

Scoil Mhuire, Our Lady's Island,

Broadway, 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 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 (revised 2023) as part of this overall Child Safeguarding Statement.
- 2 The Designated Liaison Person (DLP) is **Eimear Druhan**.
- 3 The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is **Mary Donnellan**.
- 4 The Relevant Person is **Eimear Druhan**.
- 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. 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.

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 attached 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.
- 7 This statement has been published on the school's website and has been provided to all members of school personnel, the Parents' Association 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.
- 9 This Child Safeguarding Statement was reviewed and adopted by the Board of Management on 20th September 2023.

Signed: *Jim Cogley*

Fr. Jim Cogley

Chairperson of Board of Management

Signed: *Eimear Druhan*

Ms. Eimear Druhan

Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Date: 20th September 2023

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 (revised 2023)*, the following is the Written Risk Assessment of Scoil Mhuire.

1. List of school activities

1. Training of school personnel in Child Protection matters
2. One to one teaching
3. Classroom teaching (including outdoor activities)
4. One to one support by an external agency
5. Managing of challenging behaviour amongst pupils, including appropriate use of restraint
6. Curricular provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe.
7. Daily arrival and dismissal of students
8. Recreation breaks for students
9. Care of students with special needs, including intimate care needs
10. Use of toilet areas
11. Administration of medicine and administration of first aid
12. Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst pupils
13. Sporting activities including sports day
14. School trips
15. Participation by pupils in religious ceremonies/religious instruction external to school

16. School celebrations, rehearsals, assemblies, etc.
17. Fundraising events involving pupils
18. Use of off-site facilities for school activities (swimming, tours, matches, church, etc.)
19. School transport arrangements
<p>20. Care of pupils with specific vulnerabilities/ needs such as</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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
<p>21. Recruitment of school personnel including -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teachers • SNAs • 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
22. Students participating in work experience in the school
23. Student teachers undertaking training placement in school
24. Use of Information and Communication Technology by pupils in school (including online teaching and teaching remotely)
25. Use of video/photography/other media to record school events

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

1. Harm not recognised Harm not reported promptly
2. Harm by school personnel False accusations
3. Harm by school personnel Harm by another student Flight risk
4. Harm by external adult False accusations
5. Harm to students False accusations
6. Non-teaching of same
7. Harm by another student Harm by external adults
8. Harm by student Flight Risk
9. Harm by school personnel False accusations
10. Inappropriate behaviour False accusations Harm by school personnel Harm by another student
11. Harm to student

12. Bullying
13. Harm by school personnel Harm by external coaches Harm by external adult Harm by other child
14. Harm by school personnel Harm by external adult Harm by other student Exposure to inappropriate material/activity
15. Harm by school personnel Harm by external adult Harm by another student
16. Harm by school personnel Harm by another student False accusations Harm by external adult
17. Harm by external adults Harm by other child/student Exposure to inappropriate material/activity
18. Harm by school personnel Harm by external adult Harm by other student Exposure to inappropriate material/activity
19. Harm by school personnel Harm by external adult Harm by other student
20. Harm to children False accusation Bullying

21. Harm not recognised or properly reported
22. Harm to students False accusations
23. Harm to students False accusations
24. Harm to student Bullying Exposure to inappropriate material
25. Unauthorised sharing of images

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

1. Child Safeguarding Statement & DE Child Protection procedures made available to all staff DLP and DDLP to attend training offered (online or face to face, where appropriate) All staff to attend training offered (online or face to face where appropriate) BOM logs all records of staff and board training in BOM minutes
2. School has procedures in place for one to one teaching which include: Open doors Table between teacher and pupil Glass in window
3. Teacher present at all times Supervision Door open with another teacher monitoring, if teacher needs to leave room For wet breaks, supervision by teacher on supervision duty and in some instances SNA Vetting Professional Code of Conduct

<p>4. Vetting Recognised or approved service Parental permission</p>
<p>5. Restraint Policy and training (if required) Health and Safety Policy Code of Behaviour</p>
<p>6. School implements SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe in full (Stay Safe every second year)</p>
<p>7. Arrival and dismissal supervised by teachers Gates open at 9.10am Arrival and dismissal times communicated Doors closed/magnetic locking</p>
<p>8. Yard fully supervised Lines are accompanied from yard Gates closed every day before yard break Zoned playground Anti-Bullying Policy Code of Behaviour Supervising school personnel to check yard on a wet day which requires a return to class</p>
<p>9. Intimate Care Policy Parental permission</p>
<p>10. Usage rules (one at a time, allocated toilets at break times, if class engaging in outside activities, toilet in an occupied classroom to be used) Supervision and monitoring procedures Code of Behaviour Intimate Care Policy</p>
<p>11. Administration of Medicines Policy Parental permission Training if necessary Indemnity form</p>
<p>12. Anti-Bullying Policy</p>

<p>Code of Behaviour School implements SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe in full</p>
<p>13. Teacher supervision Adequate distribution of school personnel Vetting Code of Behaviour Rules and procedures Communication of relevant information</p>
<p>14. Adequate supervision (1:15 ratio for supervision, smaller ratio where SEN needs of children require same, SNA supervision is assigned to specific student/s) Vetting Code of Behaviour Implementation of SPHE programme Parental permission</p>
<p>15. Procedures on dropping and collecting Communication to parents Supervision Parental permission</p>
<p>16. Procedures on dropping and collecting Communication to parents Supervision Code of Behaviour Implementation of SPHE programme</p>
<p>17. Vetting Adequate supervision BOM approval Code of Behaviour Implementation of SPHE programme</p>
<p>18. Use of official facilities and services Vetting Supervision Code of Behaviour Implementation of SPHE programme Parental permission</p>

<p>19. Use of buses for transport during the school day Vetting Supervision</p>
<p>20. Specific School Initiatives Assemblies: attention given at assemblies to promote and consolidate positive behaviour strategies Implementation of SPHE curriculum, Stay Safe and RSE programmes.</p>
<p>21. Vetting Child Safeguarding Statement and DE Child Protection procedures made available to all staff All staff to attend training provided (online or face to face where appropriate) Supervision</p>
<p>22. Vetting Teacher supervision Guide: usually one per term and first come first served</p>
<p>23. Vetting Accompanied by teacher</p>
<p>24. ICT Policy / Acceptable Use Policy Anti-Bullying Policy Code of Behaviour Internet safety talks and workshops for students and parents Blocked content and sites</p>
<p>25. ICT Policy / Acceptable Use Policy Anti-Bullying Policy Code of Behaviour Parental permission Announcements at events</p>

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 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 the risk to the greatest possible extent.

This risk assessment has been completed by the Board of Management on 20th September 2023. It shall be reviewed as part of the school’s annual review of its Child Safeguarding Statement.

Signed: *Jim Cogley PP*

Fr. Jim Cogley

Chairperson of Board of Management

Date: 20th September 2023

Signed: *Eimear Druhan*

Ms. Eimear Druhan

Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management