CSS1

Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment

For:	**Scoil Mhuire**	*(School Name)*
At:	**Kilcruttin, Tullamore, Co. Offaly** **R35K250**	*(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):

Brendan Naughton

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

Natalie Kelly Una Mitchell – Acting DDLP

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

Name of Relevant Person

Brendan Naughton

(In schools this person is the DLP)

Relevant Person can be contacted on:

0579321222	*principal@scoilmhuiretullamore.ie*

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:

Joe Coleman

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 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

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
1.	Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children in school Risk of harm where legal/other arrangements in place for collection of pupils	The school has a supervision policy to ensure appropriate supervision of children during school day. School maintains a list of pupils for whom such arrangements are in place. Recorded on Aladdin and communicated with staff.
2.	Recreation breaks for pupils	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children in school.	The school has a supervision policy to ensure appropriate supervision of children during school day.
3.	Classroom teaching	Risk of child being harmed in the school by a member of school personnel	All school personnel are provided with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment. The school adheres to the relevant Department of Education and Youth circulars in respect of recruitment.
4.	One to one teaching/learning support	Risk of harm in one-to-one teaching, counselling, coaching situations	The school adheres to the relevant Department of Education and Youth circulars in respect of recruitment. The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation. Environment – visibility and open door teaching in small settings.

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			Two members of staff present where necessary e.g in quiet room.
5.	One to one counselling	Risk of harm in one-to-one teaching, counselling, coaching situations	The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation. Environment – visibility and open door teaching in small settings.
7.	Online teaching and learning remotely	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.	Internet Acceptable Usage Policy to be updated.

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
14.	School transport arrangements including use of bus escorts	Risk of child being harmed in the school by a member of school personnel	The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation. The school directs personnel to avail of relevant training and maintains a record of attendance.
15.	Care of children with special educational needs, including intimate care where needed	Risk of child being harmed in the school by a member of school personnel	School draws up individual care plan in consultation with parents/guardians and approved by board of management.
17.	Administration of first aid/medicine	Risk of child being harmed in the school by a member of school personnel.	School maintains a list of pupils with

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
			health needs and shares with all staff. Staff receive First Aid Training every 2 years.
19.	Curricular provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe	Risk of harm due to bullying of a child. Risk of child being harmed in the school by another child. Risk of harm due to child not being provided with the opportunity to develop self protection skills.	School implements in full the Social, Personal, and Health Education (SPHE) curriculum. School implements in full the Stay Safe Programme. School has a Code of Behaviour and an anti bullying policy in place in accordance with Bí Cinealta Procedures to prevent and address bullying.
20.	Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst pupils	Risk of harm due to bullying of a child.	School has a Code of Behaviour and Bí Cineálta Procedure in place to prevent and address bullying.
21.	Training of school personnel in child protection matters	Risk of harm where members of school personnel have not received appropriate training.	Staff contribute to review of Child Safeguarding and Risk Assessment. School ensure staff have access to relevant training and maintains log of attendance.
22.	Use of external personnel to supplement curriculum	Risk of harm not being recognised by school personnel	All personnel are provided with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
23.	Use of external personnel to support sports and other extra-curricular activities	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 activities, e.g. football coaching, swimming lessons	School staff remain with classes whilst visiting coaches work with children. The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation.
29.	Recruitment of school personnel including teachers/SNAs, caretakers/secretaries/cleaners and sport coaches	Risk of child being harmed by a member of school personnel	The school adheres to the relevant Department of Education and Youth circulars in respect of recruitment.
30.	Visitors/contractors present in the school during school hours/activities	Risk of child being harmed in the school by a volunteer or visitor to the school	Contractors to complete work after school where possible. Visitors/contractors during the school day accompanied by member of staff.
31.	Use of digital technologies by pupils and staff in the school, including internet access and use of social media	Risk of harm due to children inappropriately accessing/using computers, social media, phones and other devices while at school	Internet Acceptable Usage Policy to be updated.
33.	Students participating in work experience in the school		The school ensures all personnel are provided with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment. School ensures vetting is provided by

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
			students' base schools.
35.	Use of video/photography/other media to record school events	Risk of harm caused by a member of school personnel accessing/circulating inappropriate material via social media, texting, digital device or other manner	School has discontinued social media usage to mitigate risk.
36.	Use of PE hall by Grovelands for Christmas shows & Graduation	Risk of child being harmed in the school by a volunteer or visitor to the school	Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessments shared between both organisations.

Additional pages may be added as required

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 on 03/11/26. (*most recent review date)*

Signed:*	Joseph Coleman	**Date**: 03/11/26

Chairperson of the board of management

Signed:*	Brendan Naughton	**Date**: 03/11/26

Principal/Secretary to the board of management

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

** Document to be printed and signed with original signatures*

Appendix - Location of copies of the Child Protection Procedures and Children First Guidance

This may be in the form of specifying the online location for the procedures (Department of Education and Youth website www.gov.ie/childprotectionschools and/or the school website), providing a link to the Children First National Guidance 2017 Children_First_National_Guidance_2017.pdf, and stating the number and location of hard copies of these procedures available in the school.

Location of Child Protection Procedures: x 1 copy in Principal's office and x1 copy in boardroom.

www.gov.ie/childprotectionschools

Children First National Guidance:

Children_First_National_Guidance_2017.pdf