**Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment**

**Child Safeguarding Statement**

Iniscealtra 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](http://www.irishstatutebook.ie/eli/2015/act/36/enacted/en/pdf), [Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children 2017](https://assets.gov.ie/25844/b90aafa55804462f84d05f87f0ca2bf6.pdf), [the Addendum to Children First (2019)](https://assets.gov.ie/25819/c9744b64dfd6447985eeffa5c0d71bbb.pdf), the [Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools 2017](https://www.gov.ie/pdf/?file=https://assets.gov.ie/45063/2d4b5b3d781e4ec1ab4f3e5d198717d9.pdf#page=1) and [Tusla Guidance on the preparation of Child Safeguarding Statements](https://www.tusla.ie/uploads/content/4214-TUSLA_Guidance_on_Developing_a_CSS_LR.PDF), the Board of Management of Iniscealtra 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 Joe O Riordan
3. The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is Aoife Holland
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.

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

1. 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](https://revisedacts.lawreform.ie/eli/2012/act/47/revised/en/pdf) 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.
* 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.

1. 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.
2. 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 on 22/11/2021

This Child Safeguarding Statement was reviewed by the Board of Management on 25/08/2022.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Signed: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Chairperson of Board of Management Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

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

**Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment**

**Written Assessment of Risk of Iniscealtra NS**

In accordance with section 11 of the Children First Act 2015 and with the requirements of Chapter 8 of the *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017*, the following is the Written Risk Assessment of [name of school].

1. **List of school activities**

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| * Training of school personnel in Child Protection matters * One to one teaching * Care of Children with special needs, including intimate care needs * Toilet areas * Curricular Provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay safe. * LGBT Children/Pupils perceived to be LGBT * Daily dismissal of pupils * Managing of challenging behaviour amongst pupils, including appropriate use of restraint * Sports Coaches and External Personnel * Students participating in work experience/ Student teachers undertaking training placement in school * Recreation breaks for pupils * Classroom teaching * Outdoor teaching activities * Sporting Activities (Blitzes & Tournaments) * School outings (day and/or overnight) * Annual Sports Day * Fundraising events involving pupils * Use of off-site facilities for school activities * School transport arrangements * Care of any vulnerable adult students, including intimate care where needed * Administration of Medicine * Administration of First Aid * Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst pupils * Recruitment of school personnel including -Teachers, SNA’s, Caretaker/Secretary/Cleaners, Sports coaches, External Tutors/Guest Speakers, Volunteers/Parents in school activities, Visitors/contractors present in school during school hours * Use of Information and Communication Technology by pupils in school * Application of sanctions under the school’s Code of Behaviour including detention of pupils, confiscation of phones etc. * Use of video/photography/other media to record school events * After school use of school premises by other organisations |

1. **The school has identified the following risk of harm in respect of its activities -**

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| **List of School Activities** | **The School has identified the following Risk of Harm** |
| Training of school personnel in Child Protection matters | Harm not recognised or reported promptly |
| One to one teaching | Harm by school personnel |
| Care of Children with special needs, including intimate care needs | Harm by school personnel |
| Toilet areas | Inappropriate behaviour |
| Curricular Provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay safe. | Non-teaching of same |
| LGBT Children/Pupils perceived to be LGBT | Bullying |
| Daily dismissal of pupils | Harm from older pupils, unknown adults on the playground |
| Managing of challenging behaviour amongst pupils, including appropriate use of restraint | Injury to pupils and staff |
| Sports Coaches and External Personnel | Harm to pupils |
| Students participating in work experience/ Student teachers undertaking training placement in school | Harm by student |
| Recreation breaks for pupils | Bullying, Injury to pupils and staff |
| Classroom teaching | Harm by school personnel |
| Outdoor teaching activities | Injury to pupils and staff, Harm by school personnel, SEN Flight risk |
| Sporting Activities (Blitzes & Tournaments) | Harm to pupils, SEN Flight Risk |
| School outings (day and/or overnight) | Harm to pupils, Bullying, Inappropriate behaviour, SEN Flight Risk |
| Annual Sports Day | Harm to pupils, SEN Flight Risk |
| Fundraising events involving pupils | Harm to pupils, SEN Flight Risk |
| Use of off-site facilities for school activities | Harm to pupils: by school personnel, by member of another school/organisation or other person, Bullying, inadequate supervision, SEN Flight Risk |
| School transport arrangements including use of bus escorts | Harm to pupils: by school personnel, by member of another school/organisation or other person, Bullying, inadequate supervision, SEN Flight Risk |
| Care of any vulnerable adult students, including intimate care where needed | Harm to pupils, Inappropriate behaviour |
| Administration of Medicine  Administration of First Aid | Harm to pupils |
| Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst pupils | Bullying not recognised or reported promptly, Inadequate supervision |
| Recruitment of school personnel including -   * Teachers * SNA’s * Caretaker/Secretary/Cleaners * Sports coaches * External Tutors/Guest Speakers * Volunteers/Parents in school activities * Visitors/contractors present in school during school hours * Visitors/contractors present during after school activities | Harm not recognised or properly or promptly reported |
| Use of Information and Communication Technology by pupils in school | Bullying, Harm to pupils due to inappropriately accessing computers, social media, phones and other devices while at school |
| Application of sanctions under the school’s Code of Behaviour including detention of pupils, confiscation of phones etc. | Harm to pupils and staff, SEN flight risk |
| Use of video/photography/other media to record school events | Published on social media, Inappropriate use of material |
| After school use of school premises by other organisations | Harm by external personnel |

**3.The school has the following procedures in place to address the risks of harm identified in this assessment –**

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| **List of School Activities** | **The School has the following Procedures in place to address risk identified in this assessment** |
| Training of school personnel in Child Protection matters | Child Safeguarding Statement & DES procedures made available to all staff  DLP& DDLP to attend PDST face to face training  All Staff to view Túsla training module & any other online training offered by PDST  Summary information sheet for staff  BOM records all records of staff and board training |
| One to one teaching | School has a section in SEN Policy for one to one teaching  Table between teacher and pupil  Glass in window |
| Care of Children with special needs, including intimate care needs | Intimate care Policy |
| Toilet areas | Section in Supervision and Usage Policy. One child allowed at a time. At break children ask for permission before to use toilet |
| Curricular Provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay safe. | The school implements in full the Stay Safe Programme  The school implements in full the SPHE curriculum |
| LGBT Children/Pupils perceived to be LGBT | Anti-Bullying Policy  Code of Behaviour |
| Daily dismissal of pupils | Dismissal section in Supervision and Usage Policy  Teacher accompany children to gate. |
| Managing of challenging behaviour amongst pupils, including appropriate use of restraint | SEN Policy  Health & Safety Policy  Code of Behaviour |
| Sports Coaches and External Personnel | Garda Vetting Policy  Insurance  Section in Code of Conduct for External Personnel  Garda Vetting Policy (Coaches, External Agencies, Volunteers and Parents).  Teacher always present |
| Students participating in work experience/ Student teachers undertaking training placement in school | Work experience Policy  Garda Vetting Policy  Awareness of Child Safeguarding Statement. |
| Recreation breaks for pupils | Anti-bullying Policy  Code of Behaviour  SEN Policy |
| Classroom teaching | Glass in the door  Garda Vetting Policy  Túsla training module & any other online training offered by PDST  Child Protection Policy |
| Outdoor teaching activities | SEN Policy  Healthy & Safety Policy  Child Protection Procedures  Section in SEN Policy on Flight risk |
| Sporting Activities (Blitzes & Tournaments) | School outings Policy  Section in Code of Conduct for External Personnel  Garda Vetting Policy (Coaches, External Agencies, Volunteers and Parents).  Section in SEN Policy on Flight risk |
| School outings (day and/or overnight) | School outings Policy  Swimming Policy  Section on school outings in Supervision and Usage Policy  Code of Behaviour  Section in SEN Policy on Flight risk |
| Annual Sports Day | Section in Code of Conduct for External Personnel  Garda Vetting Policy (Coaches, External Agencies, Volunteers and Parents).  Garda Vetting Policy  Code of Behaviour  Section in SEN Policy on Flight risk |
| Fundraising events involving pupils | Section in Code of Conduct for External Personnel  Garda Vetting Policy (Coaches, External Agencies, Volunteers and Parents).  Code of Behaviour  Section in SEN Policy on Flight risk |
| Use of off-site facilities for school activities | School Outings Policy  Supervision and Usage Policy  Code of Behaviour  Section in Code of Conduct for External Personnel  Garda Vetting Policy (Coaches, External Agencies, Volunteers and Parents).  Swimming – only pupils from our school in pool. Use of cubicles. No mixed cubicles. Teacher supervision  Section in SEN Policy on Flight risk |
| School transport arrangements including use of bus escorts | School Outings Policy  Supervision and Usage Policy  Code of Behaviour  Section in Code of Conduct for External Personnel  Garda Vetting Policy (Coaches, External Agencies, Volunteers and Parents).  Section in SEN Policy on Flight risk |
| Care of any vulnerable adult students, including intimate care where needed | Intimate Care Policy |
| Administration of Medicine  Administration of First Aid | Administration of Medicine and First Aid Policy |
| Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst pupils | Anti-Bullying Policy  SPHE Policy  Supervision and Usage Policy |
| Recruitment of school personnel including -   * Teachers * SNA’s * Caretaker/Secretary/Cleaners * Sports coaches * External Tutors/Guest Speakers * Volunteers/Parents in school activities * Visitors/contractors present in school during school hours * Visitors/contractors present during after school activities | Child Safeguarding Statement & DES procedures made available to all staff  Staff to view Tusla training module & any other online training offered by PDST  Vetting Procedures  Code of Conduct for External Personnel  Garda Vetting Policy (Coaches, External Agencies, Volunteers and Parents). |
| Use of Information and Communication Technology by pupils in school | ICT Acceptable Use Policy  Anti-Bullying Policy  Code of Behaviour |
| Application of sanctions under the school’s Code of Behaviour including detention of pupils, confiscation of phones etc. | Section in SEN Policy on Flight risk |
| Use of video/photography/other media to record school events | Section on Social Media in ICT Acceptable Use Policy  SPHE Policy |
| After school use of school premises by other organisations | Submission of Garda Vetting prior to granting of premises  Follow guidelines issued by St. Senan’s for use of school for afterschool activities. |

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| **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.