



Swords Educate Together National School

Roll Number 20145 O

Child Safeguarding Statement

General Information

Name of School:	Swords Educate Together N.S.
Address:	Applewood, Swords, Co. Dublin.
Telephone:	01 8903899
Email:	info@swordseducatetogether.ie
Website:	www.swordseducatetogether.ie
Denominational Character:	Multi-Denominational/Equality Based
Patron:	Educate Together

References

- Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children (Dept of Children and Youth Affairs (2017)
- Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools (DES 2017)

Introduction

Swords Educate Together N.S. is a primary school providing primary education to pupils from Junior Infants to Sixth Class. The school is a vertical, co-educational mainstream school with 16 mainstream classes, 7 Special Educational Needs Teachers and 7 Special Needs Assistants.

The Board of Management (BoM) recognises that child protection and welfare considerations permeate all aspects of school life and must be reflected in all of the school's policies, practices and activities. Accordingly, 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 Swords Educate Together National School has agreed the Child Safeguarding Statement set out in this document.

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

Designated Liaison Person (DLP):

Karl Breen

Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP):

**Eoghan Beglan
Bronagh Dillon**

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.

Procedures

The following procedures/measures are in place:

- 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 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 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, 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.

Note: The above is not intended as an exhaustive list. Individual Boards of Management shall also include in this section such other procedures/measures that are of relevance to the school in question.

Relevant Practices/Policies

The following policies are particularly relevant to this Safeguarding Statement:

- *Positive Code of Behaviour*
- *Anti-bullying Policy*
- *Pupil Attendance Policy*
- *Supervision of Pupils Policy*
- *Special Needs Policy*
- *Critical Incident Policy*
- *Rainbows Child Protection Policy*
- *Internet Safety Policy/Mobile Phone Policy*
- *Acceptable Use Policy*
- *Stay Safe Programme*

This Safeguarding Statement is also particularly relevant to the participation by pupils in: Sporting Activities, School Outings and extra-curricular activities organised by Swords Educate Together National School Parent Teacher Association (PTA). All other practices and activities, where child protection might have particular relevance, will take due consideration of the procedures outlined within this statement.

This statement has been published on the school's website and has been provided to all members of school personnel, the Parent Teacher 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.

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.

A checklist, to be used in undertaking the review is included at **Appendix 2**. The school will put in place an action plan to address any areas for improvement which might be identified in the annual review.

The Board of Management shall make arrangements to inform school personnel that the review has been undertaken. Written notification that the review has been undertaken shall be provided to the Parent Teacher Association. A record of the review and its outcome shall be made available, if requested, to the patron, Educate Together and the DES.

This Child Safeguarding Statement was adopted by the Board of Management on: 8th March 2018

Signed: _____
Chairperson of Board of Management

Signed: _____
Principal

Appendices

Appendix 1: Risk Assessment

Appendix 2: Checklist for Annual Review of the Safeguarding Statement

Appendix 3: Notification regarding the Board of Management's review of the Child Safeguarding Statement

Appendix 4: SETNS Safeguarding Contacts

Appendix 3 Notification regarding the Board of Management's review of the Safeguarding Statement

	Swords Educate Together National School Roll Number 20145 O
To: _____	
The Board of Management of Swords Educate together National School wishes to inform you that:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Board of Management's annual review of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement was completed at the Board meeting of <u>8th March 2018</u>• This review was conducted in accordance with the "Checklist for Review of the Child Safeguarding Statement" published on the Department's 'website www.education.ie• <u>A "relevant person" has been appointed as the first point of contact in respect of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement. In accordance with the Child Safeguarding Requirements the Board recognises the DLP in this role.</u>	
Signed: _____ Chairperson of Board of Management	Date <u>8/3/18</u>
Signed: _____ Principal	Date <u>8/3/18</u>