

CSS 1 2026

Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment

For: Scoil Bhreánainn

At: Portmagee



This school is a: vertical co-ed rural DEIS primary 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 Designated Liaison Person: Karen Stenson

Name of Deputy Designated Liaison Person: Laura Nugent

Name of Relevant Person: Karen Stenson

Relevant person can be contacted on: 0669477211 or portmageens@gmail.com

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 Board of Management: Myra Hulme

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.

Scoil Bhréanainn Child safeguarding Risk Assessment 2026/2027

<u>List of school activities</u>	<u>Risks Identified Against Each School Activity</u>	<u>Measures in place to mitigate risks</u>
Overall school activities- in general	Harm to pupils through lack of: awareness/understanding of underlying principles/ procedures	Ongoing efforts to heighten awareness of broad school community around child protection matters and to engage them fully with the underlying principles and procedures, including, • Child Safeguarding statement prominently displayed in school and displayed on school website • Relevant associated policies (eg. AUP, Code of Behaviour, Anti-Bullying Policy, Intimate Care Needs Policy) readily accessible • Monitoring, review and discussion around matters of child protection on an ongoing basis. • Culture of reflective practice and continuous improvement around this and other areas. • Child-friendly language and pupil voice are incorporated into the development and presentation of the school's safeguarding poster, promoting children's understanding of safeguarding procedures and ensuring that their views and perspectives are meaningfully included.
Training of school personnel in Child Protection matters	Harm not recognised or reported promptly	• Child Safeguarding Statement & DES procedures made available to all staff

		• DLP& DDLP to attend PDST face to face training All Staff to view Tusla training module & any other online training offered by PDST • BOM records all records of staff and board training • Child Protection closure day for all staff training in September 2026
One to one teaching	Harm by school personnel	• School has policy in place for one to one teaching within the SEN policy • Glass in doors of all rooms where one to one teaching occurs and children are withdrawn in twos or small groups
Care of Children with special needs	Harm by school personnel	Policy on Special Needs. Policy on toileting and intimate care needs
Toilet areas	Inappropriate behaviour	• Usage and supervision policy • Regular reminders around appropriate behaviour • Code of behaviour • Anti-bullying policy • Stay Safe programme • Policy on toileting/intimate care needs
Care of pupils with specific vulnerabilities/needs such as	Bullying	• Anti-bullying policy • Code of behaviour • Vigilance on part of teachers and school staff • Stay Safe programme, SPHE programme • S.P.H.E. policy and meaningful inclusion
	Harm to pupils	
• Pupils from ethnic minorities/migrants • Lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender (LGBT) children • Neurodiverse children		

• Pupils of minority religious faiths		
Curricular Provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay safe.	Non-teaching of same	School implements SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe in full
Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils (Entering and exiting the school building)	Harm from others	• Supervision policy • Arrival and dismissal supervised by Teachers • Parents regularly reminded that the Board of Management does not accept responsibility for pupils before 9.10am and after 3.10pm or after official closing time on occasion of early closing. This is notified in weekly newsletter. • Parents/ minders dropping children to school late or coming to school on business during the course of the day, check in at the main entrance/office
Managing of challenging behaviour amongst pupils, including appropriate use of restraint	Injury to pupils and staff	• Pupil behaviour support plans, where relevant • Code Of Behaviour • Staff trained in understanding neurodiversity and specifically recognising children's needs in order to stay regulated. • Good communication/regular dialogue between staff members about children that need extra supervision on yard while being mindful of GDPR
Sports Coaches	Harm to pupils	• Policy & Procedures in place (within S.P.H.E Policy) • Class teacher/SNA – always present. • Vetting of coaches in line with national vetting procedures • Child safeguarding statement • Anti-bullying Policy

		• Code of Behaviour
Students participating in work experience	Harm by pupils	• Child Safeguarding Statement.
Recreation breaks for pupils	Bullying	• Code of Behaviour • Anti-Bullying Policy • Supervision by teaching staff and SNA staff as appropriate • Stay Safe, S.P.H.E., R.S.E
Sporting Activities, Outdoor teaching activities, Use of off-site facilities for school activities and school outings	Harm to pupils	• Teacher training • Heightened vigilance with regard to use of shared facilities that are off-site • Code of behaviour • Extra staff for supervision • Child safeguarding statement
Annual Sports Day	Harm to pupils	• Adequate supervision • Clear time-tabling • Code of Behaviour • Safety, Health and Welfare Policy • Strategies/equipment in place for neurodiverse pupils
Administration of Medicine	Harm to pupils	• Administration of Medicines Policy • First Aid Training for Staff • Safety, Health and Welfare policy • First Aid treatment is delivered on yard.
Administration of First Aid		
Use of Information and Communication Technology by pupils in school	Harm to pupils Bullying Children unsupervised at home	• ICT Policy and AUP Policy • Unsupervised pupil access to school computers not allowed • Anti-Bullying Policy • Code of Behaviour

	while completing schoolwork remotely Access to inappropriate material	• Supervised at all times • Mobile Phone and Related Devices Policy • School recommends children are supervised at all times during online work • Internet safety talks to parents on a yearly basis • Internet safety awareness session are a key feature of on-going ICT work in the school/ongoing education in this area • School using NCTE filtering system
Application of sanctions under the school's Code of Behaviour including detention of pupils, confiscation of phones etc	Harm to pupils	• Adequate supervision of pupils • AUP Policy • Agree to Agree Project 26/27 school year

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.

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 30 September 2026.

Signed:

Chairperson, Board of Management

Date:

30/9/26.

Signed:

Principal/Secretary to Board of Management

Date:

30.9.26

This Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment is expected to be reviewed again on September 2027.