



## Child Safeguarding Statement

**Scoil Mhuire National School** 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 Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools 2017 and Tusla Guidance on the preparation of Child Safeguarding Statements, the Board of Management of Scoil Mhuire National School 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 2017 as part of this overall Child Safeguarding Statement.
- 2 **The Designated Liaison Person (DLP) is: Mairead Drinan** (Principal)
- 3 **The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is: Pauline O'Sullivan** (Deputy Principal)
- 4 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. The school will adhere to the following principles of best practice in child protection and welfare. The school will:
  - a. recognise that the protection and welfare of children is of paramount importance, regardless of all other considerations
  - b. fully comply with its statutory obligations under the Children First Act 2015 and other relevant legislation relating to the protection and welfare of children
  - c. fully co-operate with the relevant statutory authorities in relation to child protection and welfare matters
  - d. 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



- e. develop a practice of openness with parents and encourage parental involvement in the education of their children; and
- f. 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.

5 The following procedures/measures are in place:

- a. 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 2017 and to the relevant agreed disciplinary procedures for school staff which are published on the DES website
- b. 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 and to the wider duty of care guidance set out in relevant Garda vetting and recruitment circulars published by the DES and available on the DES website
- c. 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:
  - i. Has provided each member of staff with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement
  - ii. Ensures all new staff are provided with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement
  - iii. Encourages staff to avail of relevant training
  - iv. Encourages Board of Management members to avail of relevant training
  - v. The Board of Management maintains records of all staff and Board member training.
- d. 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 2017, including in the case of registered teachers, those in relation to mandated reporting under the Children First Act 2015



- e. In this school, the Board has appointed the above named DLP as the 'relevant person' (as defined in the Children First Act 2015) to be the first point of contact in respect of the school's child safeguarding statement.
- 6 All registered teachers employed by the school are mandated persons under the Children First Act 2015
  - 7 In accordance with the Children First Act 2015, 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 attached as an appendix to these procedures
  - 8 The various procedures referred to in this Statement can be accessed via the school's website, the DES website or will be made available on request by the school
  - 9 This statement has been published on the school's website and has been provided to all members of school personnel, the Parents' Association 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.
  - 10 This Child Safeguarding Statement will be reviewed annually or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which this statement refers



This Child Safeguarding Statement was adopted by the Board of Management on \_\_\_\_\_.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Chairperson of BoM)

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Principal/Secretary to the BoM)

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_



## Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment (of any potential harm)

List of School Activities	Risk Level	The School has identified the following Risk of Harm	The School has the following Procedures in place to address risk identified in this assessment
<b>Training of school personnel in Child Protection matters</b>	High	Harm not recognised or reported promptly	Child Safeguarding Statement & DES procedures made available to all staff DLP& DDLP to attend PDST face to face/online training All Staff have viewed Túsla training module & online training offered by PDST. BOM records all records of staff and board training
<b>One to one teaching</b>	Med	Harm by school personnel	School has policy in place for one to one teaching Open doors Table between teacher and pupil Glass in window
<b>Care of Children with special needs, including intimate care needs</b>	High	Harm by school personnel	Policy on intimate care
<b>Toilet areas</b>	High	Inappropriate behaviour	Usage and supervision policy to be implemented by April June 2022
<b>Use of Information and Communication Technology by pupils in school/at home Curricular Provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay safe</b>	High	Bullying, inappropriate behaviour/environment	ICT Policy, Anti-bullying Policy, Code of Behaviour Guidance on Expectations during School closures emailed to parents AUP Policy to be implemented by April 2022
<b>Curricular Provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay safe</b>	Med	Non-teaching of same	School implements SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe in full ICT policy



List of School Activities	Risk Level	The School has identified the following Risk of Harm	The School has the following Procedures in place to address risk identified in this assessment
Sports Coaches	Med	Harm to pupils	Procedures in place Visitor Lanyards given to Sports Coaches Vetting Procedures
Students participating in work experience in the school	Med	Harm by student	Work experience Policy Child Safeguarding Statement.
Recreation breaks for pupils	High	Injury to pupils Bullying	Playground supervised at all times by 2 teachers and up to 2 SNA's Code of Behaviour Anti-bullying Policy
Classroom teaching	Low	Harm by school personnel	Child Safeguarding Statement & DES procedures made available to all staff Glass in window School implements SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe in full
Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst pupils	Med	Harm by student Injury to pupils	Child Safeguarding Statement & DES procedures made available to all staff Playground supervised at all times by 2 teachers and up to 2 SNA's Code of Behaviour Anti-bullying Policy
Swimming classes at Schull Leisure Centre	High	Harm by school personnel Harm by Leisure Centre staff Inappropriate behaviour by pupils in changing areas Harm by Pupil	Child Safeguarding Statement & DES procedures made available to all school staff Leisure centre personnel have been Garda vetted. Changing areas adequately supervised Changing areas closed off to public while children are changing



List of School Activities	Risk Level	The School has identified the following Risk of Harm	The School has the following Procedures in place to address risk identified in this assessment
<b>Recruitment of school personnel including -</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Teachers</li> <li>• SNA's</li> <li>• Caretaker/Secretary/Cleaners</li> <li>• Sports coaches</li> <li>• External Tutors/Guest Speakers</li> <li>• Volunteers/Parents in school activities</li> <li>• Visitors/contractors present in school during school hours</li> </ul>	High	Harm not recognised or properly or promptly reported	Child Safeguarding Statement & DES procedures made available to all staff  Staff to view Tusla training module & any other online training offered by PDST  Vetting Procedures  Visitor Lanyards given to external tutors, guest speakers, visitors or contractors present in the school during school hours, Confidential Visitors sign in book
<b>Travel arrangements to matches/school events</b>	High	Harm by school personnel Harm by outside people/companies	Teachers will not transport children in their own cars unless there is another adult accompanying them Bus drivers should not be left on their own with a group of children

**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 2017*



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.

This risk assessment has been completed by the Board of Management on *October 23<sup>rd</sup> 2019*. It will be reviewed as part of the school's annual review of its Child Safeguarding Statement.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Chairperson, Board of Management

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management