

# Stapolin Educate Together National School



## Child Safeguarding Statement

Stapolin Educate Together National School 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 Stapolin Educate Together National School has agreed the Child Safeguarding Statement set out in this document.

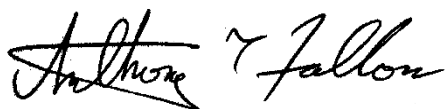
- 1 The Board of Management has adopted and will implement fully and without modification the Department's Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools 2017 as part of this overall Child Safeguarding Statement
- 2 The Designated Liaison Person (DLP) is **Clodagh Farrell**
- 3 The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is **Adrienne Middleton**
- 4 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.
- 5 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 2017 and to the relevant agreed disciplinary procedures for school staff which are published on the DES 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 DES 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-
    - 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
    - The Board of Management maintains records of all staff and Board member training
  - 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 abovenamed 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.
  - All registered teachers employed by the school are mandated persons under the Children First Act 2015.
  - 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.
  - 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.
- 6 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.
- 7 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.
- 8 This Child Safeguarding Statement was adopted by the Board of Management on 21<sup>st</sup> October 2022.

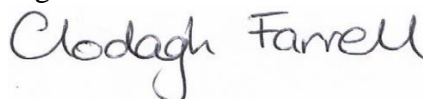
Signed:



Chairperson, Board of Management

Date: 21<sup>st</sup> October 2022

Signed:



Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Date: 21<sup>st</sup> October 2022

## Written Assessment of Risk of Stapolin 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 Stapolin Educate Together National School.

List of School Activities	Risk Level	The School has identified the following Risk of Harm	The School has the following Procedures in place to address risk identified in this assessment
Training of school personnel in Child Protection matters	High	Harm not recognised or reported promptly	<p>Child Safeguarding Statement &amp; DES procedures made available to all staff</p> <p>DLP&amp; DDLP to attend PDST face to face training All Staff to undergo Túsla Children First online training module &amp; any additional training offered by PDST</p> <p>BOM retains records of all staff and Board training</p>
One to one teaching	Med	Harm by school personnel	<p>Policy on Additional Educational Needs</p> <p>Open doors</p> <p>Table between teacher and pupil</p> <p>Glass window in door</p>
Care of Children with special needs, including intimate care needs	High	Harm by school personnel	<p>Policy on Intimate Care</p> <p>Policy on Additional Educational</p>
Toilet areas	High	Harm to pupils	<p>Policy on Intimate Care</p> <p>Supervision Policy</p> <p>Positive Behaviour Policy</p> <p>The children's toilets in our school are out of bounds for all adults between 8.20am and 2.00pm.</p>

<b>List of School Activities</b>	<b>Risk Level</b>	<b>The School has identified the following Risk of Harm</b>	<b>The School has the following Procedures in place to address risk identified in this assessment</b>
Curricular Provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe.	Med	Non-teaching of same	School implements SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe in full
Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils	Med	Harm from older pupils, unknown adults on the playground	The children are brought to the door by parents in the morning and are dismissed individually into the care of a known adult at collection time.
Managing of behaviour that challenges amongst pupils.	High	Injury to pupils and staff	Health & Safety Policy Positive Behaviour Policy
Use of external personnel to supplement curriculum	Med	Harm to pupils	Garda Vetting Requirements
Student Teacher participating in work experience	Low	Harm by Student Teacher	School Placement Policy Child Safeguarding Statement. Garda Vetting Requirements
Visitors to the school	Med	Harm to pupils	All visitors to the school during the school day must enter the school through the main door and are greeted by a staff member.
School outings	Med	Harm by non-school staff	Supervision Policy Positive Behaviour Policy

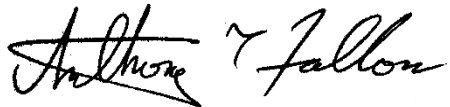
List of School Activities	Risk Level	The School has identified the following Risk of Harm	The School has the following Procedures in place to address risk identified in this assessment
Parents' Association events involving pupils eg. Cake Sale	Low	Non-school staff in school during school hours	Garda Vetting Requirements Child Safeguarding Statement
Administration of Medicine Administration of First Aid	High	Harm to pupils	First Aid and Administration of Medicine Policy
Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst pupils	Med	Bullying	Positive Behaviour Policy Anti-Bullying Policy
Care of pupils with specific vulnerabilities/needs such as <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pupils from ethnic minorities/migrants</li> <li>• Members of the Traveller community</li> <li>• Lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender (LGBT) children</li> <li>• Pupils perceived to be LGBT</li> <li>• Pupils of minority religious faiths</li> <li>• Children in care</li> <li>• Children on CPNS</li> </ul>	Med	Harm to pupils Bullying	Child Safeguarding Statement Anti-Bullying Policy
Recruitment of school personnel including - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Teachers</li> </ul>	High	Harm not recognised or properly or promptly reported	Recruitment in line with DES procedures Garda Vetting Requirements

List of School Activities	Risk Level	The School has identified the following Risk of Harm	The School has the following Procedures in place to address risk identified in this assessment
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SNA's</li> <li>• Caretaker</li> <li>• Secretary</li> <li>• Cleaners</li> </ul>			
Use of Information and Communication Technology by pupils in school	Low	Bullying	Acceptable Use Policy Anti-Bullying Policy Positive Behaviour Policy
Student teachers undertaking training placement in school	Low	Harm to Pupils	Garda Vetting Requirements Supervision Policy
Use of video/photography/other media to record school events	Med	Misuse of Media	Acceptable Use Policy Enrolment Form Parents accompanying classes on tours or activities will be asked not to take photos of the children. Photos and videos are only to be taken by members of school staff.
Children who are unable to attend school due to Covid - 19	Med	Harm not recognised or properly or promptly reported.  Misuse of Media  Risk raised by use of Online Platforms.	Staff being aware of being extra vigilant to spot the signs associated with harm of children. Use of secure, recognised online learning platforms. Training for staff in the use of the online learning platform. Use of logins and passwords Staff check ins with children.

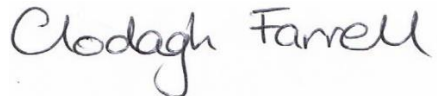
**Important Note:** It should be noted that risk in the context of this risk assessment is the risk of “harm” as defined in the Children First Act 2015 and not general health and safety risk. The definition of harm is set out in Chapter 4 of the *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post- Primary 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 in October 2022. It will be reviewed as part of the school’s annual review of its Child Safeguarding Statement.

Signed:   
Chairperson, Board of Management

Date: 21<sup>st</sup> October 2022

Signed:   
Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Date: 21<sup>st</sup> October 2022