**St Colmcille’s NS, Westport**

**Child Safeguarding Statement**

*In compliance with Child Protection Procedures for Primary Schools 2017*

St Colmcille’s NS is a primary school providing primary education to pupils from Junior Infants to Sixth Class.

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 St Colmcille’s NS, Westport, 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.

1. The Designated Liaison Person (DLP) is **Mr Kevin Munnelly (School Principal)**
2. The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is **Ms Ann Lally (Deputy Principal)**
3. 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.

1. 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 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 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 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 schools 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.

* 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 school. The document provided on our website

 includes links to further documents and policies available on our website.

1. This statement has been published on the school’s website and has been provided to all members of school

 personnel, the Parents’ 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 of Education and Skills if requested.

1. 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 St Colmcille’s NS, Westport Board of Management on

Tuesday 6th March 2018.

It was reviewed and updated on 9th April 2019 and 12th November 2020

Signed: *Seamus Moran* Signed: *Kevin Munnelly*

Chairperson of Board of Management Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Date: 12th November 2020 Date: 12th November 2020

Links to relevant websites:

The school website is [www.quayschool.ie](http://www.quayschool.ie)

The DES website is [www.education.ie](http://www.education.ie)

The Tusla website is [www.tusla.ie](http://www.tusla.ie)