

CSS 1

Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment

For: **Scoil Mhuire** (School Name)
 At: **Nenagh Road, Borrisokane, Co.Tipperary, E45H928** (School Address)

This school is a: (tick appropriate)

☒ primary ☐ post-primary ☐ special school

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 2025, Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025 and Child Safeguarding: A Guide for Policy, Procedure and Practice, 2nd ed. (Tusla, 2024)*, the board of management has adopted the Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment set out in this document.

The board of management has adopted and will implement fully and without modification the department's *Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025* as part of this overall Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment.

Name of the Designated Liaison Person (DLP):

Sarah Leahy

Name of the Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP/DDLP):

Orla Whelan

In the absence of the DLP, the Deputy DLP shall assume responsibilities of the DLP

Name of Relevant Person

Sarah Leahy

(In schools this person is the DLP)

Relevant Person can be contacted on:

086 0707058
priomhoidesarah@scoilmhuireborrisokane.com

(insert phone & email)

Under the Children First Act 2015 Relevant Person means a person who is appointed by a provider of a relevant service to be the first point of contact in respect of the Child Safeguarding Statement. This person is nominated by the board of management to manage and provide oversight of child protection concerns/allegations of child abuse.

Name of Chairperson of the board of management, or in an ETB school the Chief Executive or their delegate:

Paul Dooley

In the event that both DLP and DDLP are absent and unavailable, and where there is no staff member formally acting in their role, the chairperson of the board of management, or in an ETB school the chief executive or their delegate, assumes the role of DLP.

The board of management recognises that child protection and safeguarding permeate all aspects of school life and must be reflected in all of the school's policies, procedures, practices and activities. In all of these, 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 happening to children and protect members of school personnel from the necessity to take unnecessary risks that may leave themselves open to accusations of child abuse.
- ☑ Develop a practice of openness with parents and encourage parental involvement in the education of their children.
- ☑ Fully respect confidentiality requirements as set out in the *Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025* in dealing with child protection matters.
- ☑ Adhere to the above principles in relation to any vulnerable adult.

Procedures and Measures in Place

Our Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment has been developed in line with requirements under the Children First Act 2015, the *Children First: National Guidance 2017*, and *Child Safeguarding: A Guide for Policy, Procedure and Practice, 2nd ed.* (Tusla, 2024), and the *Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025*. 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 service:

- > **Procedure for the Management of Allegations of Abuse or Misconduct against School Personnel Relating to a Child Availing of Our Service**
 - ~ Where any member of school personnel is the subject of any investigation in respect of any act, omission or circumstance in relation to a child attending the school, the school is required to adhere to the relevant procedures set out in Chapter 7 of the *Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025* and to the relevant agreed disciplinary procedures for school staff which are published on the gov.ie website

- > **Procedure for the Safe Recruitment and Selection of School Personnel to Work With Children**
 - ~ The school is required to adhere to the requirements of the Vetting Act. The selection or recruitment of staff and their suitability to work with children, requires the school to adhere 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 Youth and available on the gov.ie website and as outlined in Chapter 10 of the procedures.
 - ~ A written protocol is in place authorising immediate action for cases which require an employee to be immediately absented from school for child safeguarding reasons.
- > **Procedure for Provision of and Access to Child Safeguarding Training and Information, Including the Identification of the Occurrence of Harm**
 - ~ The school provides information and training to members of school personnel in relation to the identification of the occurrence of harm (as defined in the 2015 Act) as follows:
 - ~ The school has provided each member of school personnel, including any new members of school personnel, (employees and volunteers, board of management members, student teachers and those on work experience) with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment.
 - ~ The school ensures that members of school personnel have availed of relevant training and completed child protection training.
 - ~ The school encourages board of management members to avail of any relevant training and complete child protection training.
 - ~ The board of management ensures that records of all staff and board member child protection training are maintained.
- > **Procedure for the Reporting of Child Protection or Welfare Concerns to Tusla**
 - ~ All members of school personnel are required to adhere to the procedures set out in the *Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025*, in relation to reporting of child protection concerns to Tusla. Mandated reporting applies to all registered teachers and any other mandated person who may be employed by the school, for example a chaplain or nurse. A full list of those people who are mandated persons is set out in Appendix 1 procedures.
- > **Procedure for Maintaining a List of the Persons (if any) in the Relevant Service Who Are Mandated Persons**
 - ~ There is a procedure in place to maintain a list of mandated persons. Schools may on occasion employ additional staff who are mandated by virtue of their profession. This list will include all registered teachers and identify additional employees that are not registered teachers.
- > **Procedure for Appointing a Relevant Person (In schools this person is the DLP)**
 - ~ There is a procedure in place for appointing a relevant person.

The various procedures referred to in this Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment can be accessed via the school's website, the gov.ie website or will be made available on request by the school.

In accordance with the Children First Act 2015, the Addendum to Children First 2019 and 2025, and the *Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025*, the board of management 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.

Note: The procedures and measures in place outlined above, are not intended as exhaustive list. Individual boards of management shall also include in this section such other procedures and measures that are of relevance to the school.

This statement has been published on the school's website or will be made available on request by the school. It has been provided to all members of school personnel, the parents' association (if any), the patron and parents. A copy of this statement and risk assessment will be made available to Tusla and the department if requested.

This Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment will be reviewed annually or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which this statement refers.

Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment

Draft CSS1 style grid covering 55 school activities and areas

This grid identifies potential risks of harm to children and the measures or procedures to mitigate them. It is a school-specific starting point for review by the Board of Management. In a Child Safeguarding Statement, "risk" means risk of harm or abuse to a child rather than ordinary health-and-safety risk.

DLP means Designated Liaison Person. DDLP means Deputy Designated Liaison Person. SEN means special educational needs. CPNS means Child Protection Notification System.

No.	School activity or issue	Potential child-protection risk identified	Measures or procedures to mitigate risk
1	Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils	Risk of inadequate supervision; pupil leaving without permission; collection by an unauthorised person; inappropriate contact with adults or other pupils.	Designated supervision arrangements; clear arrival/collection procedures; authorised collector arrangements; controlled access to school; procedures for late collection; staff informed of custody/collection restrictions where relevant; concerns reported to DLP.
2	Recreation breaks for pupils	Risk of bullying, physical or sexualised behaviour, peer abuse, isolation or inadequate supervision.	Adequate supervision rota; clearly designated play areas; staff visibility; Anti-Bullying procedures; Code of Behaviour; prompt recording/reporting of concerns; particular supervision for vulnerable pupils where needed.
3	Classroom teaching	Risk of inappropriate behaviour by an adult or pupil; bullying; inappropriate physical contact; pupils being exposed to unsuitable material.	Professional boundaries; classroom doors/windows arranged to provide appropriate visibility where possible; Code of Behaviour; appropriate curriculum materials; child-protection procedures; staff training and reporting procedures.
4	One-to-one teaching	Risk arising from an adult being alone with a child; allegations or inappropriate interaction.	One-to-one work in an appropriate, observable setting; door open or vision panel where practicable; other staff aware of session; professional boundaries maintained; session arrangements recorded where appropriate.
5	One-to-one learning support	Risk arising from isolated adult-child contact; inappropriate physical/emotional interaction.	Use designated learning-support area; visibility/accessibility maintained; agreed timetable; staff adhere to professional boundaries and child-protection procedures; concerns reported promptly.
6	One-to-one counselling	Risk associated with private contact, dependency, inappropriate boundaries or disclosure of abuse not being appropriately handled.	Qualified/approved personnel; clear confidentiality limits explained; suitable counselling room with appropriate visibility; records kept securely; safeguarding disclosures reported in accordance with school procedures; referral pathways in place.

No.	School activity or issue	Potential child-protection risk identified	Measures or procedures to mitigate risk
7	Outdoor teaching activities	Risk of pupils becoming separated from group; inadequate supervision; inappropriate contact with adults/public.	Appropriate pupil-to-staff supervision; boundaries and meeting points established; regular head counts; staff awareness of vulnerable pupils; clear emergency and safeguarding procedures.
8	Online teaching and learning remotely	Risk of inappropriate contact, grooming, cyberbullying, exposure to harmful content, unauthorised recording or sharing of images/data.	School-approved platforms/accounts; Acceptable Use Policy; appropriate privacy settings; no inappropriate private staff-pupil communication; parental information where appropriate; online-safety education; reporting/blocking procedures; compliance with data-protection requirements.
9	Sporting activities	Risk of inappropriate physical contact; bullying; changing-room risks; inappropriate coaching relationships; inadequate supervision.	Vetting/recruitment procedures; supervision; safeguarding code for coaches; appropriate physical-contact guidance; changing-room procedures; no inappropriate one-to-one contact; reporting arrangements.
10	School outings	Risk from inadequate supervision, separation from group, contact with members of public or inappropriate adult behaviour.	Advance planning and risk assessment; suitable supervision ratios; attendance/head counts; emergency contacts; clear pupil behaviour expectations; vetted/approved accompanying adults as appropriate; safeguarding procedures communicated.
11	School trips involving overnight stay	Increased risk of inappropriate adult/pupil or peer contact; room-entry issues; bullying; sexualised behaviour; inadequate night supervision.	Detailed trip safeguarding plan; appropriate accommodation/room allocations; defined staff supervision/night-duty arrangements; staff do not share bedrooms with pupils except where specifically required under an agreed care arrangement; Code of Behaviour; clear reporting arrangements.
12	School trips involving foreign travel	Risks associated with overnight stays plus unfamiliar environment, transport, host arrangements and reduced access to normal supports.	Detailed safeguarding and travel plan; appropriate supervision; vetted/approved providers where applicable; parental consent and emergency information; rooming arrangements; agreed contact arrangements; pupils briefed on seeking help; emergency safeguarding contacts.
13	Use of toilet/changing/showers areas	Risk of bullying, sexualised behaviour, inappropriate viewing/contact, invasion of privacy or inappropriate staff presence.	Clear rules and supervision arrangements that respect privacy; staff enter only where necessary/appropriate; separate changing arrangements where required; bullying concerns addressed; no photography/recording; intimate-care procedures followed.

No.	School activity or issue	Potential child-protection risk identified	Measures or procedures to mitigate risk
14	Residential facilities for boarders	Risk of peer abuse, bullying, exploitation, inappropriate staff-pupil relationships, inadequate supervision or unsafe night-time arrangements.	Apply Department boarding safeguarding procedures; trained/vetted staff; residential supervision arrangements; visitor/access controls; clear room-entry and night-duty rules; reporting mechanisms; pupil access to trusted adults; regular review.
15	Annual Sports Day	Risk from large numbers of pupils, parents/visitors, reduced normal routines, photography, unsupervised areas or pupils leaving without permission.	Event supervision plan; controlled access where appropriate; designated pupil areas; clear collection arrangements; visitor/photography guidance; staff supervision rota; safeguarding concerns reported.
16	Fundraising events involving pupils	Risk from interaction with members of public, unsupervised activities, external venues or collection of money door-to-door.	Appropriate adult supervision; avoid unsupervised pupil fundraising; parental consent where required; approved locations/activities; clear safeguarding rules; external volunteers managed appropriately.
17	Use of off-site facilities	Risk from contact with external staff/public, unfamiliar premises, changing facilities or inadequate supervision.	Check suitability of venue/provider; clarify safeguarding responsibilities; maintain school supervision; appropriate changing/toilet procedures; pupil briefing; report concerns under school procedures.
18	School transport, including bus escorts	Risk of bullying, inappropriate contact, pupils being left unattended or collected/dropped at incorrect location.	Approved transport arrangements; appropriate vetting where required; clear role for escorts; seating/supervision arrangements; incident reporting; agreed pickup/drop-off procedures; communication with parents.
19	Children with SEN, including intimate care	Increased vulnerability to abuse; communication difficulties; inappropriate intimate care; unnecessary physical contact.	Individual intimate-care plan; parental involvement; dignity/privacy respected; only trained/authorised personnel provide care; record significant interventions; encourage independence where possible; staff follow safeguarding procedures.
20	Vulnerable adult students, including intimate care	Risk of abuse, exploitation, inappropriate touching or loss of dignity/privacy.	Individual care plan; informed consent/capacity considerations as applicable; trained staff; appropriate professional boundaries; records; privacy and dignity maintained; safeguarding concerns escalated appropriately.
21	Management of challenging behaviour/restraint	Risk of excessive, inappropriate or punitive physical intervention; injury or allegations of abuse.	Positive behaviour approaches first; physical intervention only when necessary, proportionate and permitted under relevant procedures; trained staff where appropriate; intervention recorded/reported; parents informed as appropriate; post-incident review.

No.	School activity or issue	Potential child-protection risk identified	Measures or procedures to mitigate risk
22	Provision of food and drink	Safeguarding risk where dietary withholding, coercion, discriminatory treatment or inappropriate adult/pupil interactions occur.	Clear meal supervision; information on individual dietary/medical needs; no use of food as inappropriate punishment; respectful assistance; concerns about neglect or food deprivation reported.
23	Administration of medicine	Risk of inappropriate administration, deliberate withholding or misuse of medication; inappropriate contact when assisting pupil.	Written medication policy; parental instructions/authorisation; appropriately trained/designated staff; secure storage; administration records; individual healthcare plan where appropriate; safeguarding concerns reported.
24	Administration of First Aid	Risk arising from physical contact, removal of clothing or isolated adult-child contact.	First-aid policy; trained personnel; privacy balanced with safeguarding; another person present/accessible where practicable; explain procedures to pupil; treatment recorded; parents informed as appropriate.
25	SPHE, RSE and Stay Safe	Risk of inappropriate curriculum delivery, unsuitable materials, insensitive handling of disclosures or pupils being distressed.	Follow approved curriculum/programmes; suitably trained teachers; age/developmentally appropriate content; safe classroom environment; disclosures handled under child-protection procedures; communicate with parents as required.
26	Prevention/dealing with bullying	Risk of physical, emotional, sexual, discriminatory or online bullying and failure to respond appropriately.	Implement current anti-bullying procedures/policy; reporting routes for pupils; supervision; records and follow-up; support for affected pupils; parental engagement; address online and identity-based bullying.
27	Training of school personnel in child protection	Risk that staff fail to recognise, respond to or report concerns correctly.	Induction and regular child-protection training; staff familiar with DLP/DDLP and reporting obligations; access to current procedures; Children First training where applicable; records of training maintained.
28	External personnel supplementing curriculum	Risk from unsupervised access, unsuitable personnel, inappropriate material or conduct.	Prior approval; vetting where applicable; check credentials/suitability; staff supervision; visitors informed of safeguarding expectations; no inappropriate private pupil contact.
29	External personnel supporting sport/extra-curricular activities	Risk of inappropriate coaching relationship, physical contact, grooming or unsupervised access.	Appropriate vetting; safeguarding code; school oversight; professional boundaries; appropriate changing-room arrangements; concerns reported to DLP.
30	Pupils with specific vulnerabilities/needs	Increased risk of abuse, exploitation, bullying or inability to disclose concerns.	Identify support needs; individual plans where appropriate; trusted-adult arrangements; enhanced supervision where justified; accessible reporting methods; staff awareness without unnecessary disclosure of confidential information.

No.	School activity or issue	Potential child-protection risk identified	Measures or procedures to mitigate risk
31	Pupils from ethnic minorities/migrant backgrounds	Risk of racist bullying, discrimination, isolation, exploitation or communication barriers preventing disclosure.	Anti-racism/equality measures; inclusive curriculum; accessible reporting; interpreter/communication support where necessary; prompt response to racist incidents; staff awareness and support.
32	Members of the Traveller community	Risk of discriminatory or racist bullying, exclusion, stereotyping or reduced confidence in reporting concerns.	Inclusive school culture; anti-bullying and equality procedures; challenge discriminatory behaviour; accessible support/reporting; respectful family engagement.
33	LGBT children	Risk of homophobic/transphobic bullying, harassment, outing, discrimination or emotional abuse.	Inclusive anti-bullying procedures; respectful language; confidential support; staff intervention in discriminatory behaviour; pupil access to trusted adults; information shared only where appropriate.
34	Pupils perceived to be LGBT	Risk of bullying or harassment based on perceived sexual orientation/gender identity regardless of actual identity.	Same safeguards as above; challenge identity-based bullying; confidential support; monitor peer interactions; apply anti-bullying procedures consistently.
35	Pupils of minority religious faiths	Risk of discriminatory bullying, exclusion, harassment or coercion.	Respect religious diversity; anti-bullying/equality procedures; reasonable accommodation where appropriate; staff challenge discriminatory behaviour; provide appropriate alternatives where required.
36	Children in care	Potential increased vulnerability, stigma, confidentiality breaches or inappropriate sharing of personal circumstances.	Designated supports; confidentiality/need-to-know approach; liaison with relevant professionals/guardians where appropriate; staff awareness of safeguarding needs; concerns reported promptly.
37	Children on Tusla CPNS	Serious safeguarding risk and risk from inappropriate disclosure of highly sensitive child-protection information.	Strictly follow Department/Tusla procedures; DLP manages information; secure records; information shared only on an authorised need-to-know basis; relevant protections/support plans implemented.
38	Children with medical needs	Increased dependency on adults may create vulnerability; risk of neglect of required care or inappropriate physical assistance.	Individual healthcare/care plan; trained staff; clear responsibilities; professional boundaries; privacy/dignity; administration records; safeguarding concerns reported.
39	Recruitment of teachers, SNAs, caretakers, secretaries, cleaners, coaches etc.	Risk of unsuitable adults gaining access to children.	Recruitment procedures; Garda vetting as legally/applicably required; reference/qualification checks; safeguarding questions at recruitment; induction; probation/supervision; Code of Conduct and child-protection training.

No.	School activity or issue	Potential child-protection risk identified	Measures or procedures to mitigate risk
40	External tutors/guest speakers	Risk of unsuitable content, inappropriate interaction or unsupervised pupil access.	Prior approval and suitability checks; safeguarding expectations communicated; appropriate school supervision; vetting where required; content reviewed/approved where appropriate.
41	Volunteers/parents in school activities	Risk of inappropriate or unsupervised contact with pupils.	Define role clearly; Garda vetting where required; supervision; volunteer code/guidance; volunteers do not assume unauthorised one-to-one responsibility; concerns reported.
42	Visitors/contractors during school hours	Risk of unauthorised contact with pupils or access to pupil areas.	Sign-in/out procedures; identification/visitor badges where used; restricted access; supervision/escort as appropriate; contractors separated from pupils where possible; safeguarding expectations communicated.
43	Visitors/contractors during after-school activities	Risk arising from reduced staffing and shared premises.	Controlled access; clear responsibility for pupils; sign-in/out procedures; supervise contractor access; separate work areas where possible; communicate safeguarding requirements.
44	Religious ceremonies/instruction external to school	Risk from external adults/venues, inadequate supervision, inappropriate conduct or discriminatory treatment.	Parental consent/notification where required; appropriate school supervision; assess external arrangements; clarify safeguarding responsibilities; suitable transport/collection arrangements; alternatives provided where appropriate.
45	ICT/social media use by pupils	Risk of grooming, cyberbullying, sexting/image sharing, harmful content, harassment or inappropriate pupil/staff communication.	Acceptable Use Policy; filtering/monitoring where appropriate; online-safety education; approved communication systems; reporting/blocking procedures; staff professional boundaries; response procedures for harmful content.
46	Sanctions under Code of Behaviour, including detention/phone confiscation	Risk of a pupil being isolated with an adult, humiliation, excessive punishment, inappropriate searching/access to private material or late dismissal.	Sanctions applied consistently under approved Code; detention supervised in suitable visible area; parents informed where appropriate; safe arrangements for late dismissal; phone/device procedures respect privacy; safeguarding concerns reported.
47	Students undertaking work experience in the school	Risk of inappropriate interaction between student and younger pupils; unclear safeguarding responsibilities.	Induction; supervision; define permitted duties; no unsupervised responsibility for pupils unless properly authorised; confidentiality/professional-boundary guidance; vetting requirements considered where applicable.
48	School pupils undertaking work experience elsewhere	Risk of abuse, harassment, exploitation or inappropriate adult contact at placement.	Vet/assess placement arrangements; parental consent; employer safeguarding information; pupil briefed on boundaries/reporting; named school contact; monitoring/check-ins; concerns acted upon immediately.

No.	School activity or issue	Potential child-protection risk identified	Measures or procedures to mitigate risk
49	Student teachers on placement	Risk from unsupervised access, inappropriate relationships or lack of familiarity with school procedures.	Placement agreements; vetting through appropriate arrangements; induction into child-protection procedures; supervising teacher; professional boundaries; concerns reported through DLP.
50	Video/photography/media recording school events	Risk of inappropriate images, identification/location of vulnerable pupils, unauthorised publication or images being taken in private settings.	School photography/media policy; consent arrangements; approved devices/storage; no images in toilets/changing areas; control publication and identifying information; secure deletion/retention procedures; visitor guidance.
51	After-school use of premises by other organisations	Risk of unclear safeguarding responsibility, inappropriate adults gaining access to pupils or mixing of groups.	Written letting/use agreement; external organisation responsible for its safeguarding compliance; appropriate child safeguarding statement where required; separate access where possible; clarify supervision and handover arrangements.
52	Use of premises by other organisations during school day	Risk of external adults having access to pupils during school activities.	Segregate areas where possible; controlled access; sign-in procedures; school supervises pupil areas; written agreement setting out safeguarding responsibilities; report concerns immediately.
53	Breakfast club	Risk from early arrival, reduced staffing, volunteers, food-related dependency or inadequate handover to school.	Attendance register; clear supervision and staffing; approved/vetted personnel where required; controlled access; handover arrangements; dietary/medical information available; safeguarding procedures apply.
54	Homework club/evening study	Risk from reduced staffing, one-to-one contact, late collection, pupils leaving unsupervised or inappropriate adult/pupil interaction.	Attendance records; appropriate supervision; visible study areas; agreed collection/departure procedures; late-collection arrangements; staff professional boundaries; authorised personnel only.
55	Children attending boarding schools/living away from home	Increased risk of isolation, peer abuse, bullying, grooming, inappropriate adult relationships, sexualised behaviour or difficulty accessing family/supports.	Implement boarding-specific child-protection procedures; trained/vetted residential personnel; clear supervision and room-access rules; confidential reporting routes; regular welfare checks; contact with parents/guardians; anti-bullying measures; prompt reporting of safeguarding concerns.

Examples of Activities, Risks and Procedures

The examples listed in this document are provided to assist schools in undertaking their risk assessment under the Children First Act, 2015. Schools should note that this list of examples is not intended to be exhaustive, and that the inclusion of an example of a policy or procedure on these lists does not make it mandatory. It is the responsibility of each school to ensure, as far as possible, that any other risks and procedures that are relevant to its own particular circumstances are identified and specified in the written risk assessment and that adequate procedures are in place to address all risks identified.

It is acknowledged that schools already have in place a range of policies, practices and procedures to mitigate the risk of harm to children while they are participating in the activities of the school and that some school activities will carry low or minimal risks of harm compared to others. In the context of the risk assessment that must be undertaken by schools, the Children First Act, 2015 refers to risk as “any potential for harm”.

Therefore, it is important that, as part of its risk assessment process, each school lists and reviews all of its various activities (which shall include identifying those that may carry low risk of harm as well as those that carry higher risks of harm). Doing so will help the school to:

- > Identify, as required under the Children First Act, 2015, any risks of harm that may exist in respect of the school's activities.
- > Identify and assess the adequacy of the various procedures already in place to manage those risks of harm.
- > Identify and put in place any such additional procedures as are considered necessary to manage any risk identified.

Online Safety

The Addendum to Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children 2017 published in January 2019 clarifies that organisations providing relevant services to children should consider the specific issue of online safety when carrying out their risk assessment and preparing their Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment.

The Guidance on Continuity of Schooling for primary and post-primary schools (April 2020) advises of the importance of teachers maintaining the safe and ethical use of the internet during distance learning and assisting parents and guardians to be aware of their role also. Schools should ensure that their Acceptable Use Policy (AUP) informs and guides remote or distance learning activity.

Risk in the context of this Child Safeguarding Statement and 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 the Children First Act 2015: “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.

Examples of School Activities which schools may draw from, as appropriate

1. Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils
2. Recreation breaks for pupils
3. Classroom teaching
4. One-to-one teaching
5. One-to-one learning support
6. One-to-one counselling
7. Outdoor teaching activities
8. Online teaching and learning remotely
9. Sporting activities
10. School outings
11. School trips involving overnight stay
12. School trips involving foreign travel
13. Use of toilet/changing/shower areas in schools
14. Provision of residential facilities for boarders
15. Annual Sports Day
16. Fundraising events involving pupils
17. Use of off-site facilities for school activities
18. School transport arrangements including use of bus escorts
19. Care of children with special educational needs, including intimate care where needed
20. Care of any vulnerable adult students, including intimate care where needed
21. Management of challenging behaviour amongst pupils, including appropriate use of restraint where required
22. Management of provision of food and drink
23. Administration of medicine
24. Administration of First Aid
25. Curricular provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe
26. Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst pupils
27. Training of school personnel in child protection matters
28. Use of external personnel to supplement curriculum
29. Use of external personnel to support sports and other extra-curricular activities
30. Care of pupils with specific vulnerabilities/needs
31. Pupils from ethnic minorities/migrants
32. Members of the Traveller community

33. Lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender (LGBT) children
34. Pupils perceived to be LGBT
35. Pupils of minority religious faiths
36. Children in care
37. Children on Tusla's Child Protection Notification System (CPNS)
38. Children with medical needs
39. Recruitment of school personnel including teachers/SNAs, caretakers/secretaries/cleaners and sport coaches
40. External Tutors/Guest Speakers
41. Volunteers/Parents in school activities
42. Visitors/contractors present in school during school hours
43. Visitors/contractors present during after-school activities
44. Participation by pupils in religious ceremonies/religious instruction external to the school
45. Use of Information and Communication Technology by pupils in school, including social media
46. Application of sanctions under the school's Code of Behaviour including detention of pupils, confiscation of phones etc.
47. Students participating in work experience in the school
48. Students from the school participating in work experience elsewhere
49. Student teachers undertaking training placement in school
50. Use of video/photography/other media to record school events
51. After-school use of school premises by other organisations
52. Use of school premises by other organisations during school day
53. Breakfast club
54. Homework club/evening study
55. Children attending boarding schools or living away from home

Examples of Risks of Harm

1. Risk of harm not being recognised by school personnel
2. Risk of harm not being reported properly and promptly by members of school personnel
3. Risk of harm where members of school personnel have not received appropriate training
4. Risk of child being harmed in the school by a member of school personnel
5. Risk of child being harmed in the school by another child
6. Risk of child being harmed in the school by a volunteer or visitor to the school

7. Risk of child being harmed by a member of school personnel, a member of staff of another organisation or other person while a child is participating in out-of-school activities, e.g. school trip, swimming lessons
8. Risk of harm due to inappropriate use of online remote teaching and learning communication platform, such as an uninvited person accessing the lesson link, students being left unsupervised for long periods of time in breakout rooms
9. Risk of harm due to bullying of a child
10. Risk of harm due to racism
11. Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children in school
12. Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children while attending out-of-school activities
13. Risk of harm due to inappropriate relationship/communications between a child and another child or adult
14. Risk of harm due to children inappropriately accessing/using computers, social media, phones and other devices while at school
15. Risk of harm to children with special educational needs who have particular vulnerabilities, including medical vulnerabilities
16. Risk of harm to child while a child is receiving intimate care
17. Risk of harm due to inadequate code of behaviour
18. Risk of harm in one-to-one teaching, counselling, coaching situations
19. Risk of harm caused by a member of school personnel communicating with pupils in an inappropriate manner via social media, texting, digital device, or other manner
20. Risk of harm caused by a member of school personnel accessing/circulating inappropriate material via social media, texting, digital device or other manner
21. Risks where children are living away from home or attending boarding facilities

These are examples of policies and procedures that may be used to address Risks of Harm

1. All school personnel are provided with a copy of the school's *Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment*
2. The *Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025* are made available to all school personnel
3. School personnel are required to adhere to the *Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025* and all registered teaching staff are required to adhere to the *Children First Act 2015* as well as supporting the continued implementation of the best practice guidance set out in *Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children 2017* and its addenda, including the *Addendum to Children First 2019* and *2025*
4. A written protocol is in place authorising immediate action for cases which require an employee to be immediately absented from school for child safeguarding reasons
5. The school implements in full the Stay Safe Programme
6. The school implements in full the Social, Personal, and Health Education (SPHE) curriculum

7. The school implements in full the Wellbeing Programme at Junior Cycle
8. School authorities have a code of behaviour and an anti-bullying policy in place in accordance with the department's "Bí Cineálta" procedures to prevent and address bullying in schools and as outlined in *Circular 55/2024*
9. The school has complied with the *Understanding Behaviours of Concern and Responding to Crisis Situations* developed by the Department of Education and Youth to address uncertainty for staff on how to respond when facing crisis situations where there are concerns regarding physical safety
10. The school undertakes anti-racism awareness initiatives
11. The school has a yard/playground supervision policy to ensure appropriate supervision of children during assembly, dismissal and breaks and in respect of specific areas such as toilets, changing rooms etc.
12. The school has in place a policy and clear procedures in respect of school outings
13. The school has a health and safety policy
14. The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation
15. The school adheres to the relevant Department of Education and Youth circulars in respect of recruitment
16. The school has a code of conduct for school personnel (teaching and non-teaching staff)
17. The school complies with the agreed disciplinary procedures for teaching staff
18. The school has a special educational needs policy
19. The school has an intimate care policy/plan in respect of students who require such care
20. The school has in place a policy and procedures for the administration of medication to pupils
21. The school has provided each member of school staff with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment
22. The school ensures all new personnel are provided with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment
23. The school encourages personnel to avail of relevant training
24. The school encourages board of management members to avail of relevant training
25. The school maintains records of all personnel and board member training
26. The school has in place a policy and procedures for the administration of First Aid
27. The school has in place a code of behaviour for pupils
28. The school has an Acceptable Use Policy in place, to include provision for online teaching and learning remotely, and has communicated this policy to parents
29. The school has in place a policy governing the use of smartphones and tablet devices in the school by pupils as per *Circular 38/2018* and the national guidelines
30. The school has in place a Critical Incident Management Plan
31. The school has in place a Home School Liaison policy and related procedures

32. The school has in place a policy and procedures for the use of external persons to supplement delivery of the curriculum
33. The school has in place a policy and procedures for the use of external sports coaches
34. The school has in place a policy and clear procedures for one-to-one teaching activities
35. The school has in place a policy and procedures for one-to-one counselling
36. The school has in place a policy and procedures in respect of student teacher placements
37. The school has in place a policy and procedures in respect of pupils undertaking work experience in the school
38. The school has in place a policy and procedures in respect of pupils of the school undertaking work experience in external organisations
39. The school has in place a policy in relation to assisting members of school personnel in respect of disclosures of retrospective abuse
40. The school has considered the questions in *Appendix 1 of the Child Protection and Safeguarding Procedures for Boarding Facilities Associated with Recognised Schools 2023* and implemented the necessary risk mitigation measures

In accordance with Section 11 of the Children First Act 2015 and with the requirements of Chapter 9 of the *Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025*, the following is the written Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment.

In undertaking this Child Safeguarding Statement and 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 Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment was reviewed by the board of management on 08/10/2026 (most recent review date).

Signed: * Paul J. O'Donoghue
Chairperson of the board of management

Date: 8.10.2026

Signed: * Sarah Leahy
Principal/Secretary to the board of management

Date: 8/10/2026

This Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment is expected to be reviewed again on 08/10/2027 (expected review date).

* Document to be printed and signed with original signatures