



Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment

Scoil Mhuire Clarinbridge 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 The Principal Ms. Lorraine Henry
- 3 The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is the Deputy Principal Mr. Timmie Glavey
- 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 (revised 2023) 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 (revised 2023), 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 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 by the school on request.

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 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 updated Child Safeguarding Statement was reviewed and adopted by the Board of Management on 12th February 2024.

Signed: _____

Chairperson of Board of Management

Signed: _____

Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management



Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment

Written Assessment of Risk of Scoil Mhuire Clarinbridge

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

A. List of school activities

1. Training of School Personnel in Child Protection Procedures
2. Recruitment of school personnel including -
 - Teachers/SNA's
 - 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
3. Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils
4. One-to-one teaching and one-to-one counselling
 - 4.1 Classroom teaching
5. Recreation breaks for pupils
6. Outdoor teaching activities including PE and Annual Sports Day
7. All Sporting Activities including swimming lessons
8. School outings\trips\tours
9. Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst pupils
10. Application of sanctions under the school's Code of Positive Behaviour including detention of pupils, confiscation of phones etc.
11. Care of pupils with special educational needs and specific vulnerabilities / intimate needs such as toileting needs
12. Health & Safety Education at school including healthy eating
13. Unexpected events or traumas i.e. Accidents/ Pandemic
14. Administration of Medicine
15. Administration of First Aid
16. Management of challenging behaviour amongst pupils, including appropriate use of restraint where required
17. Curricular provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe
18. General toileting access

19. Older pupils in activities with younger pupils – reading, playing with them outside while helping to supervise and engage Infants in play for example
20. Use of external personnel to supplement curriculum and to support sports and other extra-curricular activities
21. Use of Information and Communication Technology by pupils in school
22. Use of Information and Communication Technology by pupils at home
23. Use of school premises by other organisation during school day
24. School transport arrangements
25. Participation by pupils in religious ceremonies/religious instruction external to the school
26. After school use of school premises by other organisations
27. Student teachers undertaking training placement in school
28. Pupils of minority religious faiths
29. Members of the Traveller Community, Lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender (LGBT) children, Pupils perceived to be LGBT Pupils from ethnic minorities/migrants
30. Inappropriate Staff Member \ Pupil communication by phone, online, etc
31. School personnel accessing/circulating inappropriate material via social media etc
32. Students participating in work experience in the school
33. Critical Incident
34. Use of photography

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

1. 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 at school if left there too early and before supervision begins (or left too late for collection)
4. Risk of child being harmed in the school by a member of school personnel or other professionals such as NEPS Psychologist.
5. Risk of child being harmed in the school by another child
6. Risk of child being harmed during outdoor teaching activities including by volunteers or visitors to the school.
7. 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. sporting activities, swimming lessons, etc
8. Risk of harm during school trips / outings / tours
9. Risk of harm due to bullying of child
 10. Risk of harm due to inappropriate behaviour
 11. Risk of harm to child while a child is receiving intimate care or when working with pupils who have SEN and who have particular vulnerabilities.
 12. Risk of harm due to lack of knowledge or failure to understand health and safety including danger for some pupils of certain foods such as peanuts and chocolate causing an anaphylactic reaction.
 13. Risk of harm to mental health of pupils if sudden event or trauma happens such as Covid 19 Pandemic, closure of school, online learning etc
 14. Risk of harm due to medicine intake
 15. Risk of harm during the administering of 1st Aid including anaphylactic shock treatment
 16. Risk of harm when working with pupils with challenging behaviour
 17. Risk of harm due to inappropriate relationship/communications between child and another child or adult
 18. Risk of harm due to inappropriate behaviour

19. Risk of harm from external personnel etc
20. Risk of harm due to children inappropriately accessing/using computers, social media, phones and other devices while at school
21. Risk of harm from other organisations due to inadequate supervision of children in school
22. Risk of harm while using other transport to events
23. Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children while attending religious ceremonies.
24. Risk of harm at after school activities
25. Risk of harm from student teachers
26. Risk of harm due to lack of teaching while class attending to religious events
27. Risk of harm due to bullying, discrimination or inadequate code of behaviour
28. Risk of harm caused by member of school personnel communicating with pupils in appropriate manner via social media, texting, digital device or other manner
29. Risk of harm caused by member of school personnel accessing/circulating inappropriate material via social media, texting, digital device or other manner
30. Risk of harm to pupils from work experience personnel
31. Risk of harm due to a critical incident happening that affects pupils
32. Risk of harm to pupil who does not want to be included in school photography

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

1. The school –
 - i. Has provided each member of school staff with a copy of the school’s Child Safeguarding Statement
 - ii. Ensures all new staff are provided with a copy of the school’s Child Safeguarding Statement
 - iii. The *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools (revised 2023)* are made available to all school personnel. School Personnel are required to adhere to the *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools (revised 2023)* and all registered teaching staff are required to adhere to the *Children First Act 2015*
 - iv. All school personnel also provided with Children First Guidance 2017, DES Circular 81/2017, appropriate Tusla (including certificates following assessment) and PDST video training, two half-days training for all staff and other documentation.
 - v. DLP & DDLP attend face to face PDST training in Child Protection when it is available and view appropriate Tusla and PDST video training.
 - vi. Some Board of Management members attended CPSMA training and Board records all records of staff and Board training.
2. The school follows all DES regulations in relation to recruitment of school personnel including all Garda Vetting requirements and checking of references.
3. The school has morning and evening supervision roster schedules which begin at 9.00am and end at 3.05pm. Parents are advised at the start of the school year and at other times that the school bears no responsibility for supervising pupils before 9.00am and after 3.05pm.
4. The school has glass in doors and windows. There may be a table between teacher /professional and pupil when possible (teacher however may have to sit alongside pupil for writing and computer activities etc). The school has a Special Educational Needs policy

and opens doors when weather permits. Classroom teacher works openly with all pupils and speaks to and works with pupils in public areas.

5. The school has a Yard Supervision Policy to ensure appropriate supervision of children during assembly, play-time on yard, dismissal and breaks and in respect of specific areas such as toilets, changing rooms etc. In addition the school has a Code of Positive Behaviour policy and an Anti-Bullying policy.
6. The school has the policies mentioned above in 5 in place and also has procedures in place re: outdoor teaching activities. Garda vetting requirements are adhered to in relation to visitors where necessary eg. coaches, etc
7. The school has policies in place such as the Code of Positive Behaviour and supervision procedures in place re sporting events and swimming activities etc
8. The school has a School Tours Policy in place and other policies and procedures as mentioned above in relation to Positive Behaviour, Anti-Bullying and Supervision.
9. The school has an Anti-Bullying Policy which fully adheres to the requirements of the Department's *Anti-Bullying Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools*.
10. The school has a Code of Positive Behaviour Policy
11. The school has an intimate care procedures in place in respect of students who require such care. School personnel only intervene if needed. Special Education Teachers and Classroom Teachers establish agreed approach with parents\ guardians at IEP meetings etc.
12. The school implements in full the SPHE curriculum and has a Healthy Eating policy
13. The school has a comprehensive Remote Teaching / Learning system for communication with parents and pupils and continues to teach Wellbeing and SPHE programmes throughout and has protocols in place.
14. The school has an Administration of Medication policy which includes treatment of anaphylactic shock and a Health & Safety Statement which incorporates First Aid treatment.
15. The school has policies and procedures in place such as the Code of Behaviour and the policy on Appropriate Restraint only where necessary.
16. The school implements in full the Stay Safe, RSE and SPHE Programmes
17. The school has supervision and reporting procedures in place in addition to the Code of Positive Behaviour. The school does not allow older and younger pupils to mix in the same toilet areas – older pupils told to wait until area is clear at break times.
18. The school implements in full the Stay Safe, RSE and SPHE Programmes
19. The school follows all DES regulations in relation to external personnel including all Garda Vetting requirements and checking of references.
20. The school has in place an ICT policy in respect of usage of ICT by pupils and has policies in relation to mobile phones in the Code of Positive Behaviour.
21. In addition to 21 above, the school teaches pupils and encourages parents to use the resources on Webwise.ie to help educate the pupils on online safety at home.

22. The school has supervision procedures and a policy in place.
23. The school uses reliable bus companies and pupils obey rules on board in line with Code of Positive Behaviour.
24. The school has in place procedures in relation to attendance at religious ceremonies and has a Code of Positive Behaviour policy.
25. The school has in place a Licensing Agreement which requires Garda vetting adherence for organisations/individuals using the school for after school activities.
26. The school has in place procedures in respect of student teacher placements including Garda vetting requirements
27. The school has in place educational and supervision procedures for pupils of minority faiths who do not participate in religious instruction and events.
28. The school has in place an Anti-bullying, Code of Behaviour and Yard Supervision policies and procedures.
29. The school personnel adhere to the DES codes of conduct for school personnel (teaching and non-teaching staff). The school complies with the agreed disciplinary procedures for all staff.
30. The school complies with the agreed disciplinary procedures for all staff.
31. The school has in place procedures in respect of work experience personnel including Garda vetting requirements and checking of references.
32. The school has in place a Critical Incident Management Plan
33. The school has in place an Emergency Contact Form that all families complete at the start of the year which specifies whether pupils are to be included in school photographs or not.

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 (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 risk to the greatest possible extent.