

# Scoil Mhuire



## 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.

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

The Designated Liaison Person (DLP) is:

Siobhán McKiernan

The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is:

Joanne Carr

The Relevant Person is:

Orla Fleming

The Relevant Person is the one who can provide information in respect of how the Child Safeguarding Statement was developed and will be able to provide the statement on request. This person can also be the Deputy DLP.

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.

1 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

## Child Safeguarding Statement

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; and
    - 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 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.
- 2 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.
- 3 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.

**Signed:**     **John Curran**  
                  **Chairperson of Board of Management**

**Signed:**     **Siobhán McKiernan**  
                  **Principal**

**Date:**        **26/09/2023**

**Date:**        **26/09/2023**

**Date of next review: September 2024**

## Child Safeguarding Statement

### Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment (of any potential harm)

List of School Activities	The School has identified the following Risk of Harm	The School has the following Procedures in place to address risk identified in this assessment
Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils	Risk of child being harmed in the school by another child/adult. Risk of child being harmed by unknown persons on school grounds Risk of harm being caused to a child as a result of leaving school grounds.	Morning supervision of pupils. Dismissal supervision of pupils Anti-bullying policy. Acceptable Use policy. Code of behaviour. Supervised entry/exit point.
Recreation breaks for pupils	Injury to pupils/bullying Harm not recognised or properly or promptly reported	Yard supervision procedures. Code of behaviour. Anti-bullying policy. Health & Safety Policy
Training of school personnel in child protection matters	Harm not recognised or reported promptly	Child Safeguarding Statement & DES procedures made available to all staff In service training. Children First training/monitoring of training needed. Child Protection mentioned at every staff meeting. BOM records all records of staff and board training
One to one teaching	Harm by school personnel	See Health and Safety Policy for procedures Open doors Table between teacher and pupil Glass in window Parents notified if child is receiving one to one teaching/small group work
Care of children with special needs, including intimate care needs	Harm by school personnel	Parental permission is sought for any child that may require intimate care needs
Toilet areas/changing for sporting activities	Inappropriate behaviour Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children Risk of child being harmed in the school by another child/adult	Supervision procedures Health and safety statement

### Child Safeguarding Statement

<b>List of School Activities</b>	<b>The School has identified the following Risk of Harm</b>	<b>The School has the following Procedures in place to address risk identified in this assessment</b>
Curricular provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay Staff	Non-teaching of same	School implements SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe in full
Management of challenging behaviour amongst pupils, including appropriate use of restraint	Injury to pupils and staff	Code of Behaviour
Classroom teaching	Risk of child being harmed in the school by a member of school personnel. Risk of harm not being recognised by school personnel. Risk of harm not being reported properly and promptly by school personnel.	The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation and relevant DE circulars in relation to recruitment and Garda vetting The school complies with the agreed disciplinary procedures for teaching staff. All school personnel are provided with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement the Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017 are made available to all school personnel. School Personnel are required to adhere to the Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017 and all registered teaching staff are required to adhere to the Children First Act 2015 and its Addendum (2019)
Outdoor teaching activities	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children. Risk of child being harmed in the school by another child/adult. Risk of child being harmed by leaving the premises	The school has a Health and Safety statement. Supervision procedures
Sporting Activities	Risk of child being harmed by a member of school personnel, a member of staff of another organisation or other person while child participating in out of school activities e.g. school trip, swimming lessons, library, sporting event.	Supervision procedures
Choir		

### Child Safeguarding Statement

List of School Activities	The School has identified the following Risk of Harm	The School has the following Procedures in place to address risk identified in this assessment
Orchestra		
Violin Lessons		
Play Therapy		
Sports Coaches	Harm to pupils	Policy and procedures in place
Students participating in work experience	Harm by student	Child Safeguarding Statement Students on work experience are supervised by class teacher
Educational Trips/Matches	Harm to pupils	Children are accompanied by teachers. If travelling by bus, provider must have appropriate seatbelts for every child travelling.
Use of toilet	Inappropriate behaviour	Usage and supervision policy
Annual Sports Day	Harm to pupils	Health and Safety Policy
Annual Art Exhibition		
Annual Science Exhibition		
Cycle Training		
Use of off-site facilities for school activities		Educational Trips Policy
School transport arrangements including use of bus escorts	Harm to pupils Harm not recognised or properly or promptly reported	Children are accompanied by teachers. If travelling by bus, provider must have appropriate seatbelts for every child travelling.

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<b>List of School Activities</b>	<b>The School has identified the following Risk of Harm</b>	<b>The School has the following Procedures in place to address risk identified in this assessment</b>
Volunteers/Parents	Harm to pupils	Vetting Procedures
Administration of First Aid	Harm to pupils	Procedures for administering First Aid Staff trained in using the defibrillator.
Administration of Medicine	Harm to pupils	Procedures for administering First Aid. Staff trained in using the defibrillator
Curricular provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe	Risk of harm to children – unable to identify abuse, bullying, safety concerns.	The school implements in full the Stay Safe programme.
Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst pupils	Harm to pupils	See Code of Conduct Discipline for Learning documents
Training of school personnel in child protection matters	Risk of harm not being reported properly and promptly by school personnel.	Children First training/monitoring of training needed. Child Protection mentioned at every staff meeting.
Use of external personnel to supplement curriculum	Risk of harm due to inappropriate relationship/communications between child and another child or adult.	Garda vetting required prior to contact. School staff remain with children. Supervision procedures.
Care of pupils with specific vulnerabilities/ needs such as: <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 Child Protection Notification System (CPNS)</li> <li>• Children with medical needs</li> </ul>	Risk of harm due to racism. Risk of harm due to bullying of child. Risk of harm not being reported properly and promptly by school personnel. Risk of harm due to inappropriate/unauthorised relationship/communications between child and another child or adult. Risk of harm to children due to unauthorised access with court orders.	Anti-Bullying Policy Code of Behaviour

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List of School Activities	The School has identified the following Risk of Harm	The School has the following Procedures in place to address risk identified in this assessment
Use of Information and Communication Technology by pupils in school	Bullying Staff not following policies & procedures	ICT policy Anti-Bullying Policy Code of Behaviour
Application of sanctions under the school's Code of Behaviour including detention of pupils, confiscation of phones etc.	Risk of harm to child/another child. Risk of harm due to bullying of a child. Risk of harm not being reported properly and promptly by school personnel.	Discipline for Learning for pupils. Mobile phone policy.
Students participating in work experience in the school	Risk of harm not being recognised by school personnel. Risk of harm not being reported properly and promptly by school personnel.	The school has in place a policy and procedures in respect of students undertaking work experience in the school.
Student teachers undertaking training placement in school	Risk of harm not being recognised by school personnel. Risk of harm not being reported properly and promptly by school personnel.	Garda vetting required prior to contact. School staff remain with children. Supervision procedures
Use of video/photography/other media to record school events	Risk of harm due to children due to digital recording/sharing of school events.	Permission sought from parents on enrolment

**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 26/09/2022. It will be reviewed as part of the school's annual review of its Child Safeguarding Statement.

**Signed:**     **John Curran**  
                    **Chairperson of Board of Management**

**Signed:**     **Siobhán McKiernan**  
                    **Principal**

**Date:**        **26/09/2023**

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