

NMCC - AL FADHILA

CHILD SAFEGUARDING STATEMENT

1. Al Fadhila is a 'Saturday Muslim Club run by dedicated volunteers providing Islamic education to pupils aged 5 to 18.
2. The team of volunteers is made-up of qualified and experienced individuals; namely Jamal Mahmoud, Hamza Akram, Abdul Bari Salami.
3. 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) and Tusla Guidance on the preparation of Child Safeguarding Statements, the Board of Management of Navan Muslim Community Centre (NMCC) have agreed the Child Safeguarding Statement set out in this document, which is binding on all members and volunteers.
4. The Board of Management recognises that child protection and welfare considerations are key and must be reflected in the running of school policies, procedures and activities. The school will adhere to the following principles of best practice in child protection and welfare:

- NMCC recognise that the protection and welfare of children is of paramount importance, regardless of all other considerations;
- NMCC fully comply with its statutory obligations under the Children First Act 2015 and other relevant legislation relating to the protection and welfare of children;
- NMCC fully co-operate with the relevant statutory authorities in relation to child protection and welfare matters
- NMCC adopt safe practices to minimize 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;
- NMCC develop a practice of openness with parents and encourage parental involvement in the education of their children; and
- NMCC fully respects confidentiality requirements in dealing with child protection matters.

5. In line with best practice under the Children First National Guidance, a Designated Liaison Person (DLP) and Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) have been appointed.

- The Designated Liaison Person (DLP) is Hamza Akram

Contact Details: hamzaakram97@hotmail.com/0834502435

- The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is Jamal Mahmoud

Contact Details: bluedocjamal@hotmail.co.uk/0892194506

6. Responsibilities of the Designated Liaison Persons

- Be aware of the signs and symptoms of child abuse and ensure that they keep up to date with training on safeguarding.
- Ensure that all staff are briefed on what to do if they have concerns about a child.
- Know how to report safeguarding concerns to the appropriate agencies and take responsibility to do so when concerns about a child arise.
- Provide advice and guidance to staff and be prepared to seek advice and guidance from agencies and others if they themselves are unsure of what to do.
- Support the development of good safeguarding practices.

7. What is Abuse?

The abuse of children is not new and it happens to any child irrespective of background, race or religion. In relative terms, what is new is the determination to deal with it in ways that are sensitive to the feelings of the victim and their carers as well as giving clear messages of disapproval to those who harm children.

Physical abuse is the term used when a parent, carer or a person working with children causes injuries to a child and hurts the child physically. This may be by hitting, beating, throwing or shaking, pinching a child, or by causing other injuries through scalding, burning or poisoning. It can involve fabricating the symptoms or deliberately causing illness in a child.

Emotional abuse is the term used when the main harm comes not from neglecting, physically hurting or sexually harming a child, but from persistent or severe emotional ill treatment. This may include repeated threats, verbal abuse, criticism, humiliation and ridicule e.g. telling a child he or she is worthless or useless.

Sexual abuse is the exploitation of a child for sexual purposes. It includes not only direct sexual contact with the child but also exposing the child to sexual material or encouraging the child to behave in a sexually inappropriate way, whether or not the child is aware of what is happening. Sexual abuse often starts with minor acts e.g. inappropriate touching and use of language of a Page Number: 4 of 15 sexual nature and progresses to more serious acts over time or by grooming (this is where a child would be prepared for abuse).

Neglect is the term used when the parent, carer or person working with children have a persistent lack of proper care for children. Failure to provide them with proper nourishment, warmth, medical care, education, a safe environment and housing are all examples of neglect. It can also be a failure to act to protect a child from danger or from significant harm caused by others. Adults who notice children being abused and neither say nor do anything about it are neglecting the child. It is also when children are left without appropriate care and supervision

8. Every member and volunteer, whatever their role, has a personal responsibility to act if they suspect that a child is or has been abused or if they become aware that such an allegation has been made. There are a number of ways in which any member of staff may become worried about possible abuse of a child.

It may be:

- Something you see on a child or young person
- Something you observe about their behavior
- Something he or she tells you

9. Any member of staff who begins to suspect abuse or neglect must discuss this with the **Designated Liaison Persons**.

10. **Supporting a Child** who tells you about possible abuse If a child tells any member of staff something which he or she thinks must be reported, there are a number of things that should be done to support the child:

- Stay calm and make time to listen.
- Listen with the utmost care to what the child is saying and take it seriously.
- Tell the child that this information will now have to be passed on

11. **Procedures/Measures in place**

To meet and maintain our responsibilities towards pupils the following measures and standards of good practice are in place:

- The school has a safe recruitment practice including appropriate checks and to the wider duty of care guidance set out in recruitment circulars published by the DES and relevant Garda vetting
- NMCC ensures all members and school volunteers are provided with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement
- NMCC encourages all members and volunteers to avail relevant training
- The school has in place a code of behavior for pupils
- NMCC has a Health and Safety Policy
- Everyone is treated with respect
- All members and volunteers maintain appropriate standards of conversation and interaction avoiding the use of explicit or derogatory language.
- Any incident however small or trivial is reported to senior management

- Any photos or videos shared on the NMCC website relating to children activities are first approved by senior leaders and are subject to scrutiny in order to screen for acceptability
- Teachers always act in the best interests of the child or young person

12. Risk assessment

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.

Table 1: Written Risk Assessment has a list of the areas of risk of harm identified and an outline of the procedures in place for managing those risks

This risk assessment was completed by school personnel including teachers and management on 01/09/2023

Table 1: Written Risk Assessment

Item	Identified Risk	Procedure in Place to Manage Risk
1.	Risk of harm not being recognised by school personnel	All personnel are provided with a copy of the schools child safeguard statement
2.	Parent/guardian late, children left unsupervised	NMCC ensure there is always a volunteer present until child under age is collected by parent or guardian
3.	Risk of harm to children, young people or vulnerable adults engaging in school activities, particularly those who have particular vulnerabilities	Written consent is sought from parents/guardians of children and young people under the age of 18 School personnel take due care and attention when planning activities for young people to ensure that wellbeing is paramount at all times
4.	Risk of harm caused by a student/students communicating with other students in an in-appropriate manner via social media, texting, digital device or other manner while in our care	The school has in place a policy governing the use of smart phones
5.	Risk of small child being harmed by elder children	Children are split into different groups and areas in the mosque premises
6.		

This statement has been published on the NMCC website and has been provided to all members of school personnel. It is readily accessible to parents and guardians on request.

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.

- **Signed by Chairperson of the Board of Management.**
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- **Signed by The Designated Liaison Personate:**
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- **Date:**

Included within the policy are a number of appendices:

Appendix 1: **Safeguarding Induction Sheet for new and regular member and volunteers** Appendix 2: **Confirmation of Receipt for SAFEGUARDING – Form** Appendix 3: **Recording Form for Safeguarding Concerns**

APPENDIX 1 - Safeguarding Induction Sheet for new and regular member and volunteers

We all have a statutory duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of children, and at our school we take this responsibility seriously.

If you have any concerns about a pupil or young person in our school, you must share this information immediately with our Designated Safeguarding Lead or one of the alternate post holders.

Do not think that your worry is insignificant if it is about hygiene, appearance or behaviour – we would rather you told us as we would rather know about something that appears small than miss a worrying situation.

If you think the matter is very serious and may be related to child protection, for example, physical, emotional, sexual abuse or neglect, you must find one of the designated professionals detailed below and provide them with a written record of your concern. A copy of the form to complete is attached.

If you are unable to locate them, ask a member of the school office staff to find them and to ask them to speak with you immediately about a confidential and urgent matter.

Any allegation concerning a member of staff, a pupil's foster carer or a volunteer should be reported immediately to either

- The Designated Liaison Person (DLP) is Hamza Akram

Contact Details: hamzaakram97@hotmail.com/0834502435

OR

- The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is Jamal Mahmoud

Contact Details: bluedocjamal@hotmail.co.uk/0892194506

APPENDIX 2 - CONFIRMATION OF RECEIPT OF SAFEGUARDING

Staff name:

Date of joining:

Post:

Date of induction:

Name and post holder of staff member responsible for induction:

Mr/Mrs.....

I confirm that I have received and read the NMCC Safeguarding Policy Statement and I have been made aware of my duty to safeguard and promote children's welfare. The procedure for reporting concerns about a pupil has been explained to me.

Signature Name Date

Please sign and return this form