



# ASHBOURNE EDUCATE TOGETHER NATIONAL SCHOOL

## Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment

### Written Assessment of Risk of Ashbourne Educate Together National School

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 Ashbourne Educate Together National School.

#### 1. List of school activities

- Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils
- Recreation breaks for pupils
- Classroom teaching
- One-to-one teaching (SET Teacher)
- One- to one support from SNA
- Outdoor teaching activities (PE, nature walks, maths trails/other trails, morning runs)
- Sporting Activities (Matches and Competitions and Games)
- School outings (school tours, local area visits)
- School trips involving overnight stay (6<sup>th</sup> Class) potentially.
- Use of toilet/shower areas in schools (SEN children)
- Annual Sports Day (GAA grounds/club house)
- Fundraising events involving pupils (PTA – discos, movie nights etc.)
- Use of off-site facilities for school activities (GAA pitches, clubhouse, swimming pools, functional activity trips –SEN children)
- School transport arrangements including use of bus escorts (ASD children) potentially.
- Care of children with special educational needs, including intimate care where needed
- Management of challenging behaviour amongst pupils, including appropriate use of restraint where required
- Administration of Medicine (in accordance with AETNS policy)
- Administration of First Aid
- Curricular provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe
- Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst pupils
- Training of school personnel in child protection matters
- Use of external personnel to supplement curriculum

- Use of external personnel to support sports and other extra-curricular activities (PE coaches, ongoing guest speakers)
- Care of pupils with specific vulnerabilities/ needs such as
  - Pupils from ethnic minorities/migrants
  - Members of the Traveller community
  - Lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender (LGBT) children
  - Pupils perceived to be LGBT
  - Pupils of minority religious faiths
  - Children in care
  - Children on CPNS (Tusla Child Protection Notification System)
- 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
- Use of Information and Communication Technology by pupils in school (Ipads, chrome books)
- Application of sanctions under the school's Code of Behaviour including, confiscation of phones etc.
- Students participating in work experience in the school
- Student teachers undertaking training placement in school
- Use of video/photography/other media to record school events
- After school use of school premises by other organisations
- Use of school premises by other organisation during school day
- Homework club/after school activities, potentially.
- Child care facilities available within the school day
- Online Learning Platforms - September 2020

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

- Risk of harm not being recognised by school personnel
- Risk of harm not being reported properly and promptly by school personnel
- Risk of child being harmed in the school by a member of school personnel
- Risk of child being harmed in the school by another child
- Risk of child being harmed in the school by volunteer or visitor to the school
- Risk of child being harmed by a member of school personnel, a member of staff of another organisation or other person while child participating in out of school activities e.g. school trip, swimming lessons , matches, competitions
- Risk of harm due to bullying of child

- Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children in school
- Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children while attending out of school activities
- Risk of harm due to inappropriate relationship/communications between child and another child or adult
- Risk of harm due to children inappropriately accessing/using computers, social media, phones and other devices while at school
- Risk of harm to children with SEN who have particular vulnerabilities
- Risk of harm to child while a child is receiving intimate care
- Risk of harm due to inadequate code of behaviour
- Risk of harm in one-to-one teaching, coaching situation
- Risk of harm caused by member of school personnel communicating with pupils in appropriate manner via social media, texting, digital device or other manner
- Risk of harm caused by member of school personnel accessing/circulating inappropriate material via social media, texting, digital device or other manner

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

- All school personnel are provided with a copy of the school's *Child Safeguarding Statement*
- The *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017* are made available to all school personnel , soft copies available on school drive.
- School Personnel are required to adhere to the *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017* and all registered teaching staff are required to adhere to the *Children First Act 2015*
- The school implements in full the Stay Safe Programme
- The school implements in full the SPHE curriculum and the RSE programme
- The school has an Anti-Bullying Policy which fully adheres to the requirements of the Department's *Anti-Bullying Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools (Friendship week and other anti-bullying events e.g.workshops etc)*
- The school has a yard/playground supervision policy to ensure appropriate supervision of children during, assembly, dismissal and breaks and in respect of specific areas such as toilets, changing rooms etc.
- The school has in place a policy and clear procedures in respect of school outings
- The school has a Health and safety policy
- The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation and relevant DES circulars in relation to recruitment and Garda vetting
- The school has a code of conduct for school personnel (teaching and non-teaching staff)
- The school complies with the agreed disciplinary procedures for teaching staff
- The school has a Special Educational Needs policy

- The school has an intimate care policy/plan in respect of students who require such care
- The school has in place a policy and procedures for the administration of medication to pupils
- The school –
  - Has provided each member of school 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
  - Maintains records of all staff and board member training
- The school has in place procedures for the administration of First Aid
- The school has in place a code of behaviour for pupils
- The school has in place an ICT policy and AUP (Acceptable Use Policy) in respect of usage of ICT by pupils and a managed service in place for downloading pre-approved apps.
- The school has in place a mobile phone policy in respect of usage of mobile phones by pupils
- The school has in place a Critical Incident Management Plan
- The school has in place procedures for the use of external persons to supplement delivery of the curriculum (sports coaches, speakers etc.)
  - The school has in place clear procedures for one-to-one teaching activities or SNA out of class activities (clear windows, avoided if possible, 2 teachers assigned to each support room)
- The school has in place a policy and procedures in respect of student teacher placements
- The school has in place a policy and procedures in respect of transition year students undertaking work experience in the school
- Visitors must sign in at reception - contract tracing /sign in app
- School attendance is monitored carefully. Certificates are awarded for full attendance every month/term. Classes are rewarded for improved attendance. We comply with Educational Welfare Act 2000.
- Parents are informed about school trips including matches, competitions etc. Consent forms are sent home/aladdin permissions to be signed by parents. These forms contain information about the outing. Adequate staff to student ratios will be observed as per our school tours policy. All staff made aware of school tours policy before going on trips in May/June.
- Children using toilets while at PE must go one at a time. Only one student is permitted in the toilet at any one time.
- Children are required to have written permission to walk home alone. This is applicable from 3<sup>rd</sup> Class to 6<sup>th</sup> Class.

- Swimming – supervision in accordance with AETNS swimming policy

**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.

This risk assessment has been completed by the Board of Management on 25/11/2020. It shall be reviewed as part of the school’s annual review of its Child Safeguarding Statement.

Signed Noel Gildea

Date 25/11/2020

Chairperson, Board of Management

Signed Barbara Nugent

Date 25/11/2020

Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management