

## Child Safeguarding Statement

November 2021

Danu Community Special School (CSS) is a special school providing primary education to pupils aged from four to eighteen who have a diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and/or a Moderate or Severe General Learning Disability. Our students have complex needs associated with this diagnosis such as communication difficulties and sensory processing difficulties

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 2017 and Tusla Guidance on the preparation of Child Safeguarding Statements, the Board of Management of Danu CSS 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 2017 as part of this overall Child Safeguarding Statement.
- 2 The Designated Liaison Person (DLP) is Pat Doolan.
- 3 The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is Caroline Sheill.
- 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:

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.

The school 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 (however 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 DE 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 set out in relevant Garda vetting and recruitment circulars published by the Department of Education and available on the DE 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 this school the Board 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 school’s 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 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 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 included with the Child Safeguarding Statement.
- The various procedures referred to in this Statement can be accessed via the school’s website, the DE 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.

- 6 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.
- 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 Board of Management on 24-11-21.

This Child Safeguarding Statement was reviewed by the Board of Management on 24-11-21.

Signed:   
Chairperson of Board of Management

Signed: 24-11-21  
Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Date: Pat Doster  
Principal.

Date: 24-11-21

## Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment

### Written Assessment of Risk of Danu CSS

In accordance with section 11 of the Children First Act 2015 and with the requirement of Chapter 8 of the *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017*, the following is the Written Risk Assessment of Danu CSS.

1. List of school activities	2. The school has identified the following risk of harm in respect of its activities	3. The school has the following procedures in place to address the risks of harm identified in this assessment
Arrival and Dismissal	Harm from members of the public in immediate environment Harm to students from others Harm to students from members of HETSS school community	Children are supervised by staff members at all times Procedures for Morning and Evening Supervision Bus Escorts and Drivers are Garda vetted
Break and Lunch Time	Bullying Harm to students from others Witnessing aggressive challenging behaviour	Adequate staff supervision provided-Daily Duty Rota Follow Behaviour Support Plans/Proactive & Reactive Strategies Staff to provide activities for break/lunch times Procedure for Supervision – break time and Lunch time
Toileting	Harm by school personnel	Staff follow Intimate Care Policy Two staff present for intimate care and clothing changes

<p>Group Teaching</p>	<p>Bullying          Harm to students from others          Witnessing aggressive challenging behaviour          Harm by school personnel</p>	<p>Independent students are supervised by staff standing at the entrance door to the toilets and student made aware who is present</p> <p>Adequate staffing provided</p> <p>Staff aware of potential of harmful behaviour to self and others.</p> <p>Follow Behaviour Support Plans//Proactive &amp; Reactive Strategies</p> <p>Clear pathways identified to exit/ go to quiet space</p> <p>Visual supports provided</p>
<p>1:1 Teaching</p>	<p>Harm by school personnel</p>	<p>Other staff in room aware of activity taking place</p> <p>1:1 instruction takes place in view of another staff member- windows on all doors for visibility into classroom</p> <p>Appropriate physical space is assigned between staff and student</p>
<p>1:1 Activities</p>	<p>Harm by school personnel</p>	<p>Other staff in room aware of activity taking place</p> <p>Timetabled to re-join class</p> <p>Swoping in/out by staff practice</p> <p>Use of Walkie Talkies to support communication between staff</p>
<p>Outdoor teaching activities</p>	<p>Harm by school personnel          Harm by another student</p>	<p>Adequate staffing provided</p> <p>Staff will identify potential risks to be eliminated/mitigated where possible prior to</p>

<p>Movement Breaks</p>	<p>Harm by school personnel</p>	<p>activity including, including procedures for returning to class.          Follow Behaviour Support Plans/ Proactive &amp; Reactive Strategies          Visual supports provided          No staff member goes outdoors alone with a student unless sanctioned by the principal</p> <p>Other staff aware of the activity taking place          Scheduled return of student is expected          Swopping in/out by staff practice          Use of Walkie Talkies to support communication between staff</p>
<p>Sporting Activities</p>	<p>Protecting the dignity of the student          Harm by staff or members of the public</p>	<p>Adequate staffing provided          Staff will identify potential risks to be eliminated/mitigated where possible prior to activity including, including procedures for returning to class.          Follow Behaviour Support Plans// Proactive &amp; Reactive Strategies          Visual supports provided          Establish a means of contact with school          No staff member goes anywhere alone with a student unless sanctioned by the principal          Sporting coaches Garda vetted</p>
<p>Swimming</p>	<p>Protecting the dignity of the student          Exposure by another person</p>	<p>In discussion with Swimming Pool secure a changing room specifically for student group</p>





<p>Use of technology by student</p> <p>Staff communicating to students</p>	<p>Harm to student or staff          Access to dangerous content</p> <p>Harm to student through offensive language or bullying</p>	<p>Staff /Student follow Acceptable Use Policy</p> <p>Acceptable Use Policy –student supervised when using technology.          Students are not allowed use of phones in school. Pupils and teachers will be provided with training in the area of Internet safety namely the Web wise Internet Safety Initiative</p> <p>Dignity and respect are shown to students by staff at all times through</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use of appropriate language</li> <li>• Use of respectful tone of voice</li> <li>• Not speaking about a child in front of them</li> <li>• Not talking about sensitive subject matter about a student in communal areas for example the staff room</li> <li>• A school wide low arousal approach</li> <li>• Staff members using visuals and reduced verbal language used</li> <li>• Student data of a sensitive nature shall not be displayed publicly</li> <li>• Staff follow Dignity at Work Policy</li> </ul>
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<p><b>Managing Behaviours of Concern</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Targeting of Students</li> <li>• Stripping off</li> <li>• Seeking inappropriate physical contact</li> </ul>	<p>Harm to students for other students          Risk of injury</p> <p>Harm from other students, staff, and public          Dignity of the student</p> <p>Risk of harm by staff members</p>	<p>High level of staff vigilance and supervision required at all times.</p> <p>Use of Code of Behaviour Policy &amp; Anti Bullying Policy</p> <p>Record &amp; Analysis of Behaviours using school Records/assessment sheets e.g., ABC, Scatterplots, 5 Point Scale</p> <p>Teaching of the Stay Safe Programme with students.</p> <p>Student may target others. A risk assessment will be conducted for example assessing and identifying safe times for playground use, seating arrangements, sharing of the bus etc. teachers to liaise with Behaviour Practitioner</p> <p>Student dignity comes first.          A blanket/towel will accompany student to ensure dignity is maintained at all times.</p> <p>Physical affection and touching in school including hugs and holding hands are not appropriate and should be discouraged.          Teaching of Relationship and Sexual Education (RSE) programme with students.          Direct teaching of what is and is not appropriate and who to be affectionate with for example hugs are for mammy.</p>
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<p>Recruitment of new staff and training of school personnel in Child Protection matters</p> <p>Curricular Provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay safe.</p> <p>Unfamiliar persons in school building for example Visitors, Contractors present during school hours.</p>	<p>Risk of new staff where Harm not recognised or reported promptly</p> <p>Harm to students</p> <p>Harm from public members</p>	<p>Garda vetting carried out prior to recruitment alongside assessing suitability for recruitment position by interview panel and checking references.</p> <p>Garda vetting required for substitute teachers and SNA's and student teachers and work experience SNA's.</p> <p>Child Safeguarding Statement and DES procedures made available to all staff including substitutes and student teachers and SNAs.</p> <p>DLP&amp; DDLP to attend PDST training when available.</p> <p>All Staff to complete Tusla training module and any other online training offered by PDST if available.</p> <p>BOM records all records of staff and BOM training</p> <p>Planning and Teaching of SPHE Curriculum including the Stay Safe, RSE and Walk Tall Programme.</p> <p>All visitors to school must book their visit prior with the principal          All visitors will be accompanied by secretary/staff member during their entire visit to Danu CSS</p>
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<p>Participation in school activities during Covid 19 Pandemic</p>	<p>Harm by school personnel</p>	<p>Main entrance door is buzzed in entry for visitors on door release from office by secretary/principal, signage on doors asking visitors to wait on Danu Staff          Secretary/staff will meet all visitors at the second entrance door once visitor is buzzed in          Entrance to school is fobbed in          Visitors sign in/out system to be set up          Staff will alert management if there is an unaccompanied visitor to the school.          A student will never be left alone with a visitor.            Staff follow School Covid 19 Response Plan and follow current HSE recommendations.</p>
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**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 2017*

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