

Mandatory Template 2: Child Safeguarding Statement Template

Kerry South SCP is a Child & Family Agency funded programme, overseen by a Local Management Committee (LMC) and under the governance of Kerry ETB. The aim of SCP is to increase the numbers of young people staying in primary and second level school and in doing so improve the numbers of pupils who successfully complete Senior Cycle, or equivalent. There is a range of initiatives to cover in-school, out-of-school and holiday interventions.

In this document, project refers to Kerry South SCP and cluster school refers to the participating schools in Kerry South SCP as listed in the accompanying Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment.

This policy statement recognises that each cluster member School Safeguarding Statement takes precedence over the Kerry South SCP Child Safeguarding Statement during school term time.

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 Local Management Committee of Kerry South SCP has agreed the Child Safeguarding Statement set out in this document.

- 1 The Local Management Committee 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 Norma Thompson
- 3 The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is Geraldine O'Halloran
- 4 The Local Management Committee recognises that child protection and welfare considerations permeate all aspects of school & project life and must be reflected in all the school & project policies, procedures, practices and activities. In its policies, procedures, practices and activities, the school & project will adhere to the following principles of best practice in child protection and welfare:

Kerry South SCP 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.

Kerry South SCP will also adhere to the above principles in relation to any adult pupil with a special vulnerability.

- 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 project

adheres to the relevant procedures set out in Kerry South SCP Procedures for dealing with allegation against employee of Kerry South SCP LMC and Kerry South SCP Disciplinary Procedure for staff employed by Kerry South SCP LMC.

- In relation to the selection or recruitment of staff and their suitability to work with children, the project 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) Kerry South SCP
 - Has provided each member of staff with a copy of the Kerry South SCP Child Safeguarding Statement
 - Ensures all new staff are provided with a copy of the Kerry South SCP Child Safeguarding Statement
 - Encourages staff to avail of relevant training
 - Encourages Local Management Committee members to avail of relevant training
 - The Local Management Committee maintains records of all staff and Board member training
- In relation to reporting of child protection concerns to Tusla, all school & project 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 SCP Project the LMC 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 SCP Project child safeguarding statement.
- All registered teachers employed by the project are mandated persons under the Children First Act 2015.
- In accordance with the Children First Act 2015, the LMC has carried out an assessment of any potential for harm to a child while attending the project or participating in project activities. A written assessment setting out the areas of risk identified and the project’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 SCP Project.
- As each school’s Child Safeguarding Statement takes precedence over the Kerry South SCP Child Safeguarding Statement during term time, the LMC through its Co-ordinator will request annually a statement of assurance of compliance from each member school. This will seek to cover Risk Assessment, Child Safeguarding Statement and Review.
- As party to the Kerry ETB Children First Oversight Committee, the Co-ordinator can request on a school visit to view policy and procedures that pertain to Children First National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children and/or Child Protection procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017 issued by the Department of Education and Skills.

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

- 6 This statement has been published on the School, Youth & Music, Local School Completion on the Kerry Education & Training Board website and has been provided to all members of project 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.

This Child Safeguarding Statement was adopted by the Local Management Committee on 4 May 2021

Signed: Mary Brosnan

Signed: Norma Thompson

Chairperson of Local Management Committee

Secretary to Local Management Committee

Date: 4 May 2021

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