



Special School for Children with Autism and Complex Needs

CSS1

Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment

For:	Abacas Special School	
At:	Treepark Road, Kilnamanagh, D24 A2XF	

This school is a: (tick appropriate) ☐primary ☐post-primary ☒special school

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) and 2025, Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025 and Child Safeguarding: A Guide for Policy, Procedure and Practice, 2nd ed. (Tusla, 2024), the board of management has adopted the Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment 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 Schools 2025 as part of this overall Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment.

Name of the Designated Liaison Person (DLP):

Anita Boyle

Name of the Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP/DDLP):

Aoife Ní Dheá

In the absence of the DLP, the Deputy DLP shall assume responsibilities of the DLP

Name of Relevant Person

Anita Boyle

(In schools this person is the DLP)

Relevant Person can be contacted on:

085 740 6540	principal@abacaskilnamanagh.ie
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Under the Children First Act 2015 Relevant Person means a person who is appointed by a provider of a relevant service to be the first point of contact in respect of the Child Safeguarding Statement. This person is nominated by the board of management to manage and provide oversight of child protection concerns/allegations of child abuse.

Name of Chairperson of the board of management, or in an ETB school the Chief Executive or their delegate:

Tracy Webb

> Procedure for the Safe Recruitment and Selection of School Personnel to Work With Children

- ~ The school is required to adhere to the requirements of the Vetting Act. The selection or recruitment of staff and their suitability to work with children, requires the school to adhere 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 Youth and available on the gov.ie website and as outlined in Chapter 10 of the procedures.
- ~ A written protocol is in place authorising immediate action for cases which require an employee to be immediately absented from school for child safeguarding reasons.

> Procedure for Provision of and Access to Child Safeguarding Training and Information, Including the Identification of the Occurrence of Harm

- ~ The school provides information and training to members of school personnel in relation to the identification of the occurrence of harm (as defined in the 2015 Act) as follows:
 - ~ The school has provided each member of school personnel, including any new members of school personnel, (employees and volunteers, board of management members, student teachers and those on work experience) with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment.
 - ~ The school ensures that members of school personnel have availed of relevant training and completed child protection training.
 - ~ The school encourages board of management members to avail of any relevant training and complete child protection training.
 - ~ The board of management ensures that records of all staff and board member child protection training are maintained.

> Procedure for the Reporting of Child Protection or Welfare Concerns to Tusla

- ~ All members of school personnel are required to adhere to the procedures set out in the *Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025*, in relation to reporting of child protection concerns to Tusla. Mandated reporting applies to all registered teachers and any other mandated person who may be employed by the school, for example a chaplain or nurse. A full list of those people who are mandated persons is set out in Appendix 1 procedures.

> Procedure for Maintaining a List of the Persons (if any) in the Relevant Service Who Are Mandated Persons

- ~ There is a procedure in place to maintain a list of mandated persons. Schools may on occasion employ additional staff who are mandated by virtue of their profession. This list will include all registered teachers and identify additional employees that are not registered teachers.

> Procedure for Appointing a Relevant Person (In schools this person is the DLP)

- ~ There is a procedure in place for appointing a relevant person.

Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
1.	Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils	Risk of harm not being recognised by school personnel	All school personnel are provided with a copy of the school's <i>Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment</i> .
2.	Recreation breaks for pupils	Risk of harm not being reported properly and promptly by school personnel	The <i>Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025</i> are made available to all school personnel
3.	Classroom teaching	Risk of child being harmed in the school by a member of school personnel	School personnel are required to adhere to the Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025 and all registered teaching staff are required to adhere to the Children First Act 2015 as well as supporting the continued implementation of the best practice guidance set out in Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children 2017 and its addenda, including the Addendum to Children First 2019 and 2025
4.	One-to-one teaching One-to-one support by SNA One-to-one counselling	Risk of child being harmed in the school by another child	A written protocol is in place authorising immediate action for cases which require an employee to be immediately absented from school for child safeguarding reasons

Child Protection Statement and Risk Assessment

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
9.	Sporting activities	Risk of harm due to bullying of a child	School authorities have a code of behaviour and an anti-bullying policy in place in accordance with the department's 'Bí Cineálta' procedures to prevent and address bullying in schools and as outlined in Circular 55/2024
10.	School outings	Risk of harm due to racism	The school undertakes anti-racism awareness initiatives

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
11.	Use of toilet/changing/shower areas in school	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children in school	The school has a yard/playground supervision policy to ensure appropriate supervision of children during assembly, dismissal and breaks and in respect of specific areas such as toilets, changing rooms etc.
12.	Annual Sports Day	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children while attending out-of-school activities	The school has in place a policy and clear procedures in respect of school outings

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	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
19.	Management of provision of food and drink	Risk of harm caused by a member of school personnel communicating with pupils in an inappropriate manner via social media, texting, digital device, or other manner	The school has an intimate care policy/plan in respect of students who require such care
20.	Administration of medicine	Risk of harm caused by a member of school personnel accessing/circulating inappropriate material via social media, texting, digital device or other manner	The school has in place a policy and procedures for the administration of medication to pupils
21.	Administration of First Aid	Risks where children are living away from home or attending boarding facilities	The school encourages personnel to avail of relevant training
22.	Curricular provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe		The school encourages board of management members to avail of relevant training
23.	Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst pupils		The school maintains records of all personnel and board member training
24.	Training of school personnel in child protection matters		The school has in place a policy and procedures for the

Child Protection Statement and Risk Assessment

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
	Pupils of minority religious faiths Children in care		
29.	Children on Tusla's Child Protection Notification System (CPNS) Children with medical needs		
30.	Recruitment of school personnel including teachers/SNAs, caretakers/secretaries/cleaners and sport coaches		
31.	External Tutors/Guest Speakers Volunteers/Parents in school activities Visitors/contractors present in school during school hours Visitors/contractors present during after-school activities		
32.	Participation by pupils in religious ceremonies/religious instruction external to the school		

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	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
38.	Use of school premises by other organisations during school day		The school has considered the questions in Appendix 1 of the Child Protection and Safeguarding Procedures for Boarding Facilities Associated with Recognised Schools 2023 and implemented the necessary risk mitigation measures
39.	Children attending respite or living away from home		

Additional pages may be added as required

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Appendix - Location of copies of the Child Protection Procedures and Children First Guidance

This may be in the form of specifying the online location for the procedures (Department of Education and Youth website www.gov.ie/childprotectionschools and/or the school website), providing a link to the Children First National Guidance 2017 [Children First National Guidance 2017.pdf](#), and stating the number and location of hard copies of these procedures available in the school.

1. Principal's Office
2. Deputy Principal's Office
3. Online – Microsoft Teams – Whole School Staff Team – Child Protection