**Child Safeguarding Statement for Dunhill N.S. BASC**

Dunhill N.S. BASC is run under the auspices of the Board of Management of Dunhill N.S. providing before-school and after-school childcare services for pupils from Junior Infants to Sixth Class.

The BASC is located on the grounds of Dunhill N.S., Dunhill, Co.Waterford

There are 2 Part-time staff members in the BASC.

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 Dunhill N.S. 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) for the BASC is Mr. Fergus Cooper, Principal.
3. The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is Mrs. Nora Flynn (Vice Principal)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
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.

1. The following procedures/measures are in place:

* In relation to any member of the BASC 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 BASC 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 BASC staff in respect of the identification of the occurrence of harm (as defined in the 2015 Act) the school-
* Has provided each member of BASC staff with a copy of the school’s Child Safeguarding Statement
* Ensures all new BASC 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 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 this statement.
* 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.

**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.

1. 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.
2. 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.

# **Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment of Dunhill N.S. BASC**

Written Assessment of Risk of Dunhill National School, Dunhill, Co. Waterford

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 Dunhill N.S.

1. **List of BASC activities**

**A - Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils:** When children arrive and when they leave the BASC

**B – Risk of Bullying of a child**

**C – Risk of harm of Sexual Abuse**

**D – Homework Club – The doing of homework**

**E - Use of Toilet/Changing Areas in the BASC/school**

**F - Administration of Medicines and First Aid**

**G – Internet/Social Media/Contact with people via ICT**

**H - Students undertaking Training Placement/Work Experience in the BASC**

**2. The school has identified the following risk of harm in respect of its activities:**

**A - Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils:**

- Access to pupils by strangers or other adults

- Risk of harm from other pupils

**B – Risk of Bullying to a BASC child:**

* By an adult/BASC worker
* By another pupil in the BASC

**C – Risk of harm of Sexual Abuse**

* By an adult/BASC worker
* By another pupil in the BASC

**D – Homework Club – The doing of homework**

- Risk of child being harmed in the school by a member of BASC personnel

- Risk of child being harmed in the school by another child

**E - Use of Toilet/Changing Areas in the BASC/school**

- Risk of child being harmed in the school by a member of school personnel

- Risk of child being harmed in the school by another child

**F - Administration of Medicines and First Aid**

- Risk of child being harmed in the school by a member of BASC personnel

**G – Internet/Social Media/Contact with people via ICT**

- Potential for Bullying and Exploitation

- Risk of harm caused by member of school personnel communicating with pupils in an inappropriate manner via social media, texting, digital device or other manner

- Risk of harm due to children inappropriately accessing/using computers, social media, phones and other devices while at school

- Potential for the grooming of students

- Risk of harm due to inappropriate relationship/communications between child and another child or adult

**H - Students undertaking Training Placement/Work Experience in the School**

- Risk of child being harmed in the school by a trainee/ Work experience student

- Risk of harm due to inappropriate relationship/communications between child and trainee/Work

Experience student.

**3. The school has the following procedures in place to address the risks of harm identified in this assessment –**

**A - Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils:**

**-** Parents contact the BASC leader/School if they intend their child to attend the BASC.

**-** Collection of pupils from main school building at 2pm. Supervision of transfer of pupils from School to BASC building on school grounds at 3pm

- Parents sign out the pupil when they collect them from the BASC.

**B – Risk of Bullying of a child**

* Anti-Bullying Policy
* BASC Rules and School Rules
* Code of Conduct for BASC Staff

**C – Risk of harm of sexual abuse**

* Child safety/Protection Policy
* Garda Vetting of each Volunteer

**D – Classroom Teaching**

- All BASC staff are vetted

- No staff member should find himself/herself alone with a child unless they are with the last pupil left in the BASC, All parents of BASC students have signed a form stating that they are aware that the staff member has to be 1 on 1 with the last pupil collected on any given day.

- The pupils are supervised at all times by BASC staff.

- The school has an Anti-Bullying Policy/ School Rules Policy and a Code of Behaviour for Pupils

**E - Use of toilet/changing areas in the school**

- No member of the BASC staff should find himself/herself alone with a child in a toilet

- Teachers/Staff use the staff toilets

- The school has an Anti-Bullying Policy/School Rules Policy and a Code of Behaviour for Pupils

**F - Administration of Medicines and First Aid:**

- No member of staff should find himself/herself alone when administering Medicine/First-Aid

to a child – another child or staff member should be present.

**G – Internet/Social Media/Contact with people via ICT**

- Anti-Bullying Policy

- Bi-Annual information session with teachers, parents and pupils on the dangers of accessing

and using the internet and social media

- Code of conduct for Teachers and Staff members (including BASC staff)

- The Dept of Education NCTE School Filter System

- Pupils are not allowed bring Mobile Phones to school

- Acceptable Use Policy

- Adequate supervision when using ICT.

- Pupils are forbidden from using chatrooms

**H - Students undertaking Training Placement/Work Experience in the School**

**-** should never be left unsupervised in the company of BASC pupils

- follow The Code of Behaviour for Work Experience Students of Dunhill N.S.

- should never find themselves alone with another student

This Child Safeguarding Statement was adopted by the Board of Management in May 2019.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Philip O Shea

Chairperson of Board of Management

Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Fergus Cooper

Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_­­­­­­­\_