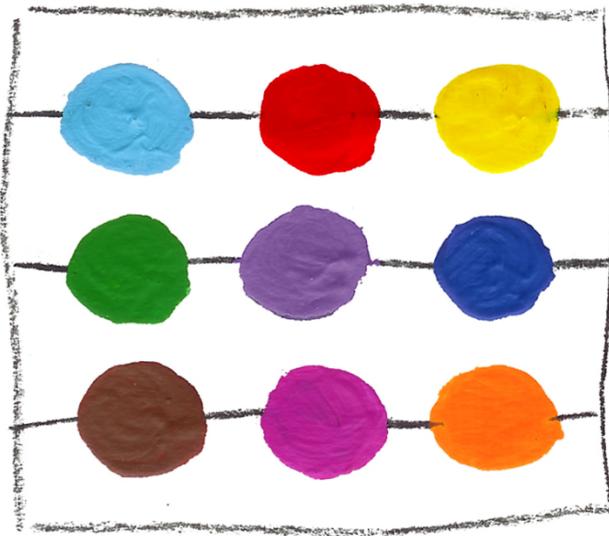


# Child Safeguarding Statement



*Carrigaline Educate Together N.S.*

## Contents

Child Safeguarding Statement

School Profile

Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment

Policies, Protocols and Practices

Appendix 1: Checklist for Annual Review of the Child Protection Policy

Appendix 2: Parental permission for assistance with toileting

Appendix 3: Toileting log

Appendix 4: Staff declaration

## Introduction

This policy is the result of the collaboration of the school staff together with the Board of Management

## Rationale

Carrigaline Educate Together National School (N.S.) recognises that child protection and welfare considerations permeate all aspects of school life and must be reflected in all of the school's policies, practices and activities. Accordingly, this Child Safeguarding Statement, in accordance with the requirements of the Department of Education and Skills' *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools 2017*, is implemented.

## Relationship to the Characteristic Spirit of the School

The Child Safeguarding Statement reflects the overall ethos of the school which states:

Carrigaline Educate Together N.S. is one of a number of multi-denominational schools throughout the country. The representative organisation for these schools is 'Educate Together'.

Educate Together aims to meet a growing need in Irish society for schools that recognise the developing diversity of Irish life and the modern need for democratic management structures. In particular, Educate Together guarantees children and parents of all faiths and none equal respect in the operation and governing of education.

The schools operated by the member associations of Educate Together are fully recognised by the Irish Department of Education and Science and work under the same regulations and funding structures as other national schools. However, they have a distinct ethos or governing spirit. This has been defined in the following terms:

- **Equality based** i.e. all children having equal rights of access to the school, and children of all social, cultural and religious backgrounds being equally respected
- **Co-educational** and committed to encouraging all children to explore their full range of abilities and opportunities,
- **Child centred** in their approach to education
- **Democratically run** with active participation by parents in the daily life of the school, whilst positively affirming the professional role of the teachers (*Source: Educate Together Charter*)

Whilst the concepts of child-centeredness and co-educationalism are now widely accepted in Irish primary education, what distinguishes the Educate Together schools is their hard work in developing a culturally inclusive and democratic ethos. This has pioneered unique approaches to inclusion of minority opinions and faiths in the Irish context.

The schools have developed education programmes which open the eyes of children to the naturally positive contribution that social, religious and cultural diversity and difference of viewpoint and opinion make to society.

The other characteristic feature of these schools is that they are democratically organised and governed. This maximises the potential for building a genuine partnership between the professional, objective role of the teacher and the necessarily personal involvement of the parent in contributing to their children's education.

*Information taken from the Educate Together website [www.educatetogether.ie](http://www.educatetogether.ie)*

Carrigaline Educate Together N.S. makes the distinction between denominational education and moral/religious education. The ethical curriculum followed by the school is called the Learn Together Curriculum. It is comprised of four strands: Morality & Spirituality, Equality & Justice, Belief systems, Ethics & the environment.

Denominational instruction is facilitated by the school insofar as groups are permitted to use the school premises. This is organised by parents outside of school hours.

Carrigaline Educate Together N.S follows the curricular programmes prescribed by the Department of Education and Skills, which may be amended from time to time, in accordance with Sections 9 and 30 of the Education Act (1998).

The Child Safeguarding Statement recognises and endeavours to adopt the values that are set out in the ethos of the school for those at work in the school. It attempts to support and sustain a harmonious environment in which the potential of all staff is nurtured through the co-operation between staff, pupils, parents, board members and all other relevant parties.

## Child Safeguarding Statement

Carrigaline Educate Together National School (N.S.) is a primary school providing primary education to pupils from Junior Infants to Sixth Class and to three ASD (Autistic Spectrum Disorder) Classes.

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 Carrigaline Educate Together N.S. has agreed the Child Safeguarding Statement 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 primary and post-primary Schools 2017 as part of this overall Child Safeguarding Statement.
- The Designated Liaison Person (DLP) is Mel Thornton.
- The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is Rory Ward (acting )
- 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. 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 adhere to confidentiality requirements in dealing with child protection matters.
- School plans, policies, practices and activities that are particularly relevant to child protection:

<i>Plans:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• English – Béarla</li> <li>• Irish – Gaeilge</li> <li>• Maths – Mata</li> <li>• History – Stair</li> </ul>	<i>Policies:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Administration of Medicines</li> <li>• Admissions &amp; Participation including enrolment in the Special Class</li> </ul>	<i>Practices &amp; Procedures:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Arrival &amp; Dismissal of Pupils</li> <li>• Best Practice in</li> </ul>
--	---	--

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Geography– Tíreolaíocht</li> <li>• Science - Eolaíocht</li> <li>• Visual Arts– Ealaín</li> <li>• Drama– Drámaíocht</li> <li>• Music – Ceol</li> <li>• P.E. – Corpoideachas</li> <li>• S.P.H.E. – O.S.P.S.</li> <li>• Ethical Education – Croí na Scoile</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Anti-bullying</li> <li>• Assessment</li> <li>• Career Break, Job-sharing &amp; Leave</li> <li>• Classes for Children with ASD</li> <li>• Closed Circuit Television CCTV</li> <li>• Code of Behaviour</li> <li>• Critical Incident Management</li> <li>• Data Protection</li> <li>• Dignity at Work</li> <li>• Garda Vetting</li> <li>• Health Eating</li> <li>• Homework</li> <li>• Information &amp; Communication Technologies (ICT) [including former Acceptable Usage Policy &amp; Teaching Laptop &amp; iPad Policy]</li> <li>• Induction of Newly Qualified Teachers</li> <li>• Non-staff Access Procedures</li> <li>• Parental Involvement</li> <li>• Protected Disclosure</li> <li>• Record Keeping &amp; Data Protection</li> <li>• Relationship &amp; Sexuality Education (R.S.E.)</li> <li>• Safety, Health &amp; Welfare including Safety Statement</li> <li>• Safeguarding Staff – Safeguarding Children</li> <li>• Special Education Needs</li> <li>• Substance Use Policy</li> <li>• Swimming Policy</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Child Protection</li> <li>• Children with Special Educational Needs – Child Protection</li> <li>• General Conduct</li> <li>• Guest Speakers/Visitors</li> <li>• Internet Safety</li> <li>• One-to-one teaching</li> <li>• Mobile Phones</li> <li>• Recruitment and Selection of Staff</li> <li>• Supervision Procedures</li> <li>• Toileting / Intimate Care</li> </ul>
---	---	--

The school will also adhere to the above principles in relation to any adult or pupil with a special vulnerability.

- 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 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, 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 in Section III of 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 (some are included in Section IV).
- This statement will be published on the school’s website and will be 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 if requested.

- 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.

### **Ratification and Communication**

The statement will be communicated to members of the Board of Management prior to the meeting of the BOM on 24<sup>th</sup> September 2018. Parents will be made aware in the next school communication that the Statement is available for viewing by appointment in school or alternatively online at: [www.carrigalineeducatetogether.ie/publications](http://www.carrigalineeducatetogether.ie/publications)

This policy was adopted by the Board of Management at a meeting on .

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

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

CHAIRPERSON-BOARD OF MANAGEMENT

PRINCIPAL

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

## School Profile

### School Details:

Name: Carrigaline Educate Together National School  
Address: Kilnagleary, Carrigaline, Co. Cork

Telephone: 021-4375616 or 087-7453659  
Email: [info@carrigalineeducatetogether.ie](mailto:info@carrigalineeducatetogether.ie)  
Roll Number: 20310D  
Principal: Mel Thornton

The school gates are located at the school entrance.  
School start/end times are as follows:

Start Time:	End Time:
8.50 am	1.30 pm/2.30 pm

The school gates open at 7.40 am. The school provides supervision of pupils within the school building only from 8.40am – 1.30pm for Junior Infants and from 8.40am – 2.30pm for First Class- sixth class. Please note that no responsibility is accepted for anyone in the areas outside the school grounds. Please also note that no responsibility is accepted for pupils arriving before 8.40am to Carrigaline Educate Together NS or for supervising pupils after 1.30pm/2.30pm on the school premises.