



# Blessington Educate Together NS

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Roll number 20242M

Charity number 20139407

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Dear Parents & Guardians,

In recent years, as a society, we have become very aware of the problem of child abuse through neglect, emotional, physical or sexual abuse. The staff, and myself, have attended training and a number of seminars related to child protection. The following gives a brief overview of our responsibilities and obligations in relation to child safeguarding. BETNS will review child protection annually each September.

Each one of us has a duty to protect children and *Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children (2017)* notes that teachers, who are the main caregivers to children outside of the family, are particularly well placed to observe and monitor children for signs of abuse.

In response to this, the Department of Education published *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools (revised 2023)* in relation to child protection and welfare. These procedures promote the safety and welfare of all children and are to be welcomed. Other important documents, which we refer to and inform us, include the *Children First Act 2015*, the *Addendum to Children First (2019)*, and *Tusla Guidance on the preparation of Child Safeguarding Statements*.

The Board of Management of Blessington Educate Together has adopted these procedures as school policy. **Consequently, if school staff suspect or are alerted to possible child abuse (neglect, emotional, physical and/ or sexual abuse) they are obliged to refer to the matter to Tusla – Child and Family Agency.**

Principal Jonathan Kinsella  
Deputy Principal Lynn Steed  
Chairperson James Cannon

Tusla will then assess the situation and provide support for the child concerned. In our school -

- The Designated Liaison Person (DLP) for dealing with Child Protection is **Jonathan Kinsella**.
- The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (DDLDP) is **Lynn Steed**.

Further information can be viewed at <https://www.gov.ie/en/policy-information/d7be05-child-protection/>

Parents and Guardians are also welcome to look through the procedures and Child Protection Policy here at the school and on our website.

If you have any queries or questions please don't hesitate to get in touch with me via the office.

Yours sincerely,  
Jonathan Kinsella.