



Child Safeguarding Statement & Risk Assessment

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 2017 as part of this overall Child Safeguarding Statement.

2 The Designated Liaison Person (DLP) is: Peter Roche

3 The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (DDL) is: Emer Miley

4 The Relevant Person is Peter Roche

(The relevant person is one who can provide information in respect of how the child safeguarding statement was developed and will be able to provide the statement on request. In a school setting the relevant person shall be the designated liaison person.)

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. 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 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 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 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 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 on 19th of March 2018. This Child Safeguarding Statement was reviewed by the Board of Management on 28th of August 2025.

Signed:

Chairperson of Board of Management

Date: 25/08/2025

Signed:

Principal/Secretary of Board of Management

Date: 25/08/2025



Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment

Written Assessment of Risk of Scoil Mhuire NS

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 Post-Primary Schools (revised 2023), the following is the Written Risk Assessment of Scoil Mhuire NS.

1. List of school activities

(insert list of school activities in this section)

- Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils
- Recreation breaks for pupils
- Classroom teaching
- One-to-one teaching
- One-to-one learning support
- One-to-one SNA support
- One-to-one conversations, meetings, counselling, assessments, therapies and other
- one-to-one interventions
- Outdoor teaching activities
- Online teaching and learning remotely
- Sporting & P.E. Activities
- School outings
- Supervision of pupils during transition between classrooms, corridors, or buildings
- Supervision of pupils in yards before/after school where applicable
- Pupils leaving school during the day (e.g. illness, appointments, early collection)
- Pupils going to and from extracurricular tuition (music lessons, speech & drama, etc.) held in the school
- Use of toilet/changing/shower areas in schools
- Annual Sports Day
- Fundraising events involving pupils
- Use of off-site facilities for school activities
- School transport arrangements including use of bus escorts
- Care of children with special educational needs, including intimate care where needed
- Management of challenging behaviour amongst pupils, including appropriate use of restraint where required
- Management of provision of food and drink
- Administration of Medicine
- Administration of First Aid
- Curricular provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe
- Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst pupils
- Training of school personnel in child protection matters
- Use of external personnel to supplement curriculum
- Use of external personnel to support sports and other extra-curricular activities
- Care of pupils with specific vulnerabilities/ needs such as
 - *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 CPNS*
- *Children with medical needs*
- Recruitment of school personnel including -
 - *Teachers/SNA's*
 - *Caretaker/Secretary/Cleaners*
 - *Sports coaches*
 - *External Tutors/Guest Speakers*
 - *Volunteers/Parents in school activities*
 - *Visitors/contractors present in school during school hours*
 - *Visitors/contractors present during after school activities*
- Participation by pupils in religious ceremonies/religious instruction external to the school (e.g. altar serving)
- Arrangements for pupils not participating in religious ceremonies / events
- Use of Information and Communication Technology by pupils in school, including social media
- Application of sanctions under the school's Code of Behaviour including detention of pupils, confiscation of phones etc.
- Students participating in work experience in the school
- Adults (SNAs, Secretaries, Caretakers etc) participating in work experience in the school
- Student teachers undertaking training placement in school
- Use of video/photography/other media to record school events
- After school use of school premises by other organisations
- Use of school premises by other organisations during school day
- Participation in school plays/choir/drama/musical performances
- Participation in school competitions (sporting, debating, quizzes, art, science, etc.)
- Participation in intercultural days, Green Schools activities, or other whole-school projects
 - Swimming lessons in an external location
 - Therapeutic support (SLT, OT etc) provided by outside professionals on-site
 - After-school activities provided by staff
 - Fire drills and emergency evacuations involving pupils
 - Maintenance work while pupils are present (builders, electricians, painters etc.)
 - Pupils participating in yard or classroom jobs/chores
 - Teaching and learning with regards to RSE, Stay Safe, SPHE, Wellbeing etc

2. The school has identified the following risk of harm in respect of its activities -

- Risk of harm not being recognised, reported, or responded to appropriately by school personnel
- Risk of harm to a child by a member of school personnel
- Risk of harm to a child by another child
- Risk of harm to a child by volunteer, visitor, or contractor in the school without adequate supervision or vetting
- Risk of harm to a child during after-school or before-school activities by another child or by an adult
- Risk of harm to a child while participating in out-of-school activities (e.g. school trips, sports events, swimming lessons, residential/overnight trips) through contact with school personnel, staff of another organisation, or other persons
- Risk of harm during arrival and dismissal of pupils (e.g. inadequate supervision at school gate, car park, or bus area)



- Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children in school, including yard, corridors, toilets, changing rooms, and other areas where children may be isolated or unsupervised
- Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children while attending out-of-school activities
- Risk of harm in one-to-one teaching, counselling, therapy, assessment, coaching, or meetings (e.g. Principal's office)
- Risk of harm to children with SEN or medical needs due to particular vulnerabilities, including during intimate care
- Risk of harm due to inadequate management of challenging behaviour, including inappropriate use of restraint
- Risk of harm due to failure to follow protocols for administration of first aid or medicine
- Risk of harm due to bullying, discrimination, racism, or exclusionary behaviour
- Risk of harm due to inappropriate relationships or communications between child and adult, or between children
- Risk of harm caused by inappropriate use of information and communication technology, including:
 - Children inappropriately accessing/using computers, phones, or other devices
 - Inadequate filtering/monitoring of pupil access to the internet
 - Social media misuse
 - Online/remote teaching risks, including exposure to inappropriate behaviour, content, or breaches of privacy in a child's home
- Risk of harm caused by a member of school personnel communicating with pupils in an inappropriate manner (e.g. via social media, texting, digital device, or other platform)
- Risk of harm caused by a member of school personnel accessing/circulating inappropriate material via social media, texting, digital device, or other platform
- Risk of harm due to inappropriate use of photographs, video, or other media content involving pupils
- Risk of harm due to inadequate implementation of the school's Code of Behaviour, Anti-Bullying Policy, or Child Safeguarding Procedures
- Risk of harm arising from failure to adequately teach and implement SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe, and other relevant curricular areas
- Risk of harm to children from other adults in the community while representing the school off-site (e.g. parish events, community projects)
- Risk of harm due to failure to implement agreed child protection procedures following a disclosure, suspicion, or allegation

3. The school has the following procedures in place to address the risks of harm identified in this assessment -

Policies, Procedures, and Compliance

- All school personnel are provided with a copy of the school's *Child Safeguarding Statement* on appointment and annually thereafter.
- The *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017* and the *Children First Act 2015 (including 2019 Addendum)* are available to all staff.
- All school personnel are required to adhere to these procedures and legislative requirements.
- The school maintains a register of all staff and Board of Management child protection training.
- The school complies with Garda Vetting legislation and relevant Department circulars in relation to recruitment.
- The school complies with agreed disciplinary procedures for teaching staff and with all relevant Departmental circulars.

Training and Awareness

- All new staff receive induction which includes Child Safeguarding training.



Staff are encouraged to avail of ongoing child protection training, and the Board of Management is supported to do likewise.

- The Principal provides age-appropriate Child Protection talks with classes.
- Pupils involved in the peer mediator programme receive training from the Principal or designated staff.
- The school undertakes anti-racism and anti-bullying awareness initiatives annually.

Curriculum Provision

- The *Stay Safe* Programme is implemented in full across all classes.
- The *SPHE* curriculum is implemented in full.
- The school provides teaching and learning in *SPHE*, *RSE*, *Stay Safe*, and *Wellbeing* to support pupil resilience, awareness, and personal safety.

Supervision and Care

- The school has a *Supervision Policy* ensuring appropriate supervision during assembly, dismissal, breaks, and in areas such as corridors, toilets, and changing rooms.
- The school has policies and procedures for school outings, including risk assessments.
- A *Health and Safety Policy* is in place, including procedures for fire drills and emergency evacuation.
- An *Intimate Care Policy* is in place for pupils requiring such support.
- Procedures are in place for pupils who may require physical restraint, in line with best practice and only as a last resort.
- Policies and procedures govern the administration of medication and first aid.

Managing Behaviour and Wellbeing

- The school has a *Code of Behaviour* for pupils, consistently implemented.
- An *Anti-Bullying Policy* is in place, fully aligned with the Department's procedures.
- A *Special Educational Needs Policy* is in place to ensure the needs of children with vulnerabilities are appropriately met.
- A *Critical Incident Management Plan* is in place.

Use of ICT and Online Safety

- An *Acceptable Use Policy (AUP)* is in place, covering pupils' use of ICT, social media, and remote learning platforms.
- The school has a policy on pupil use of smart devices (phones, tablets) in line with Circular 38/2018.
- Staff are trained to manage online platforms (e.g. mute microphones, disable video, manage participants).
- Filtering and monitoring systems are in place to restrict inappropriate internet access.

External Personnel and Activities

- The school has policies and procedures governing:
 - The use of external personnel to supplement delivery of the curriculum
 - The use of external sports coaches and activity leaders
 - The use of guest speakers, visiting groups, or outside organisations
- Garda vetting and supervision requirements are strictly applied to all external personnel, coaches, and volunteers.
- Clear procedures are in place for volunteers and parents engaged in school activities.
- Procedures are in place for visitors and contractors during school hours and after-school activities.

One-to-One and Special Arrangements

- The school has policies and procedures for one-to-one teaching, counselling, assessment, therapy, and support.
- Procedures are in place for student teacher placements and for pupils or adults undertaking work experience in the school.



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.