

CSS1

Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment

For:	Scoil Mhuire	(School Name)
At:	Lisroyne, Strokestown, Co. Roscommon.	(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):

Ms Julie O' Donoghue

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

Ms. Mairéad Glynn

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

Name of Relevant Person

Ms. Julie O' Donoghue

(In schools this person is the DLP)

Relevant Person can be contacted on:

071 9633223

jodonoghue@scoilmhuiestrokestown.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:

Mr. Pdraig O'Beirne

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 departure of pupils	-Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children in school. -Risk of harm not being reported properly and promptly by members of school personnel.	✓The school ensures appropriate supervision of pupils when pupils arrive to school and when departing the school.
2.	Breaktime and lunchtime for pupils	-Risk of child being harmed in school by another child. -Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children in school.	✓School has 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. ✓The school ensures appropriate supervision of pupils during break times and lunch times.
3.	Classroom teaching	-Risk of harm where members of school personnel have not received appropriate training.	✓All school personnel are provided with a copy of the school's <i>Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment</i>. ✓The <i>Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025</i> are made available to all school personnel. ✓The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation. ✓The school adheres to the relevant Department of Education and Youth circulars in respect of recruitment.
4.	One-to-one teaching, learning support and counselling.	-Risk of harm in one-to-one teaching, counselling, coaching situations.	✓The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation.

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
			✓ Procedures in place for one-to-one teaching, learning support and counselling.
5.	Outdoor teaching activities, Sport Day	-Risk of child being harmed in school by another child.	✓ School has 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. ✓ Procedures in place for administering First Aid.
6.	Online teaching and learning remotely	-Risk of harm due to inappropriate use of online remote teaching and learning communication platform such as uninvited person accessing the lesson link, students being left unsupervised for long periods of time in breakout rooms.	✓ School implements in full the Social, Personal and Health Education (SPHE) curriculum and the Wellbeing programme. ✓ The school has an Acceptable Use Policy in place to include the provision for online teaching and learning remotely.
7.	Sporting activities	-Risk of child being harmed by another child, member of school personnel, member of staff from external organisation.	✓ The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation. ✓ Code of behaviour in place for all students
8.	School outings	-Risk of child being harmed by another child, member of school personnel, member of staff from external organisation.	✓ The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation. ✓ Code of behaviour policy in place for all students.

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
9.	School trips involving overnight stay/foreign travel	-Risk of child being harmed by a member of school personnel, a member of staff of another organisation or another person while child participating in out of school activities e.g. school trip.	✓ The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation. ✓ Garda-vetted staff accompany pupils on all school trips. Staff-student ratios meet or exceed Department guidelines. ✓ Emergency contact details for parents and school management are available to staff. ✓ Sleeping arrangements ensure student safety. Students are briefed on behaviour expectations and safeguarding procedures. ✓ External providers (activity centres, transport companies) are risk-assessed where necessary.
10.	Use of Toilet, changing and shower areas in school	-Risk of child being harmed by another child.	✓ The school ensures appropriate supervision of pupils in areas such as toilets and changing rooms. ✓ Acceptable Use Policy in place for all pupils.
11.	Fundraising events involving students	-Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children.	✓ Procedures in place to ensure appropriate supervision of all pupils.
12.	Use of off-site facilities for school activities	-Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children in school.	✓ The school ensures appropriate supervision of pupils in off-site facilities.
13.	School transport arrangements including a bus escort	-Risk of child being harmed by another child.	✓ The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation.

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
			✓ School has a Code of Behaviour policy in place.
14	- Care of children with special educational needs, including intimate care when needed. - Care of pupils with specific vulnerabilities/needs	-Risk of harm to children with special educational needs who have particular vulnerabilities including medical vulnerabilities.	✓ The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation.
15	Management of challenging behaviour amongst pupils, including appropriate use of restraint where required	- Challenging behaviour may result in harm to the student or others.	✓ The school has complied with the <i>Understanding Behaviours of Concern and Responding to Crisis Situations</i> 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.
17	Administration of medicine and administration of First Aid	-Risk of harm where members of school personnel have not received appropriate training.	✓ Administration of medication policy in place, staff members qualified in First Aid.
18	Curricular provision in respect of SPHE/RSE	-Risk of harm due to bullying of a child. -Risk of child being harmed by another child in the school.	✓ The school implements in full the Social, Personal and Health Education (SPHE) curriculum. ✓ School has 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.

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
19	Prevention & dealing with bullying amongst pupils	-Risk of harm due to bullying of a child. -Risk of child being harmed in the school by another child.	✓ School has 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. ✓ The school implements in full the Social, Personal and Health Education (SPHE) curriculum. ✓ The school implements in full the Wellbeing Programme.
20	Training of School personnel in child protection procedures	-Risk of harm not being recognised by school personnel.	✓ All school personnel are provided with a copy of the school's <i>Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment</i>. ✓ The <i>Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025</i> are made available to all school personnel. ✓ School personnel are required to adhere to the <i>Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025</i> and all registered teaching staff are required to adhere to the <i>Children First Act 2015</i> as well as supporting the continued implementation of the best practice guidance set out in <i>Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children 2017</i> and its addenda, including the <i>Addendum to Children First 2019 and 2025</i>. ✓ All personnel avail of relevant training e.g. Whole Staff Training day in December 26.

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
			✓ The school facilitates board members to avail of relevant training. ✓ The school maintains records of all personnel and board member training
21	• Use of external personnel to supplement curriculum	-Risk of child being harmed in the school by a volunteer or visitor to the school.	✓ The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation. ✓ The school has in place procedures for the use of external persons to supplement delivery of the curriculum.
22	• Pupils from ethnic minorities/migrants • Members of the traveller community • Lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender (LGBT) children • Pupil perceived to be LGBT • Pupils of minority religious faith	-Risk of child being harmed in the school by another child. -Risk of harm due to bullying of a child.	✓ School has 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.
25	• Children with medical needs	-Risk of harm not being recognised by school personnel.	✓ Administration of medication policy in place, staff members qualified in First Aid.
26	• Recruitment of school personnel including teachers/SNAs, caretakers/, secretaries/cleaners/sports coaches.	-Risk of child being harmed by a member of school personnel.	✓ The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation. ✓ The school adheres to the relevant Department of Education and Youth circulars in respect of recruitment.

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
27	- External Tutors/Guest Speakers - Volunteers/Parents in school activities - Visitors/contractors present in school during school hours - Visitors/contractors present during after-school activities	-Risk of child being harmed in the school by a volunteer or visitor to the school.	✓ The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation. ✓ School has procedures in place to ensure appropriate supervision of children.
28	Participation by pupils in religious ceremonies/religious instruction external to the school	-Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children while attending out of school activities.	✓ School has procedures in place to ensure appropriate supervision of children.
29	Use of Information and Communication Technology by pupils in school, including social media	-Risk of harm due to children inappropriately accessing/using computers, social media and phones and other devices while at school	✓ The school has an Acceptable Use policy in place which includes the use of smartphones as per circular 38/2018 and the national guidelines.
30	Application of sanctions under the school's Code of Behaviour including detention of pupils, confiscation of phones etc.	-Risk of harm due to inadequate code of behaviour.	✓ School has 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.
31	- Students from the school participating in work experience elsewhere - Student teachers undertaking training placement in school	-Risk of child being harmed by another child, member of school personnel, member of staff from external organisation.	✓ School has procedures in place for students taking part in work experience and procedures in place for student teachers undertaking placement in the school.

Child Protection Statement and Risk Assessment

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
32	Use of video/photography/ other media to record school events	-Risk of harm caused by a member of school personnel accessing/circulating appropriate material via social media.	✓ Nominated member of staff responsible for updating school's social media.
33	- After-school use of school premises by other organisations - Use of school premises by other organisations during school day	-Risk of child being harmed by another child, member of school personnel, member of staff from external organisation.	✓ Procedures in place for use of school premises by other organisations.
34	Evening study	- Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children in school.	✓ School has procedures in place to ensure appropriate supervision of children.

Additional pages may be added as required

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.

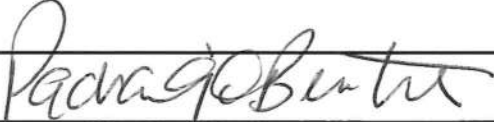
Child Protection Statement and Risk Assessment

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 29th September 2026 (most recent review date)

Signed:*		Date: <u>29.09.2026</u>
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Chairperson of the board of management

Signed:*		Date: <u>29.09.2026</u>
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Principal/Secretary to the board of management

This Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment is expected to be reviewed again

on June 2026 (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.

These procedures can be found online on the Department of Education and Youth website: www.gov.ie/childprotectionschools

Hard copies can be found at the school reception.

The Student friendly version of this policy can be found at every entrance to the school.