



## Child Safeguarding Statement 2022-23

*Ficheall* is the network of primary school teachers in Ireland who develop children's social and cognitive skills through the promotion of chess. This involves the organising of inter-school chess tournaments between primary schools, both face-to-face and online using the lichess.org platform.

In accordance with the requirements of the [Children First Act 2015](#), [Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children 2017](#), [the Addendum to Children First \(2019\)](#), the [Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools 2017](#) and [Tusla Guidance on the preparation of Child Safeguarding Statements](#), the Board of Directors of *Ficheall* has agreed the Child Safeguarding Statement set out in this document.

- 1 Each school attending Fiche chess competitions do so operating under their own school's Child Safeguarding Statement. Children from all schools must be accompanied to competitions by a mandated person from their school. For incidents pertaining to contractors of *Ficheall* we adopt the following statement.
- 2 The Designated Liaison Person (DLP) is **Damien Fallon** - [chairperson@ficheall.ie](mailto:chairperson@ficheall.ie) - **022-26368**  
The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (DDLDP) is **Eamon Linehan** - [website@ficheall.ie](http://website@ficheall.ie)
- 3 The Board of Directors recognises that child protection and welfare considerations permeate all aspects of school life and must be reflected in all of the organisation's policies, procedures, practices and activities. In its policies, procedures, practices and activities *Ficheall* will adhere to the following principles of best practice in child protection and welfare:

The organisation will:

- recognise that the protection and welfare of children is of paramount importance, regardless of all other considerations;
- as teachers we fully comply with our statutory obligations under the Children 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 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 all schools, teachers and parents
- fully respect confidentiality requirements in dealing with child protection matters.

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

- 4 The following procedures/measures are in place to protect children and staff who care for them:
  - In relation to any member of the organisation who is the subject of any investigation (howsoever described) in respect of any act, omission or circumstance in respect of a child attending the competitions, the organisation 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 child safeguarding statement of their relevant school.
  - 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 Department of Education and available on

the DE website. The Board of Directors vets all arbiters and instructs schools to send Garda vetted adults only and to ensure at least one mandated person is in attendance from each school.

- 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 organisation-
    - ensures all schools attending tournaments are provided with a copy of the organisation’s Child Safeguarding Statement
    - ensures all schools understand that their staff and students attend under the protection of their own school’s Child Safeguarding Statement.
  - In relation to reporting of child protection concerns to Tusla, all teachers involved 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 accordance with their own school’s Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment.
  - In this organisation, the Board of Directors 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 Child Safeguarding Statement.
  - All registered teachers associated with the organisation are mandated persons under the Children First Act 2015.
  - In accordance with the Children First Act 2015, the Board of Directors has carried out an assessment of any potential for harm to a child while attending Ficheall.ie events. A written assessment setting out the areas of risk identified and the school’s procedures for managing those risks has been carried out by the Board of Directors, which also includes a COVID-19 Risk Assessment.
  - The various procedures referred to in this Statement and the written Risk Assessment setting out the areas of risk identified and the organisation’s procedures for managing those risks can be made available on request by the organisation.
- 5 This statement has been published on the organisation’s website and has been provided to all members of the organisation’s personnel. It is readily accessible to schools, parents and guardians on request. A copy of this Statement will be made available to Tusla and the Department of Education and any other statutory body if requested.
- 6 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.

This Child Safeguarding Statement was reviewed and ratified by the Board of Directors on 3rd October 2022.

Signed: *Damien Fallon*  
Chairperson of Ficheall

Signed: *Liam Murray*  
Secretary of Ficheall

Date: 3rd October 2022

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The following checklist is mandatory for the Board of Management of Schools to complete annually. In line with this best practice, the *Ficheall* Board of Directors also completes the checklist annually. In each item of the checklist, where reads the Board of Directors of *Ficheall* assume the role of ‘the Board’.

## **Mandatory Template 2: Checklist for Review of the Child Safeguarding Statement**

The [Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017](#) require that the Board of Managements must undertake a review of their Child Safeguarding Statement and that the following checklist shall be used for this purpose. **The review must be completed every year or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which the Child Safeguarding Statement refers.** Undertaking an annual review will also ensure that a school also meets its statutory obligation under section 11(8) of the [Children First Act 2015](#), to review its Child Safeguarding Statement every two years.

The checklist is designed as an aid to conducting this review and is not intended as an exhaustive list of the issues to be considered. Individual Boards of Management shall include other items in the checklist that are of relevance to the school in question.

As part of the overall review process, Boards of Management should also assess relevant school policies, procedures, practices and activities vis a vis their adherence to the principles of best practice in child protection and welfare as set out in the school’s Child Safeguarding Statement, the [Children First Act 2015](#), the [Addendum to Children First \(2019\)](#) and the [Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017](#).

	<b>Yes/No</b>
1. Has the Board formally adopted a Child Safeguarding Statement in accordance with the ‘Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools 2017’?	Yes
2. Is the Board satisfied that the Child Safeguarding Statement is displayed in a prominent place?	Yes, on website
3. As part of the school’s Child Safeguarding Statement, has the Board formally adopted, without modification, the ‘Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools 2017’?	Yes
4. Does the school’s Child Safeguarding Statement include a written assessment of risk as required under the Children First Act 2015 ? (This includes considering the specific issue of online safety as required by the Addendum to Children First)	Yes
5. Has the Board reviewed and updated where necessary the written assessment of risk as part of this overall review?	Yes
6. Has the Risk Assessment taken account of the risk of harm relevant to online teaching and learning remotely?	Yes, re online tournaments



7. Has the DLP attended available child protection training?	Yes
8. Has the Deputy DLP attended available child protection training?	Yes
9. Have any members of the Board attended child protection training?	Yes
10. Are there both a DLP and a Deputy DLP currently appointed?	Yes
11. Are the relevant contact details (Tusla and An Garda Síochána) to hand?	Yes
12. Has the Board arrangements in place to communicate the school's Child Safeguarding Statement to attending schools?	Yes
13. Is the Board satisfied that all attending schools have been made aware of their responsibilities under the 'Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools 2017' and the Children First Act 2015?	Yes
14. Has the Board received a Principals Child Protection Oversight Report (CPOR) at each Board meeting held since the last review was undertaken?	Yes
15. Since the Board's last review, did each CPOR contain all of the information required under each of the 4 headings set out in sections 9.5 to 9.8 inclusive of the procedures?	Yes
16. Since the Board's last review, has the Board been provided with and reviewed all documents relevant to the CPOR?	Yes
17. Since the Board's last review, have the minutes of each Board meeting appropriately recorded the records provided to the Board as part of CPOR report?	Yes
18. Have the minutes of each Board meeting appropriately recorded the CPOR report?	Yes
19. Is the Board satisfied that the child protection procedures in relation to the making of reports to Tusla/An Garda Síochána were appropriately followed in each case reviewed?	N/A



20. Is the Board satisfied that, since the last review, all appropriate actions are being or have been taken in respect of any member of school personnel against whom an allegation of abuse or neglect has been made?*	N/A
21. Where applicable, were unique identifiers used to record child protection matters in the Board minutes?	N/A
22. Is the Board satisfied that all records relating to child protection are appropriately filed and stored securely?	N/A
23. Has the Board been notified by any parent in relation to that parent not receiving the standard notification required under section 5.6 of the 'Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools 2017'?	No
24. In relation to any cases identified at question 21 above, has the Board ensured that any notifications required under section 5.6 of the 'Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools 2017' were subsequently issued by the DLP?	N/A
25. Has the Board ensured that the Parents' Association (if any), has been provided with the school's Child Safeguarding Statement?	N/A
26. Has the Board ensured that the patron has been provided with the school's Child Safeguarding Statement?	N/A
27. Has the Board ensured that the school's Child Safeguarding Statement is available to parents on request?	Yes
28. Has the Board ensured that the Stay Safe programme is implemented in full in the school? (applies to primary schools)	N/A
29. Has the Board ensured that the Wellbeing Programme for Junior Cycle students is implemented in full in the school? (applies to post- primary schools)	N/A
30. Has the Board ensured that the SPHE curriculum is implemented in full in the school?	N/A
31. Is the Board satisfied that the statutory requirements for Garda Vetting have been met in respect of all ficeall personnel (employees and volunteers)? *	Yes



32. Is the Board satisfied that the Department's requirements in relation to the provision of a child protection related statutory declaration and associated form of undertaking have been met in respect of persons appointed to teaching and non-teaching positions?*	Yes
33. Is the Board satisfied that, from a child protection perspective, thorough recruitment and selection procedures are applied by Ficheall in relation to all personnel (employees and volunteers)?*	Yes
34. Has the Board considered and addressed any complaints or suggestions for improvements regarding the school's Child Safeguarding Statement?	N/A
35. Has the Board sought the feedback of parents in relation to Ficheall's compliance with the requirements of the child safeguarding requirements of the 'Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools 2017'?	Yes
36. Has the Board sought the feedback of pupils in relation to the Ficheall's child safeguarding arrangements?	No
37. Is the Board satisfied that the 'Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools 2017' are being fully and adequately implemented?	Yes
38. Has the Board identified any aspects of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement and/or its implementation that require further improvement?	Yes, minuted 3/10/22
39. Has the Board put in place an action plan containing appropriate timelines to address those aspects of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement and/or its implementation that have been identified as requiring further improvement ?	N/A
40. Has the Board ensured that any areas for improvement that were identified in any previous review of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement have been adequately addressed?	Yes

Signed     Damien Fallon      
Chairperson, Board of Directors, Ficheall

Date: *3rd October 2022*

Signed     Liam Murray    

Date: *3rd October 2022*

Secretary, Board of Directors, Ficheall

