



St. Attracta's NS Charlestown Child Safeguarding Statement



in compliance with Child Protection Procedures for Primary Schools Revised 2023

St. Attracta's NS Charlestown is a primary school providing primary education to pupils from Junior Infants to Sixth Class. We also provide a Early Intervention Service for children between the ages of three and five with a confirmed diagnosis of ASD.

In accordance with the requirements of the *Children First Act 2015*, *Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children 2017*, the addendum to Children First 2019, the *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools Revised 2023* and *Túsla Guidance on the preparation of Child Safeguarding Statements*, the Board of Management of St. Attracta's NS Charlestown 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 2023 as part of this overall Child Safeguarding Statement**
- 2 The Designated Liaison Person (DLP) is Brian McDermott, School Principal**
- 3 The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is Joanne McDonagh Deputy Principal:**
- 4 The Relevant Person is Brian McDermott (School Principal)
(The relevant person is one who can provide information in respect of how the child safeguarding statement was developed and will be able to provide the statement on request. In a school setting the relevant person will be the designated liaison person)**
- 5 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.



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6 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 revised 2023* and to the relevant agreed disciplinary procedures for school staff which are published on the gov.ie 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 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 gov.ie 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 will
 - 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
 - Ensure the Board of Management maintains records of all staff and BOM training
- In relation to reporting of child protection concerns to Túsla, all school personnel are required to adhere to the procedures set out in the *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools Revised 2023* 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 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 attaché as an appendix to these procedures.
- The various procedures referred to in this Statement can be accessed via the school's website, gov.ie website or will be made available on request by the school.

Note: This Child Protection Statement is supported by the following relevant school policies and guidance documents: Anti-Bullying Policy, Acceptable Use Policy, Attendance at School Policy, Administration of Medications Policy, Code of Behaviour, Data Protection Policy, First Aid Policy & Procedures (to be updated), Supervision of Pupils Policy 2017, Intimate Care Policy, Healthy Eating Policy, SEN Policy and the Role of the Inclusion Support Worker.



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- 7 This statement will be published on the school's website and will be provided to all members of school personnel, the Parents' Association and the Patron. It will be readily accessible to parents and guardians on request. A copy of this Statement will be made available to Túsla and the Department if requested.**
- 8 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 St. Attracta's NS Charlestown Board of Management on Monday, March 7th 2018. It was reviewed and updated on Tuesday, June 18th 2024.

**Signed: *Rev. Thomas Johnston*
Chairperson of Board of Management**

**Signed: *Brian McDermott*
Principal St. Attracta's NS Charlestown**

Date: 18th June 2024

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