

Galway and Roscommon ETB is a local education authority governed under the Education and Training Boards Act 2013. Our mission is to support individuals through learning, to achieve their full potential and contribute to social, cultural and economic development. Galway and Roscommon ETB runs twenty second level schools, an extensive Further Education and Training service, and Youth Services. GRETB is involved in many partnership activities at local level and provides a range of educational supports to enhance the quality of its education programmes.

The general functions of GRETB, stated under the Education and Training Boards Act 2013, is to:

- a) Establish and maintain recognised schools, centres for education and education or training facilities in its functional area of Galway and Roscommon,
- b) When directed to do so by the Minister:
 - i. establish and maintain recognised schools in its functional area,
 - ii. establish and maintain centres for education in its functional area,
 - iii. maintain centres for education or recognised schools in its functional area, and
 - iv. establish, maintain or resource education or training facilities in its functional area.
- c) Plan, provide, coordinate and review the provision of education and training, including education and training for the purpose of employment, and services ancillary thereto in its functional area in:
 - i. recognised schools or centres for education maintained by it,
 - ii. education or training facilities maintained or resourced by it,
 - iii. children detention schools,
 - iv. prisons, and
 - v. facilities maintained by other public service bodies.
- d) Enter into arrangements with, and provide support services to, education or training providers,
- e) Establish scholarships,
- f) Adopt a strategy statement,
- g) Adopt an annual service plan,
- h) Cooperate with anybody nominated to carry out internal audit functions,
- i) Provide education and training at the request of, and on behalf of, anybody which funds training out of money provided to that body by the Oireachtas,
- j) Support the provision, coordination, administration and assessment of youth work services in its functional area and provide such information as may be requested by the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs in relation to such support, and
- k) Assess whether the manner in which it performs its functions is economical, efficient and effective.

GRETB is active in local communities through the direct provision of training and education programmes delivered in training centres, colleges and other training and educational

settings. In this way, GRETB seeks to make a real difference to the lives of the people it serves.

In accordance with the requirements of the Children First Act 2015, Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children 2017, the DES Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools 2017 and TUSLA / PDST Guidance on the preparation of Child Safeguarding Statements, Galway and Roscommon ETB has agreed the Child Safeguarding Statement set out in this document.

The GRETB Committee has adopted and will implement fully and without modification the DES Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools 2017 as part of this overall Child Safeguarding Statement.

GRETB's principles to safeguard children from harm are:

- The safety and welfare of children is everyone's responsibility.
- The best interests of the child should be paramount.
- Children have a right to be heard, listened to and taken seriously. Taking account of their age and understanding, they should be consulted and involved in matters and decisions that may affect their lives.
- Compliance with its statutory obligations under the Children First Act 2015 and other relevant legislation relating to the protection and welfare of children;
- Co-operate with the relevant statutory authorities in relation to child protection and welfare matters affecting their education / training.
- Adoption of 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.
- Fully respect confidentiality requirements in dealing with child protection matters.

GRETB will also adhere to the above principles in relation to any vulnerable adult availing of its services.

Risk assessment of potential harm to children whilst availing of our services:

Note: the definition of harm in relation to a child is: *'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 sexual abuse of the child'*.

GRETB's organisational risk management policies and procedures have been amended to underpin the Child Safeguarding Statement approach with the inclusion of harm as a new category of risk and with severity of risk being applied as per the Risk Management Process.

Procedures:

Our Child Safeguarding Statement has been developed in line with requirements under the Children First Act 2015, DES Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools 2017. In addition to the procedures listed in our risk assessment, the following procedures support our intention to safeguard children while they are availing of our services:

- Procedure for the management of allegations of abuse or misconduct against GRETB Personnel of a child while availing of its services.
- Procedure for the recruitment and selection of GRETB personnel
- Procedure for provision of and access to child safeguarding training and information, including the identification of the occurrence of harm.
- Procedure for the reporting of child protection or welfare concerns to Tusla.
- Procedure for maintaining a list of the persons who are mandated persons, Designated Liaison Person's (DLP) and Deputy Designated Liaison Person's (DDL P's).

Implementation:

We recognise that implementation is an on-going process. GRETB is committed to the implementation of this Child Safeguarding Statement and the procedures that support its intention to keep children safe from harm while availing of its services. This Child Safeguarding Statement will be December 2019 or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which the statement refers.

David Leahy
Chief Executive

GRETB The Designated Liaison Person (DLP) is: David Leahy, GRETB Chief Executive,
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GRETB The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (DDL P) is: Mairéad Thompson, GRETB APO of Corporate
Services, An Coilear Ban, Athenry, Co.Galway Tel: 091 874500

Signed _____ Date: 11th December 2018

Chairperson, GRETB

Signed _____ Date: 11th December 2018

Chief Executive, GRETB