

Scoil Mhuire, Broadway,  
Our Lady's Island, Co. Wexford.

Roll No. 19741A



## 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 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 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 **Thomas Cousins**.
- 3 The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is **Mary Donnellan**.
- 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.

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 DES 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 DES and available on the DES 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 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.
- All registered teachers employed by the school are mandated persons under the Children First Act 2015.
- 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.

- 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.
- 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 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2021.

Signed: Fr. Jim Cogley

Fr. Jim Cogley

Chairperson of Board of Management

Signed: Thomas Cousins

Mr. Thomas Cousins

Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Date: 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2021

# Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment

## Written Assessment of Risk of Scoil Mhuire

In accordance with section 11 of the Children First Act 2015 and with the requirements of Chapter 8 of the *Child Protection for Primary School and Post-Primary Schools 2017*, the following is the Written Risk Assessment of Scoil Mhuire.

1. List of school activities	2. The school has identified the following risk of harm in respect of its activities	3. The school has the following procedures in place to address the risks of harm identified in this assessment
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 Túsla training module & any other online training offered by PDST  BOM logs all records of staff and board training in BOM minutes.
One to one teaching	Harm by school personnel  False accusations	School has policy in place for one to one teaching which include: Open doors Table between teacher and pupil Glass in window
Care of Children with special needs, including intimate care needs	Harm by school personnel False accusations	Policy on intimate care. Parents give permission upon admission to school. Two members of staff will always be present.
Toilet areas   Wet Days	Inappropriate behaviour False accusations  Child not coming in from yard when rain starts	Usage and supervision policy Intimate care policy....To be signed by each parent at the start of each year.  SNAs to check on pupils paying particular attention to children with additional needs.
Curricular Provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay safe.	Non-teaching of same	School implements SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe in full (Stay Safe every second

		year)
LGBT Children/Pupils perceived to be LGBT  Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst pupils	Bullying	Anti-Bullying Policy Code of Behaviour Relationships and Sexuality programme  School implements SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe in full
Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils	Harm from older pupils, unknown adults on the playground	Arrival and dismissal supervised by Teachers
Managing of challenging behaviour amongst pupils, including appropriate use of restraint	Injury to pupils and staff	<b>Restraint Policy &amp; training: if required</b> Health & Safety Policy Code Of Behaviour
Sports Coaches	Harm to pupils	Policy & Procedures in place
Students participating in work experience	Harm by student	Work experience Policy Child Safeguarding Statement.
Recreation breaks for pupils	Harm by student, Harm by others, Flight Risk	Yard fully supervised Lines are accompanied from yard Gates closed every day before Yard break
Classroom teaching	Harm by school staff	Teacher present, door open if teacher needs to leave room. Supervision by teacher on Supervision duty for wet breaks.
Outdoor teaching activities	Harm by student, Harm by others, Flight Risk	Teacher present at all times.  Constant supervision
Sporting Activities	Injury Harm by external coaches	Teacher present at all times Coaches undergo Vetting
School outings	Child wandering off Unfamiliar surroundings	1-15 Ratio for supervision. Smaller ratio where SEN needs of children require same. SNA supervision is assigned to specific students
Use of toilet areas in schools	Innapropriate behaviour  Harm by School	Classroom toilets are used one at a time. Child leaving yard during class activities: only visit class where a

	<p>personnel or students</p> <p>False accusations</p>	<p>teacher is present.</p> <p>Teacher or SNA never alone in a toilet area with a child, and door kept open when staff are there.</p>
<p>Annual Sports Day</p> <p>Carol Service / Communion &amp; Confirmation</p> <p>Practices etc</p> <p>Assemblies</p>	<p>Harm by school personnel</p> <p>False accusations</p> <p>Harm by external adults</p>	<p>No child unsupervised</p> <p>Staff used for stations and Vetted adults if required.</p> <p>Policy on dropping and collecting.</p> <p>Parents communicated with very clearly</p>
<p>Fundraising events involving pupils</p>	<p>Harm by adults</p>	<p>On school Property, supervised by teachers all adults present are Garda Vetted</p>
<p>Use of off-site facilities for school activities</p> <p>School transport arrangements including use of bus escorts</p>	<p>Swimming</p> <p>School Tours</p> <p>Transport to Matches &amp; Church Practices</p>	<p>Use of Official Facilities confirmation of staff vetting Teacher always present.</p> <p>Use buses for transport during school and ensure that all after school matches allow sufficient travel time.</p>
<p>Management of challenging behaviour amongst pupils, including appropriate use of restraint where required</p>	<p>Harm to child</p> <p>False Accusation against staff</p>	<p>Training for all staff from NEPS Psychologist in Appropriate Restraint should the need arise.</p>
<p>Administration of Medicine</p> <p>Administration of First Aid</p>	<p>Harm to child</p>	<p>Review Policy</p> <p>BOM request for staff intervention / assistance as necessitated by medical condition and in accordance with NCSE allocations</p>

<p>Use of external personnel to supplement curriculum</p>	<p>Harm to child</p>	<p>All Garda Vetted and accompanied at all times by teacher and SNA (where appropriate)</p>
<p>Care of pupils with specific vulnerabilities/ needs such as</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pupils from ethnic minorities/migrants</li> <li>• Members of the Traveller community</li> <li>• Lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender (LGBT) children</li> <li>• Pupils perceived to be LGBT</li> <li>• Pupils of minority religious faiths</li> <li>• Children in care</li> <li>• Children on CPNS</li> </ul>	<p>Harm to children False accusation</p>	<p>Specific School Initiatives: THINK posters, Wrinkled Hearts, Acts of Random Kindness and class Worry Box.</p> <p>Assemblies: attention given at assemblies to promote and consolidate positive behaviour strategies.</p> <p>SPHE curriculum , Stay Safe and RSE programmes.</p>
<p>Recruitment of school personnel including -</p> <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> <li>• Visitors/contractors present during after school activities</li> <li>• Sanitary Hygiene Contractors</li> </ul>	<p>Harm not recognised or properly or promptly reported</p>	<p>All recruitment of departmental staff is regulated by strict procedures and all other positions are subject to a positive result to Vetting .</p> <p>Child Safeguarding Statement &amp; DES procedures made available to all staff</p> <p>Staff to view Tusla training module &amp; any other online training offered by PDST</p> <p>Vetting Procedures</p> <p>Policy of Parents / Volunteers Policy on Visiting Contractors</p>
<p>Use of Information and Communication Technology by pupils in school</p>	<p>Bullying Inappropriate pop up materials</p>	<p>ICT policy / Acceptable use Policy Anti-Bullying Policy Code of Behaviour / Internet Safety talks &amp; workshops for children and parents. Up to Date Firewall</p>

Use of video/photography/other media to record school events		Accompanied by school staff at all times.  Statutory Declaration and Letter of undertaking  Garda Vetting on 2 <sup>nd</sup> visit
Students participating in work experience in the school	Harm to children False accusation	Policy : One per term and 1 <sup>st</sup> come 1 <sup>st</sup> serve and subject to Vetting
Student teachers undertaking training placement in school		Vetted Accompanied Policy

**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’s First Act 2015 and no 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 the risk to the greatest possible extent.

This risk assessment has been completed by the Board of Management on 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2021. It shall be reviewed as part of the school’s annual review of its Child Safeguarding Statement.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Fr. Jim Cogley

Chairperson of Board of Management

Date: 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2021

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Mr. Thomas Cousins

Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management