

## Brannoxtown Community National School Child Safeguarding Statement

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Brannoxtown Community National School (CNS) is a primary school, under Patronage of the Kildare and Wicklow Education and Training Board (KWETB). Brannoxtown CNS opened in September 2018. It provides primary education to pupils from Junior Infants to Sixth Class.

This Child Safeguarding Statement has been approved by the Board of Management of Brannoxtown CNS in accordance with the requirements of the Children First Act (2015), Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children (2017), Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools (2017) and Tusla Guidance on the preparation of Child Safeguarding Statements.

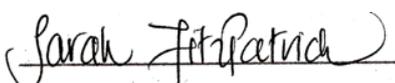
1. The Board of Management has adopted and will implement fully and without modification the Department's Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools (2017) as part of this overall Child Safeguarding Statement.
2. The Designated Liaison Person (DLP) is Dr. Sarah FitzPatrick, Principal.
3. The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is Ms. Dawn Heffernan, Assistant Principal.
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 for all children and in relation to any adult pupil with a special vulnerability:
  - **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 child protection and welfare.
  - **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 them open to accusations of abuse or neglect.
  - **develop a 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 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 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 for staff** in respect of the identification of the occurrence of harm (as defined in the 2015 Act), the school:
    - has provided each current member of staff and any new staff member with a copy of the school’s Child Safeguarding Statement.
    - encourages staff to avail of relevant training.
    - encourages Board members to avail of relevant training.
  - The Chairperson **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 Brannoxtown CNS, the Chairperson has 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), 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 this statement.
  - The various procedures referred to in this Statement can be **accessed via the school’s website**, the DES website or available on request by the school.
  - Additional procedures/measures that are of relevance to Brannoxtown CNS will be added to the above list following **review** of this policy.
6. This statement is published on the school’s website and is provided to all members of school personnel, the Parents’ Association 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.

This Child Safeguarding Statement was reviewed and ratified by the Board of Management of Brannoxtown Community National School on 13<sup>th</sup> October, 2020.

Signed:   
 Ms. Deirdre O’Donovan  
 Chairperson

Date: 13<sup>th</sup> October, 2020

Signed:   
 Dr. Sarah FitzPatrick  
 Principal

Date: 13<sup>th</sup> October, 2020