



## **Child Safeguarding Statement 2023**

Camross N.S. provides education to children 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 Department of Education and Skills' Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools 2017 and Tusla Guidance on the preparation of Child Safeguarding Statements, the Board of Management (BOM) of Camross National School has agreed the Child Safeguarding Statement set out in this document.

- 1 The BOM 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: Talitha Horan (School Principal)
- 3 The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is: Elizabeth Cordial (Deputy Principal)
- 4 The BOM 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. 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.
  - continue our practice of openness with parents and encourage parental involvement in the education of their children.
  - fully respect confidentiality requirements in dealing with child protection matters.
5. The following procedures/measures are in place in our school:
  - 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 website of the Department of Education & Skills.
  - 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 of staff in respect of the identification of the occurrence of harm (as defined in the 2015 Act) the school:
  - Has encouraged all staff to engage with the Tusla Child First E-Learning programme.



- Has encouraged BOM members to avail of the Tusla Child First E-Learning programme.
- Has provided each member of the teaching staff with a copy of DES Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Secondary Schools 2017.
- Has provided each member of staff with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment.
- Ensures all new staff are provided with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement.
- Encourages all staff to avail of relevant training.
- Encourages BOM members to avail of relevant training.
- Maintains records of all staff and Board member training on behalf of the BOM.
- 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 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 included below. The risk assessment document can be updated as often as necessary.

8. The various procedures referred to in this Statement can be accessed via the DES website or will be made available on request by the school. This statement has been published on the school's website and has been provided to all members of school personnel and the patron. It is readily accessible to parents and guardians. A copy of this Statement will be made available to Tusla and the Department of Education and Skills if requested.

9. 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.

10. This policy was reviewed and updated in line with Covid19 guidelines.

This Child Safeguarding Statement was adopted by the BOM on the 27<sup>th</sup> of February 2023.

**Links to relevant websites:**

Signed:

The DES website is [www.education.ie](http://www.education.ie)  
The Tusla website is [www.tusla.ie](http://www.tusla.ie)  
The PDST website is <http://www.pdst.ie/ChildProtection>



## Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment 2023

Camross N.S. Camross, Portlaoise, Co. Laois February 2023

To be reviewed annually or more frequently as appropriate

In accordance with section 11 of the Children First Act 2015 and with the requirement of Chapter 8 of the Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017, the following is the Written Risk Assessment of Camross N.S.

The school has identified areas of potential risk of harm to pupils in the school environment.

The table below lists those potential risks and the procedures and/or policies in place for managing those risks.

	<b>List of School Activities</b>	<b>The school has the following procedures in place to address the risk identified in this assessment.</b>
1.	Training of school personnel in Child Protection Matters	Child Safeguarding Statement and DES procedures made available to all staff. DLP and DDLP to attend child protection training. All staff to view Tusla training module and any other training offered by the PDST, CPSMA or Department. BOM retains all records of staff and Board training. Visiting staff and part-time teachers to comply with garda vetting and to be familiar with Child Safeguarding Statement
2.	One to One Teaching	School has glass panels in doors of all classrooms where one to one teaching takes place.
3.	Care of children with special needs including intimate care needs	School has Intimate Care Needs Policy in place. Two adults are present for all intimate care needs procedures. This may be an SNA or teachers depending on availability. RSE and SPHE can be differentiated as appropriate
4.	Toilet areas	Toilet procedures – one child at a time. Each class teacher is responsible for bringing any health and safety issues pertaining to their classroom toilets to the attention of the Health and Safety officer – Betty Cordial.
5.	Curricular provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe Programme	School implements SPHE (Social, Personal and Health Education) RSE (Relationships and Sexuality Education), Stay Safe Programmes & Walk Tall Programme and facilitates staff training when available.
6.	Recruitment of new staff	Child Safeguarding Statement and DES procedures made available to all staff. Staff to view Tusla training module and any other online training offered by PDST or provide certificate to prove training has previously been undertaken

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7.	Management of challenging behaviour amongst pupils	Health and Safety Policy Code of Behaviour Classroom management systems
8.	External Sports Coaches – including extra-curricular activities coaches/teachers.	Garda vetting procedures in place. Teachers remain with visiting coach.
9.	Students participating in work Experience.	All students over 16 years of age Garda vetted. Child Safeguarding Statement.
10.	3rd Level students participating in School Placement	All students over 16 years of age Garda vetted. Letter of agreement completed with 3 <sup>rd</sup> Level College. Student made aware of our Child Safeguarding Statement.
11.	Volunteers / ICA Ladies	Garda vetting in place, suspended during Covid.
12.	Swimming	Coaches have completed Garda vetting. Two staff members attend swimming. Teachers enter changing rooms to supervise only as necessary. Staff do not assist with drying/dressing with the exception of children with special needs who are assisted by an SNA/Teacher, in view of the accompanying teacher/SNA. No child to be alone with coach at any time.
13.	Supervision of pupils at break times	Supervision timetable drawn up each year/term as necessary and supervision procedures in place. Rota maintained by Principal. Designated play areas for each class grouping.
14.	Use of church, hall facilities, kitchen.	Children are always supervised by relevant teachers/SNA when using the church, hall facilities and kitchen. Following use of hall facilities the teacher returning to the school ensures that the hall/school connecting door is locked.
15.	Visiting speakers	Teachers remain in class with visiting speakers.
16.	Use of ICT by pupils or staff	ICT and Acceptable Use policy in place. Internet Safety lessons taught to pupils from 3 <sup>rd</sup> – 6 <sup>th</sup> classes Pupils use computers while teacher is present in classroom.
17.	Use of mobile phones	Pupils are not permitted to use mobile phones. If mobiles must be brought to school for use in after school activity they are handed into the office and collected at 3pm.
18.	Bullying	Anti-bullying Policy and Procedures in place. Stay Safe and RSE programmes taught in all classes (linked to SPHE).
19.	School Access	No access to the school building is permitted without prior approval. Rear Infant yard gate closed to access by vehicles, unless previously organised.

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		Access to classrooms during the school day is restricted. CCTV cameras in place to monitor security. Deliveries during school hours through front door only.
20.	LGBT pupils, trans-pupils, ethnic minorities etc.	Code of Behaviour, SPHE programmes and Ant-Bullying Policy.
21.	Administration of First Aid/Medicine	Administration of Medicine policy. Training provided on specific conditions as necessary. Trained First Aiders on staff (4). First Aid kits available. Defibrillator available at front entrance to hall.
22.	School Trips	Fully supervised by teachers/SNA's Venues chosen after careful consideration of safety and educational value First aid kits brought on trips Contact numbers list brought
23.	Health and Safety issues	Termly risk assessment undertaken by school management to highlight health and safety issues needing attention. Each class teacher responsible for bringing health and safety issues relating to their learning/teaching space to the attention of the school safety officer Betty Cordial. List of external shared community space health and safety issues forwarded to the manager of the Community Employment Scheme for attention.
24.	Classroom management and maintenance	The organisation and orderly maintenance of each classroom will be the responsibility of each classroom teacher, ensuring teaching materials and resources are stored safely, all efforts will be made to reduce clutter and thus reduce potential trip and fire hazards.
25.	After school use of the school by outside organisations	Locked filing cabinet provided for all teachers for the safe storage of confidential, sensitive data. School office locked outside of school normal opening times. Access to school office outside of normal school times limited to BOM designated key holders.
26.	School Walks/Runs/Cycles	Health and Safety Policy Signage First Aid Kits Supervision Local Community and businesses given forewarning of event. Use of safety vehicles. Wearing of appropriate safety gear and equipment.
27.	Use of shared playground area	Break times timetabled and each class grouping designated a set playing space. Staff assigned to various playing spaces.

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28.	Collection and dismissal of classes	<p>Teachers of Junior – 2<sup>nd</sup> class collect classes from the yard after each break time. Teacher on yard duty remains with classes until all classes are collected from the yard.</p> <p>Pupils in 3<sup>rd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> classes line up and walk in with staff on duty from playing pitch.</p> <p>At dismissal time class teacher escorts his/her class to the yard and remains with his/her pupils until all are collected. Pupils remain with their teacher behind the school bollards until they are collected by a parent/guardian.</p> <p>Pupils travelling by bus or walking exit through front gate. Pupils are supervised by school staff until bus arrives and then dismissed safely.</p> <p>Similarly walkers are either collected by parents/guardians or dismissed safely through school gates.</p>
29.	Entry and exit of pupils	<p>School gates opened by staff. Pupils enter each morning through rear Infant yard gate, shelter yard gate or front school entrance. The three doors to the shelter yard are opened and closed by teachers in classrooms adjacent to each door.</p>
30.	Ventilation	<p>Doors and windows will be opened by staff during the school day as and when the need arises.</p>
31.	Covid 19 PPE	<p>Hand sanitizers, masks, paper towels and additional cleaning products are provided to each staff member and classroom. They are replenished as and when needed.</p>
32.	PE and Active Breaks	<p>Classes utilise school facilities for PE and Active Breaks under staff supervision. Visiting coaches will be accompanied by class teacher.</p>
33.	Attendance at mass	<p>All classes will be accompanied by staff members during trips to the church.</p>
34.	Use of a shared space	<p>All pupils will be regularly reminded of their designated play areas and areas which are out of bounds.</p> <p>All access doors and gates will be locked by designated staff each evening for security.</p> <p>The BOM will communicate with Camross Community Employment scheme and Camross Community Group to ensure that shared health and safety or security risks are addressed in a timely manner.</p>
35.	Communication	<p>A current list of parent contact details will be maintained in the school office for quick and easy access, when needed.</p> <p>All in the school community will be informed of new health and safety issues through Seesaw as and when they arise.</p>
36.	Fire Safety	<p>All pupils and staff will be informed of the correct fire drill procedures at the start of each school year.</p>

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		Ms Betty Cordial will coordinate a fire drill each term. Mountrath Fire Brigade officers will present a fire safety talk to pupils in 3 <sup>rd</sup> and 4 <sup>th</sup> class each school year. All fire extinguishers and fire alarms will be serviced on a regular basis.
37.	Vermin Control	A schedule of vermin control will be maintained and monitored by Mr Jackie Meagher. Traps for mice will be set in the school environment in discreet and safe locations as and when needed. These will be monitored by staff in the relevant rooms and attended to as and when needed.
38.	Traffic Management	A one-way traffic management system will operate in our school environment for all drop off and pick up times. Parents will be regularly reminded through Seesaw of this system and to adhere to slow driving at all times in our school environment.

**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 BOM has endeavored 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. This risk assessment has been completed by the BOM on the 27<sup>th</sup> of February 2023 in line with updated Covid19 guidelines. It shall be reviewed as part of the school’s annual review of its Child Safeguarding Statement.