

Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment Template

Child Safeguarding Statement

Scoil 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 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 Brendan Naughton
- 3 The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is Una Mitchell
- 4 The Relevant Person is Brendan Naughton
- 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](https://www.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](https://www.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](https://www.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](https://www.gov.ie) website or will be made available on request by the school.

Note: The above is not intended as an exhaustive list. Individual Boards of Management shall also include in this section such other procedures/measures that are of relevance to the school in question.

- 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: November 2023

This Child Safeguarding Statement was reviewed by the Board of Management: November 2024, October 2025.

Martin Gillick

Chairperson of Board of Management

Brendan Naughton

Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

October 22nd 2025.

Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment

Written Assessment of Risk of Scoil 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 PostPrimary Schools (revised 2023)*, the following is the Written Risk Assessment of Scoil Mhuire.

1. List of school activities	2. The school has identified the following risk of harm in respect of its activities –	3. The school has the following procedures in place to address the risks of harm identified in this assessment -
Training of school personnel in Child Protection matters	Harm not recognised or reported promptly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All school personnel are provided with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement • The Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools (revised 2023) are made available to all school personnel • School Personnel are required to adhere to the Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools (revised 2023) and all registered teaching staff are required to adhere to the Children First Act 2015 and its Addendum (2019) • Encourages staff to avail of relevant training • Encourages board of management members to avail of relevant training • Maintains records of all staff and board member training

Curricular provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe.	Non-teaching of same	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> School implements SPHE, RSE Stay Safe in full
<p>Care of pupils with specific vulnerabilities/ need such as</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 Tusla's Child Protection Notification System (CPNS) -Children with medical needs 	Bullying, racism, discrimination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Child Safeguarding Statement is made available to all staff DLP responsible for informing all new teachers and ancillary staff of the Child Safeguarding procedures for the school The school has an anti-bullying policy which adheres to the requirements of Department's Anti Bullying Procedures Code of behaviour Administration of medicine policy Health and Safety policy First aid policy School has a Toileting/Intimate care needs procedure School has One – to –one teaching procedure School has a Changing for games/PE/Swimming procedure
Pupils arriving early to school	<p>Harm from older pupils, unknown adults on the school premises</p> <p>Bullying</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The school informs the bus providers and parents in writing of the risk to child safety due to children being un-supervised on yard in the early morning. The school informs the parents of their responsibility in this regard.

Dismissal of pupils		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The school informs parents of their responsibility to collect children at the appointed school dismissal time. • The school has a Bullying policy which fully adheres to the requirements of the Department's Anti – Bullying Procedures for Primary and Post Primary schools • School Code of behaviour • Health and Safety policy
Entry and Exit doors	Harm from unknown adults entering building if doors are inadvertently left open	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All staff alerted to the possible danger • Policy of last staff member entering the building to lock the door after him/her
Recreation breaks for children	Harm from other pupils Bullying	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child safeguarding statement in place • The school has a supervision policy to ensure appropriate supervision of children during breaks. • Bullying policy • Code of behaviour • Health and Safety policy • First aid policy • Toileting procedures in place
Sporting activities	Transporting pupils to and from games Bullying	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child safeguarding statement in place • Garda vetting procedures in place in line with Garda vetting circular 0031/2016 • Child safeguarding statement made available to all external coaches • Changing for games/PE/Swimming procedure in place • First aid policy • Health and safety policy • Code of behaviour • Bullying policy

Sports coaches/visitors to the school	Harm by visitor to the school	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Garda vetting procedures in place in line with Garda vetting circular 0031/2016 • Child safeguarding statement made available to all external coaches. • Teachers to remain with the external coach/visitor and the children • Changing for games/PE/ Swimming procedure in place • Code of behaviour policy • Bullying policy • Health and safety policy • First Aid policy
School tours/outing/trips	Bullying/cyber bullying	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child safeguarding statement • Policy on tours/outing/trips • Code of behaviour • Bullying policy • Health and Safety policy • Supervision policy • School rule of no devices on outings
Outdoor teaching activities	Bullying/cyber bullying	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child safeguarding statement • Code of behaviour • Bullying policy • Health and Safety policy • Supervision policy
Students participating in work experience		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Garda vetting procedures in place in line with Garda vetting circular 0031/2016 • Student participating in work experience works under the supervision of the class teacher to whom he/she is assigned

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child safeguarding statement made available to student • Code of behaviour made available to students on work experience • Anti-bullying policy made available to student • Health and Safety policy made available to student • Supervision policy made available to student • First aid policy made available to student • ICT policy made available to the student • Student made aware of the school's Administration of Medicine policy of the school • Student made aware of the following procedures on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One – to - one teaching • Changing for games/PE/ Swimming • Children travelling in staff cars
Classroom teaching	Risk of teachers/SNAS not aware of or applying school policies.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All teachers registered with the Teaching Council and subject to the Professional code of Conduct as outlined by the Teaching Council • School adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting circular 0031/2016 • All teachers adhere to the following policies of the school: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child safeguarding statement • Code of behaviour • Anti- bullying policy • Health and safety policy • Supervision policy

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First Aid policy • Administration of Medicine policy • School implements the full SPHE, RSE and Stay Safe policies • School complies with the agreed disciplinary procedures for teaching staff • School has in place an ICT policy in respect of usage of ICT by pupils • School has in place a Critical Incident Management plan • School has in place a mobile phone policy in respect of the usage of mobile phones by pupils • School has in place procedures for visitors to the classroom, students on work placement and student teacher placements • Teachers adhere to the following procedures on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One – to – one teaching • Changing for games/PE/ Swimming • Children travelling in staff cars • Visitors /Guest speakers • Communication
One – to – one teaching	Lack of awareness from staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child safeguarding statement • The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting circular 0031/2016 • One – to – one teaching procedure in place in school
Toileting		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child safeguarding statement • The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting circular 0031/2016

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Toileting procedure in place for children with assisted toileting/intimate care needs - made available to all staff • Supervision procedure in place
Annual Sports day		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child safeguarding statement in place and made available to all staff and volunteers • The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting circular 0031/2016 • Health and Safety policy • Supervision policy • Bullying Policy • Code of Behaviour policy • First Aid policy • Mobile phone policy • All staff and volunteers adhere to the following school procedures on: • Changing for games/PE/ Swimming • Children travelling in staff cars
School transport arrangements including use of Bus Escorts		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child safeguarding statement • The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting circular 0031/2016 • Administration of medication policy – includes specific training for bus escorts where administration of medicine may be required
Administration of Medication		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child safeguarding statement • Administration of medication policy • Specific Staff training in administration of medication
Administration of First Aid		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child safeguarding statement • First Aid policy

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All staff trained in First Aid on a rolling two year basis – record of staff training to be retained in the First Aid file in the admin office
Use of Information +Communication Technology by pupils in school		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child safeguarding statement • The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting circular 0031/2016 • ICT policy • Acceptable use agreement • Unsuitable websites blocked • “Technology free” procedure for tours/outing/trips • Code of behaviour • Bullying policy
Use of video/photography/other media to record school events		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child safeguarding statement • The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting circular 0031/2016 • ICT acceptable use policy in place • Parental opt out for pupils - offered on enrolment • School guideline of “technology free” policy applied to all tours/outings and trips • Code of behaviour • Bullying policy
Parents using the parent room		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Officers of the Parents Association to be Garda vetted • Officers of the Parents Association to sign the visitors book at the admin office • All other parents to sign the visitors book in the parents’ room

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Only Staff Toilet adjacent to parent room to be used
Application of sanctions under the school's Code of Behaviour including detention of pupils		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child safeguarding statement • All teachers are registered with the Teaching Council and subject to the Code of Professional Conduct • Code of behaviour – including stepped approach in school's conduct and application record • Communication with pupils' procedure in place • Bullying policy • Mobile phone policy • The school complies with the agreed DES disciplinary procedures for teaching staff

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)*

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.