

Child Safeguarding Statement

Scoil Mhichíl

Scoil Mhichíl 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 Mhichíl 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: Mona Lineen

3 The Deputy Designated Liaison Person Deputy DLP is: Martin Keane

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. The school will adhere to the following principles of best practice in child protection and welfare. The school will:

- a. recognise that the protection and welfare of children is of paramount importance, regardless of all other considerations
- b. fully comply with its statutory obligations under the Children First Act 2015 and other relevant legislation relating to the protection and welfare of children
- c. fully co-operate with the relevant statutory authorities in relation to child protection and welfare matters
- d. 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
- e. develop a practice of openness with parents and encourage parental involvement in the education of their children; and
- f. fully respect confidentiality requirements in dealing with child protection matters

5 The following procedures/measures are in place:

- a. 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
- b. 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

- c. 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:
- c.i. Has provided each member of staff with a copy of the school’s Child Safeguarding Statement
 - c.ii. Ensures all new staff are provided with a copy of the school’s Child Safeguarding Statement
 - c.iii. Encourages staff to avail of relevant training
 - c.iv. Encourages Board of Management members to avail of relevant training
 - c.v. The Board of Management maintains records of all staff and Board member training.
- d. 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
- e. 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.
- 6 All registered teachers employed by the school are mandated persons under the Children First Act 2015
- 7 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
- 8 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
- 9 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.
- 10 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 _____.

Signed: _____

Chairperson of BoM

Date: _____

Signed: _____

Principal/Secretary to the BoM

Date: _____

See Appendix : Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment

Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment (of any potential harm)

List of School Activities	Risk Level	The School has identified the following Risk of Harm	The School has the following Procedures in place to address risk identified in this assessment
Training of school personnel in Child Protection matters	Low	Harm not recognised or reported promptly	<p>Child Safeguarding Statement & DES procedures made available to all staff</p> <p>DLP& DDLP to attend PDST face to face training All Staff to view Túsla training module & any other online training offered by PDST</p> <p>BOM records all records of staff and board training</p>
One to one teaching	Med	Harm by school personnel	<p>School has policy in place for one to one teaching</p> <p>Open doors Table between teacher and pupil Glass in door</p>
Care of Children with special needs, including intimate care needs. Changing junior infants if an accident occurs.	High	Harm by school personnel	Policy on intimate care
Toilet areas	Med	Inappropriate behaviour	Usage procedure – a one at the time procedure followed. Signs on doors to remind children.
Curricular Provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay safe.	Low	Non-teaching of same	School implements SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe in full
Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils	Low		<p>Children arrive into the classroom and are supervised .</p> <p>Arrival and Dismissal Policy in place.</p>
Managing of challenging behaviour amongst pupils, including appropriate use of restraint	low	Injury to pupils and staff	<p>Health & Safety Policy</p> <p>Code Of Behaviour</p>

List of School Activities	Risk Level	The School has identified the following Risk of Harm	The School has the following Procedures in place to address risk identified in this assessment
Sports Coaches	Med	Harm to pupils	Procedures in place.
Students participating in work experience	Med	Harm by student	Work experience Policy in place. Work experience work agreement form in place. Child Safeguarding Statement.
Recreation breaks for pupils	Low	Harm to pupils	Adequate yard supervision- Supervision Policy and map.
Classroom teaching	Low	Harm to pupils	Child Safeguarding Statement and DES procedures followed by all staff.
One-to-one teaching	Med	Harm to pupils	One to One Teaching Policy required.
Outdoor teaching activities	Low	possibility of injury	adequate supervision for activity
Sporting Activities	Med	Risk of harm	adequate supervision
School outings and tours	Med	Injury/ harm to pupils	Adequate supervision for all outings. Garda clearance to be provided by all bus companies .
Use of toilet/changing/shower areas in schools	Med	Harm to pupils	Procedure that only one child uses the toilet at a time.
Annual Sports Day	Med	Harm to pupils	Adequate supervision for activities

List of School Activities	Risk Level	The School has identified the following Risk of Harm	The School has the following Procedures in place to address risk identified in this assessment
Administration of Medicine Administration of First Aid	Med	Harm to pupils. Allegations of damage by teachers.	Policy in Place. Person is trained in First Aid.
Curricular provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe	Low	Full course not being taught	Full curriculum programme taught. Check by referring in Cuntas Miosiuil.
Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst pupils	Med	Harm to pupils by other children	Anti Bullying Policy and Code of Behaviour Policy. SPHE Anti- Bullying Programme is taught.
Training of school personnel in child protection matters	Med	Harm to pupils. Risk of harm not being recognised	All staff have copies of Safeguarding information . All staff availed of training.
Use of external personnel to supplement curriculum	Med	Harm to pupils	Policy on visiting personnel. Vetting provided before commencing work in school . A copy of Safeguarding Statement.
Recruitment of school personnel including – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teachers • SNA's • Caretaker/Secretary/Cleaners • Sports Coaches • External Tutors /Guest Speakers • Volunteers /Parents in school activities • Visitors/contractors present in schools during school hours • Visitors /contractors present 	Low	Harm not recognised or promptly reported . Child being harmed in school by a volunteer or visitor.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child Safeguarding statement and DES procedures made available to all staff. • Staff to view Tusla training module and any online training offered by PDST • Vetting Procedures • Code of Conduct for External Agencies for Sports and the Arts. • Policy on Visiting Visitors

during and after school activities			
List of School Activities	Risk Level	The School has identified the following Risk of Harm	The School has the following Procedures in place to address risk identified in this assessment
Swimming lessons	High	Harm to pupils while child participates in out of school activities. Risk of harm due to inappropriate relationship or communication between child or adult.	Swimming policy to be drafted.
Use of Information and Communication Technology by pupils in school	low	Bullying	ICT policy Anti-Bullying Policy Code of Behaviour No phones allowed in school
Students participating in work experience in the school	Med	Harm to pupils	Students are never left unsupervised or in charge of pupils.
Student teachers undertaking training placement in school	Med	Harm to pupils	Vetting clearance required. Supervised by class teacher.
Use of video/photography/other media to record school or religious events	Med	Inappropriate use of childrens' images	Social Media Policy in place re recording of school activities. Diocesan policy for non- use of cameras during church celebrations, outlined by local priest prior to religious celebrations.
Incidental Visitors to school	Med	Risk of harm by visitor to school	Visitors Policy in place. Sign to be ordered to instruct visitors to report to the office.

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 _____.

It will be reviewed as part of the school's annual review of its Child Safeguarding Statement.

Signed _____ **Date** _____

Chairperson, Board of Management

Signed _____ **Date** _____

Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management