



# Yellow Furze NS Child Safeguarding Statement

September 2023

Yellow Furze NS  
Beauparc, Navan, Co. Meath  
Roll No: 17741N

YELLOW FURZE NS is a primary school providing primary education to pupils from Junior Infants to Sixth Class.

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 YELLOW FURZE NS 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) is:**

**Aonghus Byrne**

**3 The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is;**

**Liz Halpenny**

- 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 pupil with a special vulnerability.

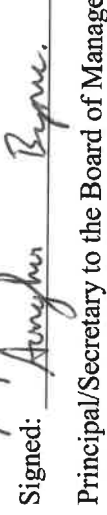
- 5 The following procedures/measures are in place:

- 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
    - Ensures staff 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 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 and is included with the Child Safeguarding 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
- 6 This statement has been published on the school's website and has been 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 to the Department of Education if requested.
- 7 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 adopted by the Board of Management on 26/9/23.

Signed:   
 Chairperson of Board of Management

Signed:   
 Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Date: 26/9/23

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**YELLOW FURZE N.S.**  
CHILD SAFEGUARDING RISK ASSESSMENT  
DECEMBER 2022

**Yellow Furze N.S.**  
Beauparc, Navan, Co. Meath  
Roll No: 17741N

List of Activities	YFNS has identified the following risk of harm	YFNS has the following procedures or policies in place to address the risks identified.
Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils	Children left unsupervised in school yard before 9.10am and after 3pm	<p><b>Policy: Supervision Policy, Health &amp; Safety Policy, CCTV Policy</b></p> <p>The following is sent home to parents in the first newsletter of the year <i>'The Board of Management is not responsible for children who arrive to school before 9.10am in the mornings or are not collected promptly at 2pm for junior classes and 2.45 -3pm for senior classes'.</i></p> <p>Supervision is provided from 9.10am – 3.10pm.</p>
Recreation breaks for pupils	Risk of harm to pupil by another pupil Risk of harm due to bullying Risk of harm owing to inappropriate relationships / communications between child and another child or adult.	<p><b>Policies: Supervision, Code of Behaviour ,Anti-Bullying Policy , Medical Policy &amp; Accident Procedures, Health &amp; Safety Policy, CCTV Policy.</b></p> <p><i>Yard supervision rota in place</i> <i>Adequate yard supervision in place</i> <i>Segregation of yard space</i> <i>Play Equipment for both yards.</i> <i>Children are not permitted into building during break time without permission.</i></p>
Classroom teaching	Risk of child being harmed by school personnel	<p><b>Policies: Code of Behaviour, Professional Code of Conduct for Teaching Staff, Special Education Policy, Supervision Policy. Health &amp; Safety Policy</b></p> <p><i>if alone with a child then one to one teaching code applies – see overleaf.</i></p>
Online teaching & Learning remotely	Risk of harm due to inappropriate use of IT devices outside of school / inappropriate use of online learning platform i.e. uninvited person accessing the lesson link.	<p><b>Policies: Remote teaching &amp; Online Learning Policy, Acceptable Use of Internet (AUP), Code of Behaviour, GDPR, Staff Code of Conduct.</b></p> <p>Use of 'waiting rooms' to ensure only authorised participants online. No sharing of 'links' to outside parties. Teacher and pupil devices to be located in public areas of the home. Child's name must be visible to teacher on learning platforms.</p>

List of Activities	YFNS has identified the following risk of harm	YFNS has the following procedures or policies in place to address the risks identified
<p>One-to-one teaching</p> <p>One-to-one learning support</p> <p>One to one counselling</p> <p>Time Out in Zen Den</p>	Risk of child being harmed by member of school personnel	<p><b>Policy: Special Education Policy / Restorative Practices policy/ Health &amp; Safety Policy,</b></p> <p><i>Parental consent sought,</i></p> <p><i>Open doors unless RP in process, following protocols apply in all one to one settings:</i></p> <p><i>Table between teacher and pupil,</i></p> <p><i>Glass in window, teacher clearly visible from outside.</i></p> <p><i>Staff Protocols and Professional Code of Conduct for Staff.</i></p> <p><i>Zen Den-door ajar at all times-staff member clearly visible.</i></p>
<p>Outdoor teaching activities</p> <p>Movement Programme</p> <p>Movement Breaks</p>	Risk of child being harmed by member of school personnel	<p><b>Policies: Code of Behaviour, Professional Code of Conduct for Teaching Staff, Special Education Policy. SNA Policy, Health &amp; Safety Policy, CCTV Policy</b></p> <p><i>Teacher present and in charge at all times for outdoor teaching activities.</i></p> <p><b>Movement Programme in gym: door from corridor left open, children walked back to class.</b></p> <p><i>Movement breaks: SNAs take children from classroom at scheduled intervals.</i></p>
<p>Use of toilet/changing areas in school.</p>	Risk of child being harmed by member of school personnel / another child	<p><b>Policies: Supervision policy, Code of Behaviour, Class Contracts. SNA Policy.</b></p> <p><b>Toileting &amp; Intimate care policy.</b></p> <p><i>One child at a time</i></p> <p><i>Yard Supervision by teachers and SNAs</i></p>
<p>Care of children with special educational needs, including intimate care where needed.</p>	Risk of child being harmed by member of school personnel	<p><b>Policies: Intimate Care Policy, SNA policy, Supervision, Code of Behaviour. Staff Code of Conduct.</b></p> <p><i>Clear communication with home, agreed care plan signed off by Parents/Guardians, Teacher and SNA, reviewed annually and stored in child's file.</i></p> <p><i>Two staff present to attend to intimate care needs.</i></p> <p><i>Record of care need recorded in SNA diary and notified to parent.</i></p> <p><i>Dignity of child to be preserved at all times.</i></p>
<p>Care of vulnerable adult students</p>	n/a	YFNS does not have any adult students; risk will be re-assessed if this occurs.
<p>Provision of residential facilities for boarders</p>	n/a	YFNS does not have residential facilities; risk will be re-assessed if this occurs.
<p>Management of challenging behaviour amongst pupils, including appropriate use of restraint where required</p>	Risk of child being harmed by member of school personnel	<p><b>Policies: Policy on Restrictive Practices and Restraint, Code of Behaviour, Restorative Practices, Health &amp; Safety, Supervision. CCTV Policy</b></p> <p>All teaching staff and SNAs trained in 'Managing Aggression and Violence in School'</p> <p>2 staff members must be present during process.</p>

List of Activities	YFNS has identified the following risk of harm	YFNS has the following procedures or policies in place to address the risks identified
<p>Care of pupils with specific vulnerabilities/ needs such as</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Pupils from ethnic minorities/migrants</li> <li>- Members of the Traveller community</li> <li>- Lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender (LGBT) children</li> <li>- Pupils perceived to be LGBT.</li> <li>- Pupils of minority religious faiths or none</li> </ul> <p>-Children in care</p> <p>Children on Child Protection Notification System (CPNS)</p> <p>-Children with medical needs.</p> <p>-Children with confirmed intellectual or physical disability.</p>	<p>Risk of child being harmed by member of school personnel or another child</p> <p>Risk of harm due to racism or bullying.</p>	<p><b>Policies: Anti Bullying Policy, Supervision Policy, Code of Behaviour, SNA Policy, Religious Education Policy, Administration of Medicines policy, SPHE / Inclusion Policy</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Principal liaises with relevant authorities / parents.</li> <li>• Teachers / Substitute teachers made aware of children with specific vulnerabilities in their classes.</li> <li>• Local arrangements with parents to adequately care for a child requiring medication.</li> <li>• SPHE programme reinforces school ethos of inclusion.</li> </ul>
<p>Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst pupils.</p>	<p>Risk of harm due to bullying of child</p>	<p><b>Policies: Anti Bullying Policy, Code of Behaviour, Restorative Practices, SPHE/ Inclusion. CCTV Policy</b></p>
<p>Training of school personnel in child protection matters.</p>	<p>Risk of harm by school personnel</p>	<p><b>All staff has undergone Online Tusla Children First E- Learning Programme. DLP and DDLP annual training CSS, Risk assessment and Child Protection Inspections.</b></p>
<p>Use of external personnel/tutors/guest speakers to supplement curriculum.</p>	<p>Risk of child being harmed by external personnel</p>	<p><b>Garda Vetting, Code of conduct External Agencies, Supervision, Code of Behaviour.</b> Class teacher present, in charge, at all times</p>
<p>Use of external personnel to support sports and other extra-curricular activities</p>	<p>Risk of child being harmed by external personnel.</p>	<p><b>Garda Vetting, Inter club/school reciprocal vetting. Tour guides and leaders to have completed E-Learning and be Garda Vetted</b> <b>Code of Conduct External Agencies, Supervision, Code of Behaviour. CCTV Policy</b> <i>Class teacher present, in charge, at all times</i></p>
<p>Recruitment of school personnel including -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Teachers/SNAs</li> <li>- Caretaker/Secretary/Cleaners</li> <li>- Sports coaches</li> </ul>	<p>Risk of harm not being recognised by school personnel</p>	<p><b>Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk assessment issued to all staff</b> <b>Garda Vetting</b> <b>E-Learning module completed – Tusla or PDST</b> <b>References checked</b> <b>Code of conduct External Agencies for sports coaches.</b></p>

List of Activities	YFNS has identified the following risk of harm	YFNS has the following procedures or policies in place to address the risks identified
Volunteers/Parents in school activities	Risk of child being harmed by volunteer, visitor	<b>Garda Vetting.</b> Staff present at all times and in charge.
Visitors/contractors present during and/or after school activities.	Risk of child being harmed by visitor or contractor.	<b>Insurance,</b> Teacher present at all times and in charge, Contractors never left unsupervised when children present. Visitor Sign in book to maintain register of all present on school premises
Use of school facilities by other individuals / organisations during and after school hours	Risk of child being harmed by external body personnel.	<b>Garda Vetting, Insurance, Contract for rental of school facilities between individual / organisation and BOM. Policy re Hire &amp; Use of School Premises. Online Tusla Children First E-Learning programme. Code of Conduct for External Agencies, CCTV Policy.</b> Open space visible from outside.
Administration of Medicine and First Aid	Risk of harm to child by member of school personnel	<b>Policies: Medical Policy Accident Procedure, Administration of Medicine Policy.</b> Staff First Aid Training every 2 years First Aid Kit in Public view / Accident Report book / Minor Wound record sheet / Inhaler record sheet.
Participation by pupils in religious ceremonies	Risk of child being harmed by school personnel or external volunteer.	<b>Garda Vetting, Annual Consent Form. Supervision, Code of Behaviour.</b> Class accompanied by teacher attend Mass / practice for Sacraments / Choir / Christmas Nativity.
Participation by pupils in religious instruction external to school	n/a	<b>Children do not participate in external religious instruction.</b>
Sporting Activities	Risk of harm to child by school / external personnel	<b>Policies: Supervision, Medical Policy Accident Procedure, Garda Vetting, Inter club/school reciprocal vetting. Leaders to have completed E-Learning and be Garda Vetted, Code of Conduct External Agencies. CCTV Policy</b> <i>Class teacher present, in charge, at all times</i>
Annual Sports Day / Marathon.	Risk of harm to child by non-school personnel	<b>Policies: Supervision, Code of Behaviour, Medical Policy Accident Procedure, GDPR, Admin of Medicine, Health &amp; Safety. CCTV Policy</b> Parent body notified re GDPR and posting of photographs without permission. Teachers present and in charge at all times.

List of Activities	YFNS has identified the following risk of harm	YFNS has the following procedures or policies in place to address the risks identified
Swimming lessons: 3 <sup>rd</sup> – 6 <sup>th</sup> classes only	Risk of child being harmed by member of school personnel, staff of other organisation or other person	<b>Policies: Supervision, Code of Behaviour, Garda Vetting.</b> <i>No parents in changing area except those of children with special needs who are Garda Vetted</i> <i>We request a 5 minute 'window' either side of school lesson where the general public are not allowed into the changing areas.</i> <i>1 teacher to supervise poolside and be available to pool staff. Two teachers to monitor changing rooms. 1 pupil per cubicle.</i>
Fundraising events involving pupils (In-school dress up days, Christmas, Easter raffles, Marathon day)	Risk of harm to child by school personnel / volunteer helpers	<b>Policies: Supervision, Medical policy and Accident Procedures, Code of Behaviour. Code of Conduct External agencies. Health &amp; Safety, Staff Code of Conduct. CCTV Policy.</b> <i>Teachers present and in charge at all times for events during school hours.</i>
School transport arrangements.	Risk of harm to child by non-school personnel / volunteer helpers.	<b>Policies: Supervision Policy, Code of Behaviour, Anti Bullying, Garda Vetting, Staff Code of Conduct, Bus Hire Policy, Annual Consent Form.</b> Clear communication between school and home re transport arrangements
Use of off-site facilities for school activities	Risk of harm to pupil from non-school personnel	<b>Policies: Supervision, Code of Behaviour, Medical Policy and Accident Procedure, Garda Vetting. Health &amp; Safety,</b> Teacher in charge at all times
Curricular provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe.	Risk of harm to child due to Inadequate resources / time to fully teach programmes	<b>Policies: SPHE, RSE, Enrolment Parental Consent Form.</b> Stay Safe taught on 2 year cycle, all aspects of SPHE & RSE timetabled. SPHE classes mandatory, parents can opt out of RSE.
Use of Information and Communication Technology by pupils in school including social media	Risk of harm to child due to inappropriately accessing / using IT devices incl. computers, phones, tablets to access inappropriate websites / social media during school	<b>Policies: Acceptable Use of Internet (AUP) Code of Behaviour, Supervision. NCTE filter Level 5 on school broadband access.</b> Children are not permitted to bring Smartphones, Fitbits or other mobile communication devices to school. Children may bring a personal iPad or tablet if required for a specific purpose under the direction of the class teacher. NCTE level 5 prevents access to Facebook, Snapchat, Tiktok etc.
Students on Work experience in school	Risk of harm to child by non-school personnel	<b>Policies: Work Experience, Supervision, Child Safeguarding.</b> Garda Vetting, Insurance from School or college

List of Activities	YFNS has identified the following risk of harm	YFNS has the following procedures or policies in place to address the risks identified
Use of video or photography at school events	Risk of harm to child by non-school personnel	<b>Policies: AUP, Annual Consent Form , GDPR Statement /Policy from Videographer/Photographer</b>

			Parent body notified re GDPR and posting of photographs without permission. No individual pupil's photos posted on school website/Class DoJo – group photos/video clips only and no identification of pupils
School Tours/ Trips/ Outings	Risk of harm to child by non-school personnel. Risk of harm due to bullying Risk of harm to child due to inadequate supervision.		<b>Policies: Supervision Policy, Anti Bullying Policy, Mobile Phone Policy, Code of Behaviour, Medical Policy and Accident Procedure. Bus Hire Policy</b> Teacher in charge at all times
School trips involving overnight stay	n/a		School does not undertake overnight trips
School trips involving foreign travel	n/a		School does not undertake foreign travel trips
Application of sanctions under the Code of Behaviour incl. detention, confiscation of phones, restorative practices etc.	Risk of harm to child by school personnel		<b>Code of Behaviour, Mobile Phone Policy, Restorative Practices policy, Professional code of Conduct for Staff, Homework policy, CCTV Policy.</b>
Student teachers undertaking training placement in school	Risk of harm to child by non-school personnel		<b>Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment issued to all student teachers with supporting policies. Code of Professional Conduct, Induction booklet for student teachers.</b> Class teacher present and in charge at all times. <b>YFNS does not offer these options at present</b>
Breakfast / homework club /evening study	n/a at present		
Management of provision of food and drink.	Risk of harm to child by non-school personnel		<b>Code of Behaviour, Parental Consent, Administration of Medicines / children with specific medical allergies.</b> Delivery personnel come to front door only for Pizza Treat Day. Ice-cream van – under supervision of teacher. Selection boxes are left on tables /desks after hours. Goodie bags from the PA at Halloween / Easter/ Communion and Confirmation are distributed by staff
Use of Zen Den	Risk of harm to child by member of school personnel		<b>Policies: Supervision policy, Code of Behaviour, Class Contracts. SNA Policy.</b> SNA to sit on chair provided for staff, door ajar at all times when space is in use.



**Important Note:** It should be noted that risk in the context of this risk assessment is the risk of "harm" as defined in the Children First Act 2015 and not general health and safety risk. The definition of harm is set out in Chapter 4 of the Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017 (– see below for copy of definition)

*In accordance with section 2 of the Children First Act, 2015 the defined threshold of "harm" in relation to a child is as follows: "harm" means, in relation to a child- (a) assault, ill-treatment or neglect of the child in a manner that seriously affects or is likely to seriously affect the child's health, development or welfare, or (b) sexual abuse of the child, whether caused by a single act, omission or circumstance or a series or combination of acts, omissions or circumstances, or otherwise;" "ill-treatment" means, in relation to a child, to abandon or cruelly treat the child, or to cause or procure or allow the child to be abandoned or cruelly treated; "neglect" means, in relation to a child, to deprive the child of adequate food, warmth, clothing, hygiene, supervision, safety or medical care; "welfare" includes, in relation to a child, the moral, intellectual, physical, emotional and social welfare of the child."*

In undertaking this risk assessment, the Board of Management has endeavoured to identify as far as possible the risks of harm that are relevant to this school and to ensure that adequate procedures are in place to manage all risks identified. While it is not possible to foresee and remove all risk of harm, the school has in place the procedures listed in this risk assessment to manage and reduce risk to the greatest possible extent.

This risk assessment was completed by the Board of Management in February 2018, reviewed in 2019 and 2020. It was further reviewed and amended in December 2021, updated to include Zen Den use in February 2022. Updated 12<sup>th</sup> September 23: Name of DLP updated.

Reviewed December 2022.



Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date 2/10/23 Signed \_\_\_\_\_



Date 2/10/23

**Associated Policies:**

Policy Name	Date	Policy Name	Date	Policy Name	Date
Supervision	Nov 22	Code of Behaviour	2021	Anti-Bullying	Sept. 21
Remote teaching & learning	Feb 21	Restrictive practices & restraint	Dec 2021	Code of Conduct External Agencies	Nov.21
Intimate care	Dec 21	AUP	May 20	Admin of medicine	Apr 20
Restorative Practices	2021	Hire & Use School Premises	Dec 2021	SPHE Policy	2021
Code of Professional conduct for Teachers	Teaching Council July 2016	Code of conduct for all staff	2021	SNA Policy	2020
Health & Safety	Sept 2020	CCTV Policy	Feb 21	GDPR Policy	Jan 21
RSE Policy	Sept 2019				
				Special Education	May 18
				Medical Policy & Accident Procedure	Sept. 20
				Inclusion	Sept. 20
				Mobile Phone Policy	Nov. 21
				Work Experience	Dec 21
				Religious Education	Sept 19