

Child Safeguarding Statement – Oct 2018

Brigid Teevan is a teacher of Health Education and is registered with the Teaching Council. She provides a variety of educational and training programmes and services to: primary and post-primary schools, youth clubs, parents and school communities. Brigid has a responsibility and duty of care to protect any child (anyone under the age of 18 years) that may be at risk, who comes to the attention of the organisation (educational services).

In accordance with the requirements of the Children's First Act 2015, Children First: National Guidance 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, Brigid Teevan has agreed the child safeguarding statement set out in this document.

1. Brigid Teevan will implement without modification the Departments Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017 as part of this overall Childcare Safeguarding Statement.
2. The designated liaison person (DLP) is: Brigid Teevan

Brigid Teevan 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's first act 2015 and other relevant legislation relating to the protection and welfare of children;
- fully cooperate with the relevant statutory authorities in relation to child protection and welfare matters;
- adopt safe practices to minimise the possibility of harm or incidents 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.

This policy applies:

- To anyone under the age of 18 who comes in contact with Brigid Teevan (and the rse4schools programme) and who is deemed currently at risk of neglect, physical, emotional or sexual abuse.
- Where the organisation has identifiable information (see appendix 2.) for the person aged under 18 years deemed at risk. The organisation recognises a duty of care for that person and must ensure that information is passed on to the relevant authorities to help protect that person.
- It is the responsibility of **everyone** within the organisation to be aware of and implement the child protection policy. As such, the policy is also there to protect rse4schools (staff and volunteers) by giving clear guidance on procedures to follow and responsibilities that their position incurs.

Brigid Teevan's child protection policy is a support policy: As an organisation we have a supportive role rather than an investigative role.

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Practicalities:

1. **What information concerning a person under 18 years should be passed on to the organisation's designated person (DP) (Appendix 1). for explanation of who is DP and the role of DP?**
 - a) Specific indication from the child at he – she was abused
 - b) an account by the person who saw the child being abused
 - c) evidence, such as the injury or behaviour which is consistent with abuse and unlikely to be caused in another way
 - d) an injury or behaviour which is consistent with abuse and with an innocent explanation but where there are collaborative indicators supporting the concern that it may be a case of abuse. An example of this would be a pattern of injuries, and implausible explanation, other indicators of abuse, dysfunctional behaviour.
 - e) Consistent indication over a period of time that the child is suffering from emotional or physical neglect. For further information see, <https://www.tusla.ie/services/child-protection-welfare/>

2. **What are reasonable grounds for concern?**
 1. **Direct disclosure:** Specific indication from the person under 18 years that (s)he was abused.
 2. **Witness account:** An account by a person who saw the person under 18 years being abused. (See section on policy for dealing with people aged over 18 years also.)
 3. **Evidence:** such as illness, injury or behaviour consistent with abuse and unlikely to be caused in another way.
 4. An injury or behaviour which is consistent both with abuse and an innocent explanation but where there are **corroborative indicators** supporting the concern that it may be a case of abuse.
 5. **Consistent indication:** over a period of time, that a child is suffering from emotional or physical neglect.

3. **What happens when information is passed on to the designated person (DP)?**

(Usually) the DP will make the referral with the staff/volunteer to the HSE and/or Garda Síochána. The HSE social worker will consider the information and will assess the situation. If they feel it needs to be followed up they may look for more information from other sources and may contact the person under 18 years and their parent/s. They will try to establish what is going on and will act to protect the child whatever way is necessary. Physical abuse, sexual abuse and wilful neglect are crimes and must be reported by the HSE to An Garda Síochána. Likewise, An Garda Síochána must report any child abuse that comes to their attention to the HSE. The Gardaí and the HSE will work together as sensitively as possible and take any action necessary to protect the child, or any other children from future harm.

This statement has been published on the organisation's website (www.brigidteevan.com) where it will be made easily available to all Board of Managements, school personnel, and parents associations. A copy of the statement will be made available to Tusla and the Department if requested.

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Implementation

I recognise that implementation is an ongoing process. I am committed to the implementation of this Child Safeguarding Statement and the procedures that support my intention to keep children safe from harm while availing of my services. This Child Safeguarding Statement will be reviewed as soon as practicable after there has been material change in any matters to which this statement refers.



Signed :

Brigid Teevan (DP)

Ballinlough, Belturbet, Co Cavan.

Tel 087 2390920

Email: rse4schools@gmail.com

Appendix 1. Designated Person

- The designated person (DP) is responsible for dealing with any concerns about the protection of children that arise within any area of the organisation's work.
- In rse4schools, the designated person is Managing Director, Brigid Teevan, email: rse4schools@gmail.com, Ph: 0872390920.
- The DP role is to
 - Establish contact with relevant authority where necessary e.g. child care manager, principal social worker, Garda Síochána.
 - Provide information and advice on child protection within the organisation
 - Ensure the organisation's child protection policies and procedures are implemented and followed
 - Keep relevant people within the organisation informed
 - Ensure written records of concerns / cases are kept
 - Advise the organisation of child protection training needs