DROM NATIONAL SCHOOL
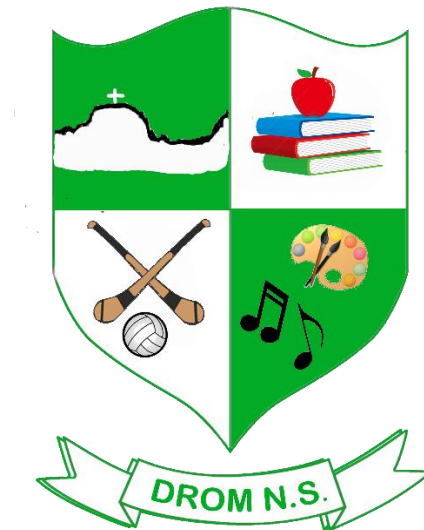
SCHOOL POLICY PLANNING

CHILD SAFEGUARDING RISK ASSESSMENT

Drom National School Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment

Written Assessment of Risk of Drom National School

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 (revised 2023), the following is the Written Risk Assessment of Drom National School.

List of school activities:

- Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils
- Classroom teaching
- One-to-one teaching
- Curricular provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe
- Outdoor teaching activities
- Sporting Activities: Gaelic Football, Hurling, Camogie, Gymnastics
- Recreation breaks for pupils
- Use of toilet / changing areas in schools
- Care of children with special educational needs, including intimate care where needed
- 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
- Children with medical needs
- Application of sanctions under the school's Code of Behaviour including detention of pupils, confiscation of phones etc.
- Management of challenging behaviour amongst pupils, including appropriate use of restraint where required
- Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst pupils
- Use of Information and Communication Technology by pupils in school, including social media
- Use of Remote Learning platforms by pupils to provide for continuity of schooling when pupils and / or teachers are advised to self-isolate or restrict their movements.
- Participation by pupils in religious ceremonies / religious instruction external to the school
- Administration of Medicine
- Administration of First Aid
- 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
- 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
- Student teachers undertaking training placement in school
- Students participating in work experience in the school
- School concerts and carol services
- School outings
- Annual Sports Day
- School Open Evening
- Fundraising events involving pupils
- School transport arrangements including the school bus
- Use of off-site facilities for school activities: Drom GAA Field, Drom Community Hall, St. Mary's Church, Drom

- Use of video/photography/other media to record school events
- Use of school premises by other organisations during school day

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 harm in one-to-one teaching
- Risk of child being harmed in the school by student teacher
- Risk of child being harmed by a student on work experience
- Risk of child being harmed in the school by external personnel used to supplement the curriculum
- Risk of child being harmed in the school by external personnel used to support sport and other extra-curricular activities
- Risk of child being harmed by personnel using the school premises during the school day
- Risk of child being harmed in the school by volunteer in the school
- Risk of child being harmed in the school by visitor to the school
- Risk of child being harmed in the school by another child
- Risk of harm due to bullying of child
- Risk of harm due to children inappropriately accessing / using computers, social media, phones and other devices while at school.
- Risk of harm due to inappropriate use of online remote teaching and learning communication platform such as an uninvited person accessing the lesson link, students being left unsupervised for long periods of time in breakout rooms
- Risk of harm caused by member of school personnel accessing / circulating inappropriate material via social media, texting, digital device or other manner
- Risk of harm caused by circulating of photographs / video recordings of school events by school personnel or other persons.
- Risk of harm caused by circulating screen shots / recordings of remote learning activities by school personnel, parents / guardians, children or other persons.
- Risk of harm due to inappropriate relationship / communications between child and another child or adult
- Risk of harm caused by member of school personnel communicating with pupils in an inappropriate manner via remote learning platforms, social media, texting, digital devices or other manner
- Risk of harm due to inadequate application of the code of behaviour
- 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 to child while a child is receiving aid for accident / illness
- Risk of harm to child who is administered medicine by school personnel
- Risk of child being harmed by transport personnel / other persons on the school bus and on external transport services used by 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 is participating in activities outside of the school environs e.g. annual sports day, swimming lessons, altar service, activities in the community hall, activities in the church, sporting activities in the GAA field / other sporting venues, concerts, fundraising events, school trip
- Risk of harm due to inability to adequately supervise all recreational areas in the school grounds
- Risk of harm due to inability to adequately supervise all entry and exit points to the school grounds
- Risk of harm due to inability to adequately secure all entry points to the school building
- Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children while attending out of school activities

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 (revised 2023) are made available to all school personnel
- School Personnel are required to adhere to the Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools (revised 2023) and all registered teaching staff are required to adhere to the Children First Act 2015 and it's Addendum (2019)
- The school –
  - 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 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 specific policies and procedures in place in respect of:
  - The use of external persons to supplement delivery of the curriculum
  - The use of external sports coaches
  - One-to-one teaching activities
  - Student teacher placements
  - Students undertaking work experience in the school
- The school implements in full the Stay Safe Programme
- The school implements in full the SPHE curriculum
- The school has in place a Code of Behaviour for pupils
- 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
- The school has a Health and Safety Policy
- The school has in place a Critical Incident Management Plan
- The school has a Supervision Policy to ensure appropriate supervision of children during school hours and in respect of specific areas such as toilets, etc.
- The school has a Reception, Assembly and Dismissal Policy to ensure appropriate supervision of students during assembly and dismissal.
- The school has a School Visitor Policy
- The school has a Special Educational Needs Policy
- The school has an Intimate Care and Toileting Policy 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 an Accident or Injury to Pupils Policy which outlines procedures for the administration of First Aid and dealing with illness
- The school has in place an Acceptable Usage Policy and Distance Learning Plan in respect of the use of digital devices, digital applications and online communication tools by pupils and staff in school and during remote teaching and learning activities.
- The school has in place a Mobile Phone Policy in respect of usage of mobile phones by pupils and staff.
- The school has a policy and clear procedures in place in respect of school outings.
- The school will put in place a licence agreement with all personnel / organisations using the school premises during the school day which will specify procedures in respect of Garda Vetting.
- The school advises members of the public that the school grounds are private property and that no trespassing by unauthorised persons during or after school hours is permitted.
- The school endeavours to make entry to the school building more secure when funds permit.

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 (revised 2023)

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.

Signed: *Fr. Martin Murphy*   Date 16th November 2023

Fr. Martin Murphy
Chairperson, Board of Management

Signed: *Amadean Moore-Walsh*   Date 16th November 2023

Ms. Amadean Moore-Walsh
Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management