
- Developing democratic process
- Fostering inclusive and respectful language.

We strive to ensure that our school will be physically and emotionally safe and we will deliver the curricular content of our SPHE programme with a view to giving our students the protective skills of self-esteem and assertiveness. The circle time methodologies will be used on a whole school basis. The No-Blame approach will be adopted in our Code of Behaviour Bí Cineálta and Behaviour Management Policy. Co-operative interpersonal skills will be developed through working in pairs and working in groups. Older children will be encouraged to work positively and skills in negotiation, building consensus and managing conflict will be developed.

The SPHE programme will be supported by the use of the Walk Tall materials, RSE resources, Stay Safe resources and HSE resources.

Success Criteria

We will evaluate the success of this policy using the following criteria:

- Delivery and participation by all staff in training
- Delivery of the SPHE curriculum
- Resources to support the delivery of SPHE.
- Delivery and participation by students in the Stay Safe Programme
- Assessment of these procedures by participants following a child protection case
- Feedback from all staff

The Board has ensured that the necessary policies, protocols or practices as appropriate are in place in respect of each of the above listed items.

- This policy has been made available to school personnel and the Parents' Association and is readily accessible to parents on request. A copy of this policy will be made available to the Department and the patron if required.
- This policy will be reviewed by the Board of Management once in every school year.

Originally Ratified by the Board of Management on 12th March 2012.

Reviewed on 23rd September 2014

Reviewed on the 22nd September, 2015

Reviewed on 27th September, 2016

This version ratified by the BOM on: 21st November 2017

Reviewed on 15th September 2021
Reviewed on 14th September 2022
Reviewed on 27th September 2023
Reviewed on 25th September 2024
Reviewed on 17th September 2025

Signed:
Chairperson BOM

Date:

Appendix 1



Child Protection and Welfare Report Form

MANDATED PERSONS AND NON MANDATED PERSONS
(Children First Act 2015 & Children First National Guidance)

Use block letters when filling out this form.
Fields marked with an * are mandatory.

1. Tusla Area (this is where the child resides)*	
---	--

2. Date of Report*	
---------------------------	--

3. Details of Child

First Name*		Surname*	
Male*	☐	Female*	☐
Address*		Date of Birth*	
		Estimated Age*	
		School Name	
Eircode		School Address	

4. Details of Concerns*

Please complete the following section with as much detail about the specific child protection or welfare concern or allegation as possible. Include dates, times, incident details and names of anyone who observed any incident. Please include the parents and child's view, if known. Please attach additional sheets, if necessary

Please see '*Tusla Children First – A Guide for the Reporting of Child Protection and Welfare Concerns*' for additional assistance on the steps to consider in making a report to Tusla

5. Type of Concern

Child Welfare Concern	☐		
Emotional Abuse	☐	Physical Abuse	☐
Neglect	☐	Sexual Abuse	☐

6. Details of Reporter

First Name		Surname	
Address If reporting in a professional capacity, please use your		Organisation	
		Position Held	
		Mobile No.	
		Telephone No.	

professional address			
Eircode		Email Address	



An Ghníomhaireacht um
Leanaí agus an Teaghlach
Child and Family Agency

Child Protection and Welfare Report Form

MANDATED PERSONS AND NON MANDATED PERSONS
(Children First Act 2015 & Children First National Guidance)

Is this a Mandated Report made under Sec 14, Children First Act 2015? *	Yes	☐	No	☐
Mandated Person's Type				

7. Details of Other Persons Where a Joint Report is Being Made

First Name		Surname	
Address If reporting in a professional capacity, please use your professional address		Organisation	
		Position Held	
		Mobile No.	
		Telephone No.	
Eircode		Email Address	

First Name		Surname	
Address If reporting in a professional capacity, please use your professional address		Organisation	
		Position Held	
		Mobile No.	
		Telephone No.	
Eircode		Email Address	

8. Parents Aware of Report

Are the child's parents/carers aware that this concern is being reported to Tusla? *	Yes	☐	No	☐
If the parent/carer does not know, please indicate reasons:				

9. Relationships

Details of Mother			
First Name		Surname	
Address		Mobile No.	
		Telephone No.	
		Email Address	
Eircode			

Is the mother a Legal Guardian? *	Yes	☐	No	☐
-----------------------------------	-----	--------------------------	----	--------------------------

Details of Father			
First Name		Surname	
Address		Mobile No.	

		Telephone No.	
		Email Address	
Eircode			



An Ghníomhaireacht um
Leanaí agus an Teaghlach
Child and Family Agency

Child Protection and Welfare Report Form

MANDATED PERSONS AND NON MANDATED PERSONS
(Children First Act 2015 & Children First National Guidance)

Is the father a Legal Guardian? *	Yes	☐	No	☐
-----------------------------------	-----	--------------------------	----	--------------------------

10. Household Composition

First Name	Surname	Relationship	Date of Birth	Estimated Age	Additional Information e.g., school, occupation, other

11. Details of Person(s) Allegedly Causing Harm

First Name*		Surname*	
Male*	☐	Female*	☐
Address		Date of Birth	
		Estimated Age	
		Mobile No.	
		Telephone No.	
Eircode		Email Address	
Occupation		Organisation	
Position Held			

Relationship to Child	
Address at time of alleged incident	
If name unknown, please indicate reason	

First Name*		Surname*	
Male*	☐	Female*	☐
Address		Date of Birth	
		Estimated Age	
		Mobile No.	
		Telephone No.	
Eircode		Email Address	
Occupation		Organisation	
Position Held			

Relationship to Child	
Address at time of alleged incident	
If name unknown, please indicate reason	



Child Protection and Welfare Report Form

MANDATED PERSONS AND NON MANDATED PERSONS
(Children First Act 2015 & Children First National Guidance)

12. Name and Address of Other Organisations, Personnel or Agencies Known to be Involved Currently or Previously with the Family

Profession	First Name	Surname	Address	Contact Number	Recent Contact e.g., 3/6/9 months ago
Social Worker					
Public Health Nurse					
GP					
Hospital					
School					
Gardaí					
Pre-school/ crèche					
Other					

13. Any Other Relevant Information, Including any Previous Contact with the Child or Family

Please ensure you have indicated if this is a mandated report in section 6.

Thank you for completing the report form.

In completing this report form you are providing details on yourself and on others. Details such as name, address and date of birth fall under the definition of 'Personal Data' in the Data Protection Acts, 1988 & 2003. Tusla has a responsibility under these Acts in its capacity as a Data Controller to, amongst other things, obtain and process this data fairly; keep it safe and secure; and to keep it for a specified lawful purpose. That purpose is to fulfil our statutory responsibility under the Child Care Act 1991 to promote the protection and welfare of children. Tusla may, during the course of the assessment of this report disclose such Personal Data to other agencies including An Garda Síochána. Further details about Tusla's responsibilities as a Data Controller and your rights as a Data Subject can be found on our website, www.tusla.ie. As you are providing Personal Data on others, you are a Data Processor. We ask that you only

provide those details that are necessary for the report and that you keep this report and the Personal Data contained in it secure from unauthorised access, disclosure, destruction or accidental loss.

14. For Completion by Tusla Authorised Person on Receipt of Report

Report Received by					
First Name		Surname		Date	
Mandated Report Acknowledgement by					
First Name		Surname		Date Sent	
Authorised Person Signature*					
Date*					
Child Previously Known		Yes	☐	No	☐
Allocated Case No					

Appendix 2



Our Lady of Fatima Special School,
Carrigeen Street,
Wexford.

Tel: 053 9123376

Fax: 053 9147648

Email: info@ladyoffatimaschool.ie

Website: www.ladyoffatimaschool.ie

Principal: Glenda McKeown



Checklist for Review of the Child Safeguarding Statement

The [Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools \(revised 2023\)](#) require that the Board of Management must undertake a review of its Child Safeguarding Statement and that the following checklist shall be used for this purpose. **The review must be completed every year or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which the Child Safeguarding Statement refers.** Undertaking an annual review will also ensure that a school also meets its statutory obligation under section 11(8) of the Children First Act 2015, to review its Child Safeguarding Statement every two years.

The checklist is designed as an aid to conducting this review and is not intended as an exhaustive list of the issues to be considered. Individual Boards of Management shall include other items in the checklist that are of relevance to the school in question.

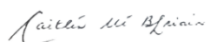
As part of the overall review process, Boards of Management should also assess relevant school policies, procedures, practices and activities vis a vis their adherence to the principles of best practice in child protection and welfare as set out in the school's Child Safeguarding Statement, the Children First Act 2015, the Addendum to Children First (2019) and the *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools (revised 2023)*.

	Yes/No
1. Has the Board formally adopted a Child Safeguarding Statement in accordance with the <i>Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools (revised 2023)</i> ?	
2. Is the Board satisfied that the Child Safeguarding Statement is displayed in a prominent place near the main entrance to the school?	
3. As part of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement, has the Board formally adopted, without modification, the <i>Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools (revised 2023)</i> ?	
4. Does the school's Child Safeguarding Statement include a written assessment of risk as required under the Children First Act 2015? (This includes considering the specific issue of online safety as required by the Addendum to Children First)	
5. Has the Board reviewed and updated where necessary the written assessment of risk as part of this overall review?	
6. Has the Risk Assessment taken account of the risk of harm relevant to online teaching and learning remotely?	
7. Has the DLP attended available child protection training?	
8. Has the Deputy DLP attended available child protection training?	
9. Have any members of the Board attended child protection training?	
10. Has the school appointed a DLP and a Deputy DLP?	
11. Are the relevant contact details (Tusla and An Garda Síochána) to hand?	
12. Has the Board arrangements in place to communicate the school's Child Safeguarding Statement to new school personnel?	

13. Is the Board satisfied that all school personnel have been made aware of their responsibilities under the <i>Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools (revised 2023)</i> and the Children First Act 2015?	
14. Has the Board received a Principal's Child Protection Oversight Report (CPOR) at each Board meeting held since the last review was undertaken?	
15. Since the Board's last review, did each CPOR contain all of the information required under each of the 4 headings set out in sections 9.5 to 9.8 inclusive of the procedures?	
16. Since the Board's last review, has the Board been provided with and reviewed all records relevant to the CPOR?	
17. Is the Board satisfied that the records provided are anonymised and redacted as necessary to ensure that the identities of children and any other parties, including school personnel, to whom the concern or report relates are not disclosed?	
18. Since the Board's last review, have the minutes of each Board meeting appropriately recorded the records provided to the Board as part of CPOR?	
19. Have the minutes of each Board meeting appropriately recorded the CPOR?	
20. Is the Board satisfied that the child protection procedures in relation to the making of reports to Tusla/An Garda Síochána were appropriately followed in each case reviewed?	
21. Is the Board satisfied that, since the last review, all appropriate actions are being or have been taken in respect of any member of school personnel against whom an allegation of abuse or neglect has been made? *	
22. Where applicable, were unique identifiers used to record child protection matters in the Board minutes?	
23. Is the Board satisfied that all records relating to child protection are appropriately filed and stored securely?	
24. Has the Board been notified by any parent in relation to that parent not receiving the standard notification required under section 5.6 of the <i>Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools (revised 2023)</i> ?	
25. In relation to any cases identified at question 20 above, has the Board ensured that any notifications required under section 5.6 of the <i>Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools (revised 2023)</i> were subsequently issued by the DLP?	
26. Has the Board ensured that the Parents' Association (if any), has been provided with the school's Child Safeguarding Statement?	
27. Has the Board ensured that the patron has been provided with the school's Child Safeguarding Statement?	
28. Has the Board ensured that the school's Child Safeguarding Statement is available to parents on request?	
29. Has the Board ensured that the Stay Safe programme is implemented in full in the school? (applies to primary schools)	
30. Has the Board ensured that the Wellbeing Programme for Junior Cycle students is implemented in full in the school? (applies to post-primary schools)	
31. Has the Board ensured that the SPHE curriculum is implemented in full in the school?	
32. Is the Board satisfied that the statutory requirements for Garda Vetting have been met in respect of all school personnel (employees and volunteers)? *	
33. Is the Board satisfied that the Department's requirements in relation to the provision of a child protection related statutory declaration and associated form of undertaking have been met in respect of persons appointed to teaching and non-teaching positions? *	
34. Is the Board satisfied that, from a child protection perspective, thorough recruitment and selection procedures are applied by the school in relation to all school personnel (employees and volunteers)? *	
35. Has the Board considered and addressed any complaints or suggestions for improvements regarding the school's Child Safeguarding Statement?	
36. Has the Board sought the feedback of parents in relation to the school's compliance with the requirements of the child safeguarding requirements of the <i>Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools (revised 2023)</i> ?	

37. Has the Board sought the feedback of pupils in relation to the school's child safeguarding arrangements?	
38. Is the Board satisfied that the ' <i>Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools Post-Primary Schools (revised 2023)</i> ' are being fully and adequately implemented by the school?	
39. Has the Board identified any aspects of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement and/or its implementation that require further improvement?	
40. Has the Board put in place an action plan containing appropriate timelines to address those aspects of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement and/or its implementation that have been identified as requiring further improvement?	
41. Has the Board ensured that any areas for improvement that were identified in any previous review of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement have been adequately addressed?	

*In schools where the ETB is the employer, the responsibility for meeting the employer's requirements rests with the ETB concerned. In such cases, this question should be completed following consultation with the ETB.



Signed:

Date: 30/09/2026

Chairperson, Board of Management



Signed _____ Date: 30/09/2026

Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Form to be completed by Volunteers

In addition to filling in this form it will also be necessary to undergo the vetting process if your services are required by the school.

This school owes a duty of care to its pupils. The school has a duty to satisfy itself that no person assisting in the school in any capacity poses a threat to pupils or staff. The school must therefore make certain enquiries of all volunteers assisting in any capacity in the school.

The following 5 questions **must be responded** to:

1. Where have you been residing during the previous five years?

2. Were you ever the subject of an inquiry by a Health Board concerning a child welfare matter?

☐ YES ☐ NO

3. Were you ever the subject of a Garda criminal investigation arising from a complaint of child abuse?

☐ YES ☐ NO

4. Were you the subject of any allegation of criminal conduct or wrongdoing towards a minor?

☐ YES ☐ NO

5. Are you aware of any material circumstance in respect of your own conduct which touched/touches on the welfare of a minor?

☐ YES ☐ NO

The school undertakes that all responses furnished by you in respect of the above questions, will be treated as confidential, subject to any reporting obligations which may be imposed on the school, pursuant to "Children First" published by the Department of Health, or pursuant to any legal obligation imposed on the school to facilitate the effective investigation of crime.

In the event that the school finds it necessary to make third party enquires from a Health Board and/or the Gardaí, to confirm the accuracy of your replies to the above questions, you agree to consent to the school's making of such enquires and your responding to same.

You should note that if the school becomes aware of the fact that you have made incomplete or inaccurate disclosure your assistance will be dispensed with immediately.



Signed: _____ Date: _____

Appendix 4

**Our Lady of Fatima Special School,
Carrigeen Street,
Wexford.**



Tel: 053 9123376

Fax: 053 9147648

Email: info@ladyoffatimaschool.ie

Website: www.ladyoffatimaschool.ie

Dear Parents/Guardians,

In recent years, as a society, we have become very aware of the problem of child abuse through neglect, emotional, physical or sexual abuse.

Each one of us has a duty to protect children and *Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children* (2011) notes that teachers, who are the main care givers to children outside the family, are particularly well placed to observe and monitor children for signs of abuse.

In response to this, the Department of Education and Skills published *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools* (2011), and this were updated in 2017 in relation to child protection and welfare. These procedures promote the safety and welfare of all children and are to be welcomed.

The Board of Management of Our Lady of Fatima School has adopted these procedures as school policy. Consequently, if school staff suspect or are alerted to possible child abuse (neglect, emotional, physical and/or sexual abuse) they are mandated to refer this matter to TUSLA. TUSLA will then assess the situation and provide support for the child concerned. In our school the Designated Liaison Persons for dealing with Child Protection are Glenda McKeown and Bridget Leacy.

Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children may be accessed on the website of the Department of Children and Youth Affairs (www.dcyh.ie) and the Department of Education and Skills *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools* can be read on the Department's website (www.education.ie). Parents/Guardians are also welcome to look through the procedures and Child Protection Policy here at the school.

Yours sincerely,

Glenda McKeown
Principal.

Appendix 5

Child Protection: Procedures and Practice

Could be adopted by all classes to record facts - do not use child's name (Roll No?). Can be used in conjunction with next page.

[illegible]

--	--	--

Don't make copies. Use page 5 to help record keeping DLP keeps original.

Appendix 6

Child Protection: Procedures and Practice

Code:	Date:
Indicate signs of injury, if necessary, on outline below:	

Appendix 7

Child Protection: Procedures and Practice

Monitoring Suggestions

Teachers are the only professionals who are in regular day to day contact with school-aged children and, because of that, we have a key role in situations where there are suspicions that a child is being abused. When there are such concerns, it is essential to keep an objective and factual record of all the information available (DES Procedures, p. 21/22, paragraph 3.6). We may also be requested, following a child protection conference, to keep a child under observation in a manner that is not inconsistent with our existing duties (DES Guidelines, p. 28, paragraph 4.5.7). This hand-out has been created to assist teachers in this regard.

Useful Hint: Enter your observations under the various headings as appropriate. This will help to categorise your observations and enable you to note an emerging pattern of a deteriorating situation.

Possible Areas for Monitoring	Best Practice Suggestions
-------------------------------	---------------------------

Name of School Using agreed record form ensure school standard is applied	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Record observation using code to protect anonymity of child. Keep in secure place. Strictly confidential.
Attendance and Punctuality Dates & times are important, since patterns or absence or lateness can be very revealing. If late, note if brought to school by parent/carer/older sibling & record any explanation offered.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remember to sign & date each entry.
Appearance, Hygiene and Care Record observations of the child's appearance, for example, poor hygiene, inappropriate clothing, no lunch.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Record observations in chronological order.
Physical Injury Give detailed description including, in the child's or carer's own words, if any explanation is offered.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Include sketch of injury, if appropriate.
Child's Behaviour A child may become increasingly aggressive, tense, unresponsive or show other signs of distress. Any sexualised behaviour should be noted.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Describe what you have observed factually.
Child's Language The child may not have the language/be afraid to verbalise clearly what is happening. They may however drop hints or refer to what is happening obliquely.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Record child's exact words, not the adult equivalents.
Possible Areas for Monitoring	Best Practice Suggestions
Child's Drawing, Writing or Play A young child may show few signs of abuse when he/she experiences a sense of security in a busy, structured classroom setting therefore careful observation of the child in less formal or unstructured settings are important. Always include the context in your record e.g., "when returning from the PE Room", "during small break", "when lining up for home time."	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remember context can be very important.
Mood Changes Child may, for example, become quiet and tense towards end of day or if collected by a certain adult. This might also happen on certain days or before or after certain activities. Again, remember to include the context in your recording.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Note time, context and situation - facts only.

Remember monitoring should be systematic, continuous and requires perseverance.