



Scoil N Mhuire

Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment

Child Safeguarding Statement

Scoil N Mhuire 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 [Addendum to Children First \(2019\)](#), the [Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools \(revised 2023\)](#) and [Tusla Guidance on the preparation of Child Safeguarding Statements](#), the Board of Management of Scoil N Mhuire 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 (revised (2023))* as part of this overall Child Safeguarding Statement
- 2 The Designated Liaison Person (DLP) is Mr. Brian Ryan
- 3 The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is Mrs. Maureen Fox
- 4 The Relevant Person is Mr Brian Ryan
(The relevant person is one who can provide information in respect of how the child safeguarding statement was developed and will be able to provide the statement on request. In a school setting the relevant person shall be the designated liaison person.)

- 5 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 adult pupil with a special vulnerability.

- 6 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 (revised 2023)* and to the relevant agreed disciplinary procedures for school staff which are published on the gov.ie 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](http://gov.ie) 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 gov.ie 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
 - Encourages staff to 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 (revised 2023)*, including in the case of registered teachers, those in relation to mandated reporting under the Children First Act 2015.
 - All registered teachers employed by the school are mandated persons under the Children First Act 2015.
 - In accordance with the Children First Act 2015 and the Addendum to Children First (2019), 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 is included with the Child Safeguarding Statement.
 - The various procedures referred to in this Statement can be accessed via the school's website, the gov.ie website or will be made available on request by the school.
- 7 This statement has been published on the school's website and has been provided to all members of school personnel, the Parents' Association (if any) 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 the Department if requested.
- 8 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 _____

This Child Safeguarding Statement was reviewed by the Board of Management on _____ [most recent review date].

Signed: 
Chairperson of Board of Management

Signed: 
Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Date: 25 Sep 23

Date: 25-09-2023

Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment

Written Assessment of Risk of Scoil N Mhuire

In accordance with section 11 of the Children First Act 2015 and with the requirement of Chapter 8 of the *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools (revised 2023)*, the following is the Written Risk Assessment of Scoil N Mhuire.

List of School Activities	The School has identified the following Risk of Harm	The School has the following Procedures in place to address risk identified in this assessment
Training of school personnel in Child Protection matters	Harm not recognised or reported promptly	Child Safeguarding Statement & DES procedures made available to all staff DLP& DDLP to attend PDST face to face training All Staff to view Túsla training module & any other online training offered by PDST
		BOM records all records of staff and board training
One to one teaching	Harm by and to school personnel	SEN Policy Open doors Glass in window
Care of Children with special needs, including intimate care needs	Harm by school personnel	Policy on intimate care
Toilet/changing areas	Inappropriate behaviour	Usage and supervision policy
Fire drill	Flight risk for some pupils	Codes to enter the school and unit. Sign in and out book at the office Supervised arrival and dismissal

Use of bus escort	Harm by and to escort	Bus escort to be Garda vetted Bus escort to be given copy of Child Safe Guarding Statement
Curricular Provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay safe.	Non-teaching of same	School implements SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe in full
Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils	Harm from older pupils, unknown adults on the playground	Code of Behaviour Anti-bullying Policy
Managing challenging behaviour amongst pupils.	Injury to pupils and staff	Health & Safety Policy Code Of Behaviour
Sports Coaches	Harm to pupils	Policy & Procedures in place
Students participating in work experience	Harm by student	Work experience Policy Child Safeguarding Statement.
Recreation breaks for pupils	Harm by pupils Risk of harm not being recognised by school personnel Risk of harm not being reported properly and promptly by pupils/school personnel	Stay Safe Programme Anti-bullying Policy Yard Supervision Policy Code of Behaviour Policy
Classroom teaching	Harm to pupils by pupils Risk of harm not being recognised by school personnel Risk of harm not being reported properly and promptly by pupils/school personnel	Code of Behaviour Anti-bullying Policy Stay Safe
Outdoor teaching activities	Harm by pupils Risk of harm not being recognised by school personnel Risk of harm not being reported properly and promptly by pupils.	Code of Behaviour Anti-bullying Policy

School outings	<p>Risk of child being harmed by a member of staff of another organisation or other person while participating in school outing</p> <p>Risk of harm due to inappropriate communications between child and another child or adult.</p>	<p>Choose appropriately supervised venues</p> <p>Appropriate teacher/pupil ratios</p> <p>Stay Safe Programme</p>
Fundraising events involving pupils	<p>Risk of child being harmed by a member of community or other person while participating in school event</p> <p>Risk of harm due to inappropriate communications between child and another child or adult.</p>	Code of behaviour
Administration of Medicine Administration of First Aid	<p>Risk of harm not been recognised in a timely fashion.</p> <p>Harm to pupil</p>	<p>Administration of medication Policy</p> <p>Administration of First Aid</p> <p>First Aid Training for Staff</p>
Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst pupils	<p>Harm by pupils</p> <p>Risk of harm not being recognised by school personnel</p> <p>Risk of harm not being reported properly and promptly by pupils/school personnel</p>	Anti-bullying Policy
Use of external personnel to supplement curriculum	Harm to pupils	<p>Children supervised by teacher at all times with any external personnel.</p> <p>Relevant and appropriate organisations used.</p>
Care of pupils with specific vulnerabilities/ needs such as	Bullying	<p>Anti-bullying Policy</p> <p>Code of Behaviour</p> <p>Stay Safe</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pupils from ethnic minorities/migrants • Members of the Traveller community • Lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender (LGBT) children • Pupils perceived to be LGBT • Pupils of minority religious faiths • Children in care • Children on CPNS 		<p>SPHE Programme</p> <p>Atmosphere of inclusion encouraged and fostered in school</p>
<p>Recruitment of school personnel including -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teachers • SNA's • Caretaker/Secretary/Cleaners • Sports coaches • External Tutors/Guest Speakers • Volunteers/Parents in school activities • Visitors/contractors present in school during school hours • Visitors/contractors present during after school activities 	<p>Harm not recognised or properly or promptly reported</p>	<p>Child Safeguarding Statement & DES procedures made available to all staff</p> <p>Staff to view Tusla training module & any other online training offered by PDST</p> <p>Vetting Procedures</p>
<p>Use of Information and Communication Technology by pupils in school</p>	<p>Bullying</p>	<p>ICT policy</p> <p>Anti-Bullying Policy</p> <p>Code of Behaviour</p> <p>SPHE Programmes</p> <p>PDST Filters</p>
<p>Distance/Remote Learning during the Covid 19 Pandemic Closure of schools.</p> <p>Online teaching and learning remotely.</p>	<p>Risk of harm due to children inappropriately accessing/using computers, social media, phones and other devices while engaging in distance learning.</p> <p>Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children on I.E.Ds</p>	<p>GDPR protection of contacts of the school community-Official Staff Emails to be used to convey school information, planning and resources between teachers</p> <p>Website and Aladdin used to communicate with parents and pupils.</p>

	(Internet Enabled Devices) for accessing school work Risk of harm, including cyber bullying, from peers or adult predators. Risk of harm not recognised or properly or promptly reported Risk of harm due to unwanted popup adds or accidental viewing of harmful content e.g violence, misinformation etc.....	Teachers will endeavour to check and use reputable websites for assigned work. Acceptable Use Policy Teacher's phone numbers may be blocked for contacting parents Decision made by principal on when to make contact with pupils via phone call. DES Guidance on distance learning
Emailing to teacher	Harm to pupils Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision Risk of harm in one-to-one teaching	Official Staff Emails to be used. During Covid 19, pupils will use their parents email account to contact their class teacher or learning support teacher.
Application of sanctions under the school's Code of Behaviour including detention of pupils, confiscation of phones etc.	Self-inflicted harm to pupil Flight risk	Supervision Glass window on door Front door locked
Student teachers undertaking training placement in school	Harm to pupil	Supervision by teacher Garda Vetting procedures adhered to
After school use of school premises by other organisations	Risk of accidental injury	Garda Vetted Child Safeguarding Statement Adequate insurance

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.

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 (revised 2023)*.

Mandatory Template 3: Notification regarding the Board of Management's review of the Child Safeguarding Statement

To: THE SCHOOL COMMUNITY

The Board of Management of Scile N. Mhuir wishes to inform you that:

- The Board of Management's annual review of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement was completed at the Board meeting of 25.9.23 [date].
- This review was conducted in accordance with the "Checklist for Review of the Child Safeguarding Statement" published on the gov.ie website

Signed John Dappleton Date 25th Sept 2023

Chairperson, Board of Management

Signed Brian Ryan Date 25-09-2023

Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

