



## **Nenagh College Child Safeguarding Statement**

Professionals and those involved in organizations working with children who have concerns about a child but are not sure what to do, should discuss these with the Children First Designated Liaison Person in your organization, or contact your local Child and Family Agency social work department for advice.

The Standard Report Form (Available on TUSLA Website) should be used by professionals, staff and volunteers in organizations working with or in contact with children, or providing services to children when reporting child protection and welfare concerns. If a report is made by telephone, this form should be completed and forwarded subsequently to the Child and Family Agency.

If a child is in danger outside office hours you can contact the Gardaí.

Under The Protection of Persons Reporting Child Abuse Act 1998, so long as you report what you believe is true and it is done in good faith you cannot be sued.

### **Section 1**

#### **Name of service being provided:**

Nenagh College

### **Section 2**

#### **Nature of service and principles to safeguard children from harm:**

Secondary School (12-18 years of age)

Nenagh College acknowledges the duty of care to safeguard and promote the welfare of our students and is committed to ensuring safeguarding practice reflects statutory responsibilities, and complies with best practice.

This policy recognizes that the welfare and interests of the children are paramount in all circumstances. It aims to ensure that regardless of age, ability or disability, race, religion or belief, gender or sexual orientation, all children have a positive and enjoyable learning experience in a safe and child centered environment.

The Children’s First Act 2015 places a legal obligation on teachers registered with the Teaching Council (referred to as mandated persons), to report child protection concerns at or above a defined threshold to TUSLA – The Child and Family Agency. These mandated persons must also assist TUSLA, on request, in its assessment of child protection concerns about children who have been the subject of a mandated report.

**Section 3: Risk assessment:**

Nenagh College has carried out an assessment of any potential for harm to a child while availing of our services. Below is a list of the areas of risk identified and the list of procedures for managing these risks.

	<b>Risk Identified</b>	<b>Procedure in place to manage risk identified</b>	<b>Agency</b>
1.	New staff not vetted	Safe recruitment procedures are in place and a vetting disclosure is obtained for new staff members.	Tipperary ETB HR Department
2.	New Staff unaware of procedures and policies	New staff are made aware of: Child Protection Policy, Health and Safety Policy, Anti-Bullying Policy and Code of Positive Behaviour, and receive training on the Children’s First Act 2015 through new staff induction. New staff are made aware the Designated Liaison Person and their role.	Nenagh College DLP

3.	School premises	Students are carefully supervised before and after school, during breaks and lunch times by teaching staff.	Staff S & S contributors
4.	Parents unaware of Policies	Parents are made aware of the Child Safeguarding Statement, Mission Statement, Anti-Bullying Policy, Code of Positive Behaviour policy which all outline the procedures to follow if there is an issue within the school.	Policies are available on school website and from DLP & DDLP
5.	Bullying	An Anti-bullying policy is in place and adhered to by students, staff and parents.	School Board of Management
6.	Sports	Risk Assessment requested from PE Department	School's PE Department
7.	School Tours	Mandated Persons are charged with the same responsibility on school tours / excursions as apply during normal school hours	Mandated Persons supervising tour / excursion. DLP / DDLP
8.	Guest Speakers	"Sign-In" procedure in place at school reception. Visitor badge MUST be on display at all time.	School Administrator
9.	Parents' Council	All activity takes place outside school hours. For attendance at school events, see 8 for procedure	DLP, DDLP & School Administrator

#### **4. Procedure for the safe recruitment and selection of staff in the school**

- Tipperary ETB HR Department are charged with ensuring that robust safeguarding arrangements and procedures are in operation.

## **5. Procedure for the provision of and access to child safeguarding training and information, including the identification of the occurrence of harm**

- Provide Child Protection training for staff.
- Provide reviewed policies, ensure staff understand the policies and procedures in place. Ensure everyone understands their roles and responsibilities in respect of safeguarding and are provided with appropriate information and training to recognize, identify and respond to signs of abuse, neglect and other safeguarding concerns relating to children. Revisit these policies and procedures regularly at staff meetings.

## **6. Procedure for the reporting of a Child Protection or Welfare concerns to TUSLA:**

- Staff should **seek advice and guidance** from the Designated Liaison Person (The Principal) or TUSLA if they are unsure about whether or not to report a concern in the school.
- Staff have a responsibility to report to TUSLA using the Report Form where there are **reasonable grounds for concern**.
- **Reporting concerns:** The concern is reported to TUSLA (and the Gardaí if necessary), a written record is securely retained. The written record should have all of the information available; what they have observed and when, signs of physical injury described in detail, any comment by the child concerned, or any other person, about how an injury occurred. The record should be signed and dated and given to the DLP who securely retains it.
- It is **not advised to talk to parents/guardians before reporting**, as it may further endanger the child or the person making the report.
- The Principal (DLP) will ensure appropriate action is taken in the event of incidents/concerns of abuse and support provided to the individuals who raise or disclose the concern.
- The Principal (DLP) will ensure the confidential, detailed and accurate records of all safeguarding concerns are maintained and securely stored. *Mandated Persons should never guarantee confidentiality to a child who reports a concern. There MUST be an awareness that the concern will have to be reported to the DLP, once the Mandated Person is made aware of it*

## **7. Procedure for maintaining a list of mandated persons in the school:**

- Every teacher registered with the Teaching Council is a mandated person according to the Act. A list of mandated persons employed by the school will be maintained and updated by the Principal (DLP).

### **8. Procedure for appointing the relevant person:**

- The Relevant Person in Nenagh College for the purposes of the Act will be the Designated Liaison Person (DLP), the Principal (Mr. Damien Kennedy) and Deputy Designated Liaison Person (DDL), the Deputy Principal (Ms. Ann Melley). Both are appointed by the Board of Management, at the beginning of each new term of office.

### **Implementation**

We recognize that implementation is an ongoing process. Nenagh College is committed to the implementation of this Child Safeguarding Statement and the procedures that support our intention to keep children safe from harm while attending our school. This Child Safeguarding Statement will be reviewed as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which the statement refers.

Relevant Person under the Children First Act 2015:

Staff: 7<sup>th</sup> December 2017

Parents Council: 4<sup>th</sup> December 2017

Board of Management: 14<sup>th</sup> December 2017

Trustees: 6<sup>th</sup> February 2018

Student Council: 7<sup>th</sup> December 2017