

# Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment

## Child Safeguarding Statement

**Tanagh Outdoor Education & Training Centre** is an Outdoor Education & Training Centre providing Outdoor Education to pupils from Junior Infants to Sixth Class, First Year to Leaving Certificate Year, learners from FET Colleges and young people from Sporting & Youth organizations and local community.

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 Tusla Guidance on the preparation of Child Safeguarding Statements, the Board of Management of Tanagh Outdoor Education and Training Centre 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 (revised 2023)* as part of this overall Child Safeguarding Statement
- 2 The Designated Liaison Person (DLP) is **Michelle Forester**
- 3 The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is **Grace Branvan**
- 4 The Relevant Person is **Michelle Forester**  
*(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 shall be the designated liaison person.)*
- 5 The Board of Management recognises that child protection and welfare considerations permeate all aspects of centre life and must be reflected in all of the centre's policies, procedures, practices and activities. In its policies, procedures, practices and activities, the centre will adhere to the following principles of best practice in child protection and welfare:

The centre 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 teachers, youth leaders & parents of summer camp and encourage involvement in the education of their students & young people
- fully respect confidentiality requirements in dealing with child protection matters.

The centre will also adhere to the above principles in relation to any adult pupil with a special vulnerability.

- 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 centre, the centre 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 centre 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 centre 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 Department of Education 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 centre -
  - Has provided each member of staff with a copy of the centre's Child Safeguarding Statement
  - Ensures all new staff are provided with a copy of the centre'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 centre 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.
- All registered teachers employed by the centre 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 centre or participating in centre activities. A written assessment setting out the areas of risk identified and the centre's procedures for managing those risks is included with the Child Safeguarding Statement.
- The various procedures referred to in this Statement can be accessed via the centre's website, the gov.ie website or will be made available on request by the school.

**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.

- 7 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.
- 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 the Board of Management on 20/11/2023

This Child Safeguarding Statement was reviewed by the Board of Management on 20/11/2023

Signed: Carmel Brady

Chairperson of Board of Management

Date: 20/11/2023

Signed: Michelle Foster

Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Date: 20/11/2023

**Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment**

## Written Assessment of Risk of Tanagh Outdoor Education & Training Centre

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 Tanagh Outdoor Education and Training Centre.

### 1. List of school activities

- Daily arrival and departure of visiting students
- Recreation breaks for visiting students & young people
- Classroom teaching
- One-to-one teaching
- One-to-one learning support
- Outdoor activities including :-

Canoeing, Kayaking, Sit on Kayaking, Slippy Slope, Banana boating, Raft Building, Climbing wall, Archery, Battle zone archery, Orienteering on site and off site, Low ropes course, team building, mountain biking, night walk, hill walking, campcraft, Geography Field Studies, Ecology Field Studies, Forest School and Leave No Trace.

- Online teaching and learning remotely
- Use of toilet/changing/shower areas in schools
- Use of off-site facilities for outdoor activities
- Transport to and from Activities
- Care of children with special educational needs
- Care of vulnerable adult students
- Management of challenging behaviour amongst visiting students & young people, including appropriate use of restraint where required
- Management of provision of food and drink
- Administration of Medicine
- Administration of First Aid
- Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst visiting students & young people
- Training of school personnel in child protection matters
- Use of external personnel to supplement training
- Room Hire & Overnight Residentials
- 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 with medical needs
- Recruitment of Centre personnel including -
  - Instructors
  - Caretaker/Secretary/Cleaners/cooks
  - External Tutors/Guest Speakers
  - Volunteers
  - Visitors/contractors present in the Centre during opening hours

- Use of Information and Communication Technology by students in the centre, including social media
- Students participating in work experience in the centre
- Students from the centre participating in work experience elsewhere
- Use of video/photography/other media to centre events
- Use of centre premises by other organisation

**2. The school has identified the following risk of harm in respect of its activities –**

**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)*.

- Risk of harm not being recognised by Centre personnel
- Risk of child being harmed in the centre by a member of centre personnel
- Risk of child being harmed in the centre by another child
- Risk of child being harmed in the centre by volunteer or visitor to the centre
- 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 due to bullying of child
- Risk of harm due to racism
- Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children in centre
- Risk of harm due to inappropriate relationship/communications between child and another child or adult
- Risk of harm due to children inappropriately accessing/using computers, social media, phones and other devices while at the centre
- Risk of harm to children with SEN who have particular vulnerabilities, including medical vulnerabilities
- Risk of harm due to inadequate code of behaviour
- Risk of harm in one-to-one teaching, counselling, coaching situation
- Risk of harm caused by member of centre personnel communicating with students/young people in an inappropriate manner via social media, texting, digital device or other manner
- Risk of harm caused by member of centre personnel accessing/circulating inappropriate material via social media, texting, digital device or other manner

**3. The school has the following procedures in place to address the risks of harm identified in this assessment -**

All centre personnel are provided with a copy of the Centre’s *Child Safeguarding Statement*

- The *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools (revised 2023)* are made available to all Centre personnel
- Centre 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 its Addendum (2019)

- The Centre has a yard supervision policy during **Summer camp programme** to ensure appropriate supervision of children during, assembly, departure and breaks and in respect of specific areas such as toilets, changing rooms etc. Teachers & Youth Leaders are responsible for this supervision when they bring their own students & young people to the Centre.
- The centre has a health and safety policy
- The centre adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation and relevant DE circulars in relation to recruitment and Garda vetting
- The centre has a codes of conduct for staff personnel (teaching and non-teaching staff)
- The centre complies with the agreed disciplinary procedures for staff
- The centre –
  - Has provided each member of school staff with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement
  - Ensures all new staff are provided with a copy of the centre'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 centre has in place a section in the Safety Statement on procedures for First Aid
- The centre has an Acceptable Use Policy in place
- The school has in place a policy and procedures in respect of students undertaking work experience in the centre
- The school has in place a policy and procedures in respect of learners of the centre undertaking work experience in external organisations

**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 centre 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 centre has in place the procedures listed in this risk assessment to manage and reduce risk to the greatest possible extent.