**Child Safeguarding Statement**

Tralee Educate Together 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, 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 Tralee Educate Together 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: Mary Brosnan
3. The Acting Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Acting Deputy DLP) is: Deirdre Clifford
4. The Board of Management recognises that child safeguarding and welfare considerations permeate all aspects of school life and must be reflected in all of the school’s policies, procedures, practices and activities. The school will adhere to the following principles of best practice in child safeguarding and welfare. The school will:
   1. recognise that the safeguarding and welfare of children is of paramount importance, regardless of all other considerations
   2. fully comply with its statutory obligations under the Children First Act 2015 and other relevant legislation relating to the safeguarding and welfare of children
   3. fully co-operate with the relevant statutory authorities in relation to child safeguarding and welfare matters
   4. 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
   5. develop a practice of openness with parents and encourage parental involvement in the education of their children; and
   6. fully respect confidentiality requirements in dealing with child safeguarding 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:
   1. 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
   2. 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
   3. 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:
      1. Ensures that each member of staff has access to a copy of the school’s Child Safeguarding Statement
      2. Ensures all new staff has access to a copy of the school’s Child Safeguarding Statement
      3. Encourages staff to avail of relevant training
      4. Encourages Board of Management members to avail of relevant training
      5. The Board of Management maintains records of all staff and Board member training.
   4. In relation to reporting of child safeguarding 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
   5. 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 school’s child safeguarding statement.
   6. All registered teachers employed by the school are mandated persons under the Children First Act 2015
   7. 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 these procedures
   8. 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

**Note:** The above is not intended as an exhaustive list. Individual Boards of Management shall also include in this section such other procedures/measures that are of relevance to the school in question.

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 30/11/22

Signed: *Sinead Kelleher* Chairperson of the Board Date: 30/11/22

Signed: *Mary Brosnan* Principal Date: 30/11/22

Date of next review: 2023

**Child Safeguarding Statement – Distance Learning Addendum**

Tralee Educate Together NS is committed to a child-centred approach in our work with children. We undertake to provide a safe environment and experience, where the welfare of the child is paramount. This policy extends the Child Safeguarding Statement of Tralee Educate Together NS.

**Distance Learning**

In facilitating access to safe communication between staff and pupils, Tralee Educate Together NS extends the opportunity to learn via various platforms such as Aladdin, Class Dojo, Zoom, Seesaw or other platforms approved by the Principal as platforms (the “Online Platforms”) to assist with remote teaching where necessary. In providing these opportunities, we commit to adhering to the following best practices in the interest of safeguarding both students and staff.

**Child Safeguarding Concerns Related to Distance Learning**

Communicating with students over the internet raises the following concerns in relation to child safeguarding as the situation introduces the student to the idea of communicating over the internet with an adult who is not part of their family group. This is not a practice that should come to be considered normal by the student and it should be emphasised by parents that communicating in this manner is something that requires consent and supervision.

This method of communication invites the teacher/SNA into the student’s home, and vice versa, without being physically present and, therefore, possibly unknown to other members of either household. There should be an awareness on behalf of all involved that there is someone virtually present in their home and that everyone’s actions need to be reflected in this.

Tralee Educate Together NS staff undertake as part of our Child Safeguarding Policy to report any concerns over child welfare to Mary Brosnan (Principal Teacher), who is the Designated Liaison Person or in her absence to Deirdre Clifford (Acting Deputy Principal and Acting Deputy Designated Liaison Person).

**Parental Consent**

Parental consent shall be sought for the purposes of:

* Engaging with the pupil in their home via live video calls (Zoom).
* Location and Supervision of Lessons.

All calls should be held in an area of the home that is open and accessible to the parents of the student.

Teachers/SNA should hold the video call in a location that respects the privacy of the pupil’s learning.

Lessons will, however, need to be held in an area where student and staff members can concentrate on the call and not be unnecessarily interrupted. This may be hard to balance with younger children in the house and may take a few sessions to establish a good routine. All concerned need to show some patience in forming a routine and be willing to discuss ways to improve concentration during lessons.

All one-to-one calls require a parent/guardian to be present during the video.

Parents are responsible for the supervision of their child during the video call.

No lessons are permitted to be recorded by any participants.

If a class teacher wishes to record a lesson online prior consent will be sought from parents.

**Time Keeping**

All parties will login on time for a video call.

If any party is delayed or unable to attend video call they should make prior contact to discuss with other party.

Staff will end non-attended calls 10 minutes after start time.

**Alternative Contact Methods**

All arrangements / re-arrangements to lessons must be made through a parent and teacher using the staff email or by phone.

Students and staff members are only allowed to communicate using the platforms mentioned above.

**Platform Communication**

Various platforms will be used to engage in school activities.

Teachers/SNAs will respond to messages during school hours. Any messages received after these hours will be responded to the following school day.

Pupils may request help or clarifications using this method of communication.

Pupils may submit schoolwork via the chosen platform or through staff email.

Teachers will provide feedback to pupil.

If parents wish to raise any concerns or discuss anything with teacher/SNA they must use the staff email or request that the teacher phone them to discuss the issues.

**Professional Boundaries**

While encouraging and fostering a positive relationship with learners, all Tralee Educate Together NS staff will maintain professional boundaries between themselves and pupils and parents in both the workplace and while working with pupils on the selected platform. Pupils and parents have a responsibility to recognise the ‘professional’ nature of their relationship with a staff member.

**Grounds for Concern**

The grounds for concern laid out in the school’s Child Safeguarding Statement shall apply in all lessons given over the internet and shall apply to all children in the student’s home. If a staff member witnesses any concerning issues during a video call they must report these to the Designated Liaison Person in accordance with the Child Safeguarding Guidelines. This includes things that happen in the background or off-camera. If a parent has any concerns about the process or relationship between student and staff member, they should contact the Designated Liaison Person to discuss the situation. Tralee Educate Together NS undertakes to investigate all complaints or concerns regarding its teaching staff in line with our Child Safeguarding Statement.

**Raising Concerns**

Concerns for the welfare of students will be dealt with in line with the school’s Child Safeguarding Statement.

**Recording of Lessons**

No recordings are to be made of lessons, without the consent of both teacher and parent/guardian.

**General Code of Conduct**

All participants in Distance Learning must agree to:

* Treat all users, educators and colleagues fairly and equally.
* Stimulate conversation, and be respectful of others’ views.
* Respect legitimate intellectual property rights, not plagiarise work and give credit to the originators of ideas.
* Not share the posts of others.