Scoil Mhuire agus Íde

Newcastlewest,
Co. Limerick

Child Safeguarding Statement
Risk Assessment

November 2026

SCOIL MHUIRE AGUS ÍDE

Child Safeguarding Statement Risk Assessment.

CSS 1

For: Scoil Mhuire agus Íde

At: Bóthar Buí, Newcastlewest, Co. Limerick

This school is a:

☐ 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.

Role	Name
Designated Liaison Person (DLP)	Michelle Thompson
Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP/DDLP)	Joan Cahill
Relevant Person *(in schools this is the DLP)*	Michelle Thompson, DLP
Relevant Person contact details *(phone & email)*	Michelle Thompson michellethompson@smincw.ie 069-62443
Chairperson of the Board of Management	Derek Heverin

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

- **Procedure for the Safe Recruitment and Selection of School Personnel 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, 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 has provided each member of school personnel, including new members (employees, 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 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 adhere to the procedures set out in the *Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025*. Mandated reporting applies to all registered teachers and any other mandated person employed by the school (e.g. chaplain or nurse). A full list of mandated persons is set out in Appendix 1 of the procedures.

- **Procedure for Maintaining a List of Persons Who Are Mandated Persons** — There is a procedure in place to maintain a list of mandated persons, including all registered teachers and any additional employees who are mandated by virtue of their profession.

- **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/education 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 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 below.

Note: The procedures and measures in place outlined above are not intended as an exhaustive list.

This statement has been published on the school's website and provided to all members of school personnel, the parents' association, 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

In accordance with Section 11 of the Children First Act 2015 and Chapter 9 of the Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025.

#	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; risk of harm due to bullying	Supervision Policy, Code of Behaviour, Anti-Bullying Policy (Bí Cineálta), AUP Policies
2.	Recreation breaks for pupils	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision; bullying	Supervision Policy, Code of Behaviour, Bí Cineálta Policy, AUP Policies
3.	Classroom teaching	Risk of harm not being recognised/reported; risk of harm by member of school personnel	Professional Code of Conduct for Teachers, School Policy on One-to-One Teaching/Meetings, Code of Behaviour.
4.	One-to-one teaching	Risk of harm in one-to-one teaching situation; inappropriate relationship/communication	Guidance Policy, AEN Policy, School Policy on One-to-One Teaching/Meetings, Code of Behaviour.
5.	One-to-one counselling	Risk of harm in one-to-one counselling situation	Guidance Policy, School Policy on One-to-One Teaching/Meetings, Code of Behaviour.
6.	Outdoor teaching activities (Geography Field Trip, 1st Year Cinema Trip, English Dramas, Art Trip,	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision off-site; harm by visitor/external person	First Aid Policy & Administration of Medicines Policy, Supervision Policy, Pastoral Care Policy,

	Enterprise, TY Extra-Curricular)		Guidance Policy,School Tour & Trip Policy, School Policy on One-to-One Teaching/Meetings, Code of Behaviour.
7.	Sporting activities (Gaelic Football/LGFA, Hurling/Camogie, Rugby, Soccer/Ladies, Basketball, Golf, Equestrian, Athletics)	Risk of harm by external coach/volunteer; inadequate supervision; harm during intimate care (changing)	First Aid & Administration of Medicines Policy, Supervision Policy, Pastoral Care Policy, Guidance Policy, School Policy on One-to-One Teaching/Meetings, Code of Behaviour.
8.	School outings – all day trips	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision while off-site	First Aid & Administration of Medicines Policy, Code of Behaviour, Supervision Policy, Pastoral Care Policy, Guidance Policy, School Policy on One-to-One Teaching/Meetings
9.	School trips involving overnight stay	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision overnight; inappropriate communications; substance use	School Tour & Trips Policy, Pastoral Care Policy, Guidance Policy, Code of Behaviour, School Policy on One-to-One Teaching/Meetings, First Aid & Administration of Medicines Policy, Child Protection Procedures, Policy.
10.	School trips involving foreign travel (School Tours)	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision; reduced access to home supports	School Tour & Trips Policy, Child Protection Procedures, Pastoral Care Policy, Guidance Policy, Code of Behaviour, School Policy on One-to-One Teaching/Meetings, First Aid & Administration of Medicines Policy.

11.	Use of toilet/shower/changing areas in the school	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision; risk of harm by another child	Supervision Policy, Code of Behaviour, Bí Cineálta Policy, AUP Policies.
12.	Annual sports afternoon	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision	Supervision Policy, Code of Behaviour, Bí Cineálta Policy, AUP Policies
13.	Fundraising events involving students	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision	Supervision Policy, Pastoral Care Policy, Guidance Policy, Code of Behaviour, School Policy on One-to-One Teaching/Meetings, First Aid & Administration of Medicines Policy
14.	Use of off-site facilities for school activities	Risk of harm by member of staff of another organisation; inadequate supervision	Pastoral Care Policy, Code of Behaviour, School Policy on One-to-One Teaching/Meetings, First Aid & Administration of Medicines Policy
15.	School transport arrangements including use of bus escorts (for students with special needs)	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision in transit	Supervision Policy, Code of Behaviour, Bí Cineálta Policy, AEN Policy, AUP Policies
16.	Care of children with special educational needs, including intimate care where needed	Risk of harm to children with SEN who have particular vulnerabilities; risk of harm during intimate care	AEN Policy, Pastoral Care Policy, Guidance Policy, School Policy on One-to-One Teaching/Meetings, First Aid & Administration of Medicines Policy
17.	Administration of medicines	Risk of harm due to incorrect administration	First Aid & Administration of Medicines Policy
18.	Administration of First Aid & defibrillators	Risk of harm due to inadequate first aid response	First Aid & Administration of Medicines Policy
19.	HSE vaccination	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision by external personnel	Requirement for SNA presence, no unsupervised access to students

20.	Curricular provision in respect of SPHE, RSE	Risk of harm not being disclosed/recognised during sensitive curriculum delivery	SPHE and RSE Policy
21.	Wellbeing	Risk of harm not being recognised	Wellbeing Policy
22.	Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst pupils	Risk of harm due to bullying	Bí Cineálta Policy, Code of Behaviour, Pastoral Care Policy, Guidance Policy, Wellbeing Policy, SPHE Policy
23.	Training of school personnel in child protection matters	Risk of harm not being recognised or reported properly by school personnel	Child Safeguarding Statement provided to all personnel; adherence to Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025; Children First Act 2015 obligations for registered teachers; Garda vetting legislation and DES circulars; disciplinary procedures for teaching staff; DLP/Deputy DLP training; staff training encouraged; induction of all new staff, student teachers and work experience students
24.	Use of external personnel to supplement curriculum	Risk of harm by external visitor/volunteer	Requirement for teacher presence, no unsupervised access to students
25.	Use of external personnel to support sports and other extra-curricular activities	Risk of harm by external coach	Requirement for teacher presence, no unsupervised access to students
26.	Support for pupils with specific vulnerabilities/needs	Risk of harm to vulnerable pupils not being recognised	Being inclusive in Schools; Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025; Critical Incident Policy
27.	Recruitment of school personnel (Teachers/SNAs,	Risk of harm due to inadequate	Vetting where required, Teaching Council

	Caretaker/Secretary/Cleaners/Canteen etc.)	vetting/recruitment procedures	Registration, References, Induction Policy, Training, Child Protection Procedures
28.	External guest speakers	Risk of harm by external visitor	Requirement for teacher presence, no unsupervised access to students
29.	Volunteers/parents in school activities	Risk of harm by volunteer/visitor to the school	Requirement for teacher presence, no unsupervised access to students
30.	Visitors/contractors present in school during school hours	Risk of harm by visitor/contractor; inadequate supervision	Requirement for staff presence, no unsupervised access to students
31.	Visitors/contractors present during after-school activities	Risk of harm by visitor/contractor; inadequate supervision	Requirement for staff presence, no unsupervised access to students
32.	Participation by pupils in religious ceremonies/religious instruction external to the school	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision off-site	Requirement for staff presence, no unsupervised access to students, Religious Education Policy
33.	Use of Information and Communication Technology by pupils in school, including online teaching and teaching remotely	Risk of harm due to children inappropriately accessing/using computers, social media, phones and other devices	AUP Policy (Staff), AUP Policy (Students), Supervision Policy, Code of Behaviour
34.	Students from the school participating in work experience elsewhere	Risk of harm by member of staff of another organisation	Employer signs Letter of Understanding RE Work Experience, Teacher visits
35.	Student teachers undertaking training placement in school	Risk of harm due to inadequate vetting/induction of student teachers	Induction Training and Vetting
36.	Use of video/photography/other	Risk of harm due to inappropriate circulation of images	AUP Policies, Data Protection Policy

	media to record school events		
37.	Use of school premises by other organisations during the school day	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision by other organisation	Requirement for staff presence, no unsupervised access to students
38.	After-school study, including weekends and holidays (school vs privately organised)	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision	Supervision Policy, Code of Behaviour, Bí Cineálta Policy, AUP Policies
39.	Access to CCTV footage	Risk of harm due to inappropriate access/disclosure	Data Protection Policy
40.	Access to Esinet, PPOD	Risk of harm due to inappropriate access/disclosure of pupil data	Data Protection Policy
41.	Access to personal data	Risk of harm due to inappropriate access/disclosure of personal data	Data Protection Policy

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 Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment was reviewed and ratified by the Board of Management on 19/11/26 .

Signed: Derek Heverin Date: 19/11/2026

Chairperson of the Board of Management

Signed: Michelle Thompson Date: 19//11/2026

Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

This Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment is expected to be reviewed again in June 2027

A copy of the Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025 is available in;

1. Principal's Office - Michelle Thompson
2. Deputy Principal's Office - Joan Cahill
3. Deputy Principal's Office - Colin O'Mahoney

Consultation with Stakeholders

Students Council	March 2026
Student body	February 2026
Staff	February 2026
Parents	May 2026
Parents Association	March 2026
Board of Management	November 2026