



Child Safeguarding Statement- Scoil Íde

Scoil Íde 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 2017 and Tusla Guidance on the preparation of Child Safeguarding Statements, the Board of Management of Scoil Íde 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 Claire Hynes
- 3 The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is Eileen Ostheimer
- 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. In its 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.

- 5 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 2017 and to the relevant agreed disciplinary procedures for school staff which are published on the DE 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 DE 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 2017, including in the case of registered teachers, those in relation to mandated reporting under the Children First Act 2015.
- In this school the Board has appointed the abovenamed DLP as the "relevant person" (as defined in the Children First Act 2015) to be the first point of contact in respect of the schools child safeguarding statement.
- 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 DE 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.

- 6 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.
- 7 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 _____.

This Child Safeguarding Statement was reviewed by the Board of Management on 16th June 2022 .

Signed: Fr. Gerry Jennings

Signed: Claire Hynes

Chairperson of Board of Management

Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Date: 16th June 2022

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Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment



Written Assessment of Risk of Scoil Íde

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 2017*, the following is the Written Risk Assessment of Scoil Íde.

List of school activities

1. Training of school personnel in Child Protection matters
2. Recruitment of school personnel:-
 - Teachers
 - SNAs
 - Caretaker
 - Secretary
 - Cleaners
 - Sports Coaches
 - External Tutors/Guest Speakers
 - Volunteers for school activities
 - Visitors and contractors present in school during school hours
 - Visitors/contractors present during after school activities
3. One to one teaching for SET
4. Care of Children with special needs, including intimate care needs
5. Children in Toilet areas
6. Curricular Provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay safe.
7. LGBT Children/Pupils perceived to be LGBT
8. Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils
9. Managing of challenging behaviour amongst pupils, including appropriate use of restraint
10. Students participating in work experience
11. Recreation breaks for pupils
12. Outdoor teaching activities
13. Sporting Activities including swimming lessons for 2nd and 3rd

14. School outings/trips
15. Use of toilet as a changing area in school
16. Annual Sports Days
17. Use of off-site facilities for school activities e.g. using the Church for rehearsals and ceremonies
18. Administration of Medicine and First Aid
19. Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst pupils
20. Use of external personnel to supplement curriculum
21. Care of pupils with specific vulnerabilities/needs such as:-
 - Pupils from ethnic minorities/migrants
 - Members of the Traveller Community
 - LGBT children
 - Pupils of minority religious faiths
 - Children in care
 - Children on CPNS
22. Use of school premises by outside providers during the school day
23. Use of Information and Communication Technology by pupils in school
24. Access to the school during the school day
25. Students participating in work experience
26. Student teachers undertaking training placement in school
27. Use of videos/photography/other media to record school events
28. School lunches
29. After school use of premises by other organisations
30. Older pupils in activities with younger pupils – reading, playing with them outside, perfecting
31. Remote learning using online teaching platforms (Google Classroom, SEESAW) and zoom instructional classes due to Covid 19 school closures.

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

1. The risk of harm not being recognised by school personnel or reported promptly
2. Risk of child being harmed in the school by a member of school personnel
3. Risk of child being harmed in the school by a member of school personnel or other professional
4. Risk of harm to child while their intimate care needs are being addressed or when working with children who have particular vulnerabilities
5. Risk of inappropriate behaviour or an adult entering the children's bathrooms
6. Risk of the SPHE, RSE & Stay Safe programmes not being covered in classes
7. Risk of LGBT children being bullied or discriminated against
8. Risk of harm from older pupils, unknown adults in the grounds when dropping children off, lack of clarity about when the school's duty to supervise begins and ends, adults other than parents collecting children from school, Adults other than school personnel in the school building during school hours
9. Risk posed where restraint is required e.g. flight risks and the risks of injury posed to self or others in challenging behaviour situations
10. Risk of harm to pupils from work experience personnel
11. Risk of child being harmed in the school by another child
12. Risk of child being harmed during outdoor teaching activities by volunteers or visitors to the school
13. Risk posed by children interacting with other adults at sports events, children going to the toilet at sports events, transport to and from the events, risk of children changing in communal areas at swimming
14. Risk of harm by other students on buses, children interacting with bus drivers, members of the public and other individuals that facilitate educational trips
15. Risk when changing for school concerts of harm by another student or an adult
16. Risk of harm by volunteer adults and personnel of Aras, risk when children are using the toilet at the Aras.
17. Risk when children going to the toilet at back of church during rehearsals for ceremonies and during the ceremonies themselves
18. Risk where no record of meds administered and there is doubt about what was administered, Risk of insufficient training to administer certain meds e.g. Epipen, Defibrillator
19. Risk of harm due to bullying of child
20. Risk of harm from external personnel
21. Risk of harm due to bullying, discrimination or inadequate code of behaviour
22. Risk of harm from outside individual or organisation
23. Risk of harm/bullying due to children inappropriately accessing/using computers, social media, phones and other devices in school
24. Risk of unknown adults entering the school during the school day, risk of adults photographing children
25. Risk of harm to pupils from work experience personnel
26. Risk of harm from student teachers
27. Risk of harm associated with publishing pictures on social media
28. Risk of neglect where children come to school on a continual basis without lunch
29. Risk of harm at after school activities
30. Risk of harm due to inappropriate behaviour
31. Risk associated with misrepresentation, inappropriate comments and image, and lack of agreed procedure for online platforms and use of zoom.

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

1. Child Safeguarding Statement and DES Procedures are made available to all staff including new staff members. DLP and DDLP attended PDST face to face training. All staff undertook TUSLA training module and certs have been provided as proof of training. PDST video training also undertaken during half day school closure. Board of Management training sought from CPSMA however no places available on last session run in Galway. Members of Board to attend the next available training session.
2. The school follows all DES regulations in relation to the recruitment of school personnel including all vetting requirements and checking of references. School policy on visiting contractors to be adhered to. Policy on Parent Volunteers policy in place.
3. The school's policy on one to one teaching to be adhered to. Glass in doors where one to one teaching takes place. Special Education Policy in place.
4. School has a policy on intimate care.
5. The school has a supervision policy in place which covers this. Parents are not permitted to accompany their children into the bathrooms. Signs outside the pupils' bathrooms which state that they are for pupils use only.
6. The school implements SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe programmes on a yearly basis.
7. The school has an anti-bullying, code of behaviour and yard supervision policy in place.
8. The school's duty to supervise children begins at 8.30am when the school doors are opened. Any children dropped before this are unsupervised and the parents are advised of this on a regular basis. Parents not to accompany their children upstairs in the mornings. No access to classrooms by parents/minders/children when children are in the yard or in the hall in the mornings. Parent/Staff Communication policy on school website. At 1.30pm the doors are open for parents and childminders of Junior and Senior Infants to collect children from the classrooms on the ground floor. If someone other than the child's parent is collecting a child, the school must be advised of this. For 1st to 6th Class students, parents are responsible for picking up their children outside the school at home time (2.30pm). There is after school supervision outside the school for ten minutes after 2.30pm.
9. Restraint Policy in place. Letter of agreement in specific cases where restraint is required. Health and Safety Policy and Code of Behaviour policy to be adhered.
10. Vetting to be in place in all cases beforehand. Work experience policy in place. Work experience students not to be unsupervised in classes.

11. The school has a yard supervision policy to ensure appropriate supervision of children during playtime. The school has a Code of Behaviour and Anti Bullying policy.
12. School has a Supervision policy and sufficient adults to supervise outdoor activities
13. Code of Behaviour and supervision procedures to be adhered to. Children to be accompanied to the toilet by a member of school staff at swimming and other outside sporting activities. Where a teacher (with appropriate insurance) is transporting children to sporting events the teacher must not be on their own with a single child. Parents may only transport their own child to sporting events during school time.
14. Policy on School Trips in place. Supervision and Anti-Bullying policies in place. Teachers Bring first aid supplies with them on school tour.
15. All children to change in one room before a school show and to be supervised by two adults. When children are changing for after school sporting activities the code of behaviour to be adhered to.
16. Supervision policy in place. Children to be accompanied to the toilets in the Aras by a member of school personnel. Vetting of volunteers in place. Code of behaviour policy in place.
17. Children to be accompanied to the bathroom at the back of the church by a member of school personnel during rehearsals for sacraments and celebrations of sacraments.
18. A record of medications administered is kept and two adults are present to witness admin of meds and dose given. Administration of Medication policy in place. Training on the admin of certain medications provided to staff on an ongoing basis and at the start of each year. Sufficient school personnel trained on First Aid procedures and re-certified regularly. Four staff members re-certified in November 2021 which included Defib training (Ailbhe Uí Fhátharta, Annemarie Hennigan, Deirdre Conneely and Andrea Lenihan). Heartsaver CPR AED (approved by Irish Heart Foundation). First Aid supplies available to all staff and kept in nominated area (bottom corridor) Replacement supplies kept in Wheelchair bathroom.
19. Anti-bullying policy in place, Code of Behaviour in place, SPHE programme covered in all classes
20. Policy in place for use of External Organisations to supplement the curriculum. All external personnel are Garda Vetted unless for one off situations. In such cases the external facilitator is not left unsupervised.
21. School has an ethos of inclusivity and celebrates diversity. Anti-Bullying policy in place.
22. Garda vetting to be in place and copy of outsider's insurance to be provided to the school.
23. Acceptable Use policy in place, Anti-Bullying policy in place, Code of Behaviour in place, Stay Safe Programme taught on a yearly basis, Brendan Smyth spoke to 5th and 6th class students in April 2018 re cyberbullying. No phones allowed in school. Mobile phone policy in place. On certain occasions (5th and 6th Class tours) children are permitted to bring phones provided it is strictly supervised by the teachers. In these instances, children are advised that phones are only to be used for specified purposes and school will not be responsible for loss or damage.

24. Front door monitored and coded access only. Back gate opened for Junior and Senior Infant Children going home and locked again afterwards. Gates are opened again when senior Children are going home at 2.30pm. Unknown adults taking photos of children will be reported.
25. Vetting to be in place before the work experience student starts in the school. Work experience students not allowed to be unsupervised in classes. Work experience Policy in place.
26. Vetting to be in place (own school vetting or Teaching Council).
27. Acceptable Use Policy in Place, Consent for Use of Photos held for each child, Full names and photographs do not appear together on school website or Facebook page.
28. Where the school feels there is cause for concern the matter will be addressed firstly with the parents and should the issue continue, the matter will be reported to TUSLA in line with Department guidelines.
29. Policy on After School Activities in place. Insurance cover in place for all outside Providers. Roll call taken by all after school activity providers.
30. Prefecting procedures to be followed. Supervision policy in place. SPHE, Stay Safe and RSE programmes covered by all classes on a yearly basis.
31. Distance Learning guidelines and protocols agreed and communicated to all staff and parents

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 16th June 2022. It shall be reviewed as part of the school’s annual review of its Child Safeguarding Statement.

Signed Fr. Gerry Jennings Date 16th June 2022

Chairperson, Board of Management

Signed Claire Hynes Date 16th June 2022

Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management