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Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment

For:	Scoil Mhuire,	
At:	Kilvemnon, Mullinahone, Thurles, Co. Tipperary	

This school is a: (tick appropriate) ☒ primary ☐ post-primary ☐ special school

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) and 2025, Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025 and Child Safeguarding: A Guide for Policy, Procedure and Practice, 2nd ed. (Tusla, 2024), the board of management has adopted the Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment 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 Schools 2025 as part of this overall Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment.

Name of the Designated Liaison Person (DLP):

Catherine Noonan

Name of the Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP/DDLP):

Clodagh Barry

In the absence of the DLP, the Deputy DLP shall assume responsibilities of the DLP

Name of Relevant Person

Catherine Noonan

(In schools this person is the DLP)

Relevant Person can be contacted on:

087 6528803

principalkilvemnon@gmail.com

Under the Children First Act 2015 Relevant Person means a person who is appointed by a provider of a relevant service to be the first point of contact in respect of the Child Safeguarding Statement. This person is nominated by the board of management to manage and provide oversight of child protection concerns/allegations of child abuse.

Name of Chairperson of the board of management, or in an ETB school the Chief Executive or their delegate:

Noreen Reilly Fitzgerald

In the event that both DLP and DDLP are absent and unavailable, and where there is no staff member formally acting in their role, the chairperson of the board of management, or in an ETB school the chief executive or their delegate, assumes the role of DLP.

The board of management recognises that child protection and safeguarding permeate all aspects of school life and must be reflected in all of the school's policies, procedures, practices and activities. In all of these, 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 happening to children and protect members of school personnel from the necessity to take unnecessary risks that may leave themselves open to accusations of child abuse.
- ☐ Develop a practice of openness with parents and encourage parental involvement in the education of their children.
- ☐ Fully respect confidentiality requirements as set out in the Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025 in dealing with child protection matters.
- ☐ Adhere to the above principles in relation to any vulnerable adult.

Procedures and Measures in Place

Our Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment has been developed in line with requirements under the Children First Act 2015, the *Children First: National Guidance 2017*, and *Child Safeguarding: A Guide for Policy, Procedure and Practice, 2nd ed. (Tusla, 2024)*, and the *Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025*. In addition to the procedures listed in our risk assessment, the following procedures support our intention to safeguard children while they are availing of our service:

> Procedure for the Management of Allegations of Abuse or Misconduct against School Personnel Relating to a Child Availing of Our Service

~ Where any member of school personnel is the subject of any investigation in respect of any act, omission or circumstance in relation to a child attending the school, the school is required to adhere to the relevant procedures set out in Chapter 7 of *the Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025* and to the relevant agreed disciplinary procedures for school staff which are published on the gov.ie website.

> Procedure for the Safe Recruitment and Selection of School Personnel to Work With Children

~ The school is required to adhere to the requirements of the Vetting Act. The selection or recruitment of staff and their suitability to work with children, requires the school to adhere 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 Youth and available on the gov.ie website and as outlined in Chapter 10 of the procedures.

~ A written protocol is in place authorising immediate action for cases which require an employee to be immediately absented from school for child safeguarding reasons.

> Procedure for Provision of and Access to Child Safeguarding Training and Information, Including the Identification of the Occurrence of Harm

~ The school provides information and training to members of school personnel in relation to the identification of the occurrence of harm (as defined in the 2015 Act) as follows:

~ The school has provided each member of school personnel, including any new members of school personnel, (employees and volunteers, board of management members, student teachers and those on work experience) with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment.

~ The school ensures that members of school personnel have availed of relevant training and completed child protection training.

~ The school encourages board of management members to avail of any relevant training and complete child protection training.

~ The board of management ensures that records of all staff and board member child protection training are maintained.

> Procedure for the Reporting of Child Protection or Welfare Concerns to Tusla

~ All members of school personnel are required to adhere to the procedures set out in the *Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025*, in relation to reporting of child protection concerns to Tusla. Mandated reporting applies to all registered teachers and any other mandated person who may be employed by the school, for example a chaplain or nurse. A full list of those people who are mandated persons is set out in Appendix 1 procedures.

> Procedure for Maintaining a List of the Persons (if any) in the Relevant Service Who Are Mandated Persons

~ There is a procedure in place to maintain a list of mandated persons. Schools may on occasion employ additional staff who are mandated by virtue of their profession. This list will include all registered teachers and identify additional employees that are not registered teachers.

> Procedure for Appointing a Relevant Person (In schools this person is the DLP)

~ There is a procedure in place for appointing a relevant person.

The various procedures referred to in this Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment can be accessed via the school's website, the gov.ie website or will be made available on request by the school.

In accordance with the Children First Act 2015, the Addendum to Children First 2019 and 2025, and the *Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025*, the board of management 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.

Note: The procedures and measures in place outlined above, are not intended as an exhaustive list. Individual boards of management shall also include in this section such other procedures and measures that are of relevance to the school.

This statement has been published on the school's website or will be made available on request by the school. It has been provided to all members of school personnel, the parents' association (if any), the patron and parents. A copy of this statement and risk assessment will be made available to Tusla and the department if requested.

This Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment will be reviewed annually or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which this statement refers.

Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
1.	Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils	Harm from other pupils, unknown adults on the playground	Arrival & Dismissals—at the start of each school year a notice is sent, via Aladdin email reminding parents/guardians re school opening & closing times and that any change to the usual arrangements for how their child travels home from school should be notified, in writing, to the school along with other relevant safety information. · Supervised arrival and dismissal · Late arrivals and early leavers-sign in/out book by the adult · Staff member to open main door to admit any child/adult to the school.

2.	Recreation breaks for pupils	Harm to pupils from others Inadequate supervision Inadequate Code of Behaviour & Bí Cineálta Policies Inappropriate language/communications between peers	· Supervision Rotas · Awareness of visitors entering the school yard · Personnel supervising alert to intent of visitors to yard · Designated Yard Areas for classes · Children visible on yard at all times · Code of Behaviour & Anti-Bullying Policy implemented · Implementation in full of Stay Safe Programme & SPHE curriculum and as appropriate other educational lessons. · Contacting TUSLA for advice where necessary/appropriate · Orderly exit and entry system · Code of Professional Conduct for Teachers · Health and Safety Statement
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3.	Classroom teaching	Harm by School Personnel Inadequate Code of Behaviour	· Code of Behaviour · Code of Professional Conduct for Teachers · Compliance with agreed disciplinary procedures for teaching staff.
4.	One to one teaching/One to one counselling	Harm by school personnel and or Harm by external personnel	Best Practice observed as follows: · Open doors & or doors with glass panel · Safe Seating · Parents informed. · Intimate Care Policy · Professional Code of Conduct for Teachers
5.	Outdoor teaching activities	Harm by school or external personnel, harm from older children/unknown adult on premises Inadequate supervision	· Bí Cineálta Policy · Code of Behaviour · Supervision by vetted personnel if relevant · Code of Professional Conduct for Teachers · Stay Safe Policy & Health and Safety Statement · Teacher stays present at all times

6.	Online Teaching and Learning Remotely (Synchronous Learning/Teleconferencing)	Risk of harm due to inappropriate communications between child and another child or adult. Risk of harm due to accessing inappropriate content while engaging with technology for synchronous learning Bullying Witnessing or being privy to a concerning incident Uninvited guest accessing the lesson link Unsupervised for long periods of time in breakout rooms	· Internet Acceptable Use Policy · Code of Behaviour and Bí Cinealta Policy · Zoom procedures and protocols in place- minimum 2 adults on calls. · Online Code of Behaviour · Parent/Guardian monitoring use of device for 'Distance Learning' purposes · Clear reporting procedures as mandated persons · Code of Professional Conduct for Teachers
7.	Sporting Activities	Harm by school personnel, harm from older children, harm by volunteers and unknown adults on premises or by staff of another organisation Inadequate Supervision	· Bí Cineálta Policy · Stay Safe & SPHE curriculum fully implemented. · Supervision Policy where a teacher is always present · Code of Professional Conduct for Teachers · Garda Vetting of all volunteers · Open door & or communal changing rooms where possible

8.	School outings	Harm by School Volunteers, School Personnel or unknown adults on site Inadequate supervision Inadequate Code of Behaviour	· Supervision Protocols adhered to with appropriate and adequate adult to child supervision ratio · Stay Safe Programme & SPHE curriculum fully implemented. · Vetting Procedures adhered to in respect of volunteers. · Clear reporting & risk or incident assessment procedures and review · Code of Professional Conduct for Teachers
9.	Use of toilet, shower/changing areas in schools	Inappropriate behaviour, communication or interaction with another child or adult Harm by other pupils/School Personnel Harm while receiving intimate care Bullying	· Supervision policy · Code of Behaviour & Bí Cinealta Policy · Rostering the use of toilets (in so far as practicable) for pupils from different classes · Intimate Care Policy/ Open door where practical/adult avoids being alone with one child · Code of Professional Conduct for Teachers

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
10	Annual Sports Day	Inappropriate behaviour/communications between pupils/adults Harm by other pupils Harm by School Personnel	· Assigning two adults per class/group · Code of behaviour & Bí Cineálta Policy · Stay Safe and SPHE curriculum fully implemented. · Supervision procedures · Code of Professional Conduct for Teachers
11	Fundraising events involving pupils	Harm by other pupils Harm by school personnel Harm by unknown adults on site	· Supervision procedures · Children in groups and not alone · Teacher present · Code of Professional Conduct for Teachers

1 2 .	Use of off-site facilities for school activities	Harm due to inadequate supervision of children while using off site facilities Harm by unknown adults on site Harm by other pupils	· Adequate supervision in place · Vetted Volunteers only employed. · Clear procedures in respect of school outings · Stay Safe and SPHE curriculum fully implemented · Child Safeguarding Statement of off-site venue inspected if relevant · Prompt reporting of any concerns
13 .	School transport arrangements	Harm by other pupils Harm by bus personnel Harm by inappropriate relationships or communications between a child/another child or adult	· Compliance with vetting Procedures with appropriate and adequate adult to child supervision ratio for school events · Code of professional Conduct for Teachers · Code of Behaviour & Bí Cineálta Policy · Stay Safe and SPHE Curriculum implemented in full

14	Care of Children with special needs, including intimate care if needed	Harm by school personnel Harm by other pupils Harm by inappropriate relationships or communications between a child/another child or adult	· Policy on intimate care · Professional Code of Conduct for Teachers · Adequate and appropriate supervision
15	Management of challenging behaviour amongst pupils, (including appropriate use of restraint where required)	Injury to pupils and staff	· Health & Safety Policy · Code of Behaviour · Supervision Policy · Professional Code of Conduct for Teachers
16	Management of provision of food and drink	Harm by unknown adults on site Harm by inappropriate relationships or communications between another adult	· Procedures in place for the use of external personnel · A teacher must always be present and attentive. · Appropriate vetting procedures adhered to. · SPHE curriculum fully implemented. · Visitors sign in and out in school office visitor's book

17 .	Administration of Medicine	Risk of harm due to inadequate or inappropriate administration of First Aid Unclear professional boundaries, including inappropriate physical contact or lack of visibility	· Clear procedures in place for the administration of medication in accordance with the Child Protection Procedures (2025) · Medication administered only with parental consent & in line with agreed school procedures · Appropriate supervision and visibility are maintained during administration (Open door policy or second adult present if practical) · Signed and dated record of medicines administered and kept, as relevant. · Staff adopt a respectful and dignified approach that minimises distress for the child · Code of Professional Conduct for Teachers
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1 8 .	Administration of First Aid	Risk of harm due to inadequate or inappropriate administration of First Aid Unclear professional boundaries, including inappropriate physical contact or lack of visibility	· Procedures for administration of First Aid (Safety Statement) · Appropriate supervision and visibility are maintained during administration (Open door policy or second adult present if practical) · Staff adopt a respectful and dignified approach that minimises distress for the child · Standard note sent home to check re treatment of minor injuries. · Phone call made where there is a bump to head/ head injury. · Phone call home to check if injury is any cause for concern. · Code of Professional Conduct for Teachers
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19.	Curricular Provision in respect of Social Personal & Health Education, Relationships and Sexual Education, Stay safe.	Non-teaching of same	· School implements SPHE, R.S.E. & Stay Safe in full · Comprehensive policies in place · The Cúntas Míosúil documents what has been taught, and yearly schemes give an overview of planning for all aspects/strands. · Revision of Safety topics in June-all classes.
20.	Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst pupils	Harm by other pupils	· Code of Behaviour & Bí Cineálta Policy · Stay Safe & SPHE programme fully implemented. · Acceptable Usage Policy · Mobile phone and smart watch ban · Supervision procedure · Code of Professional Conduct for Teachers

2 1 .	Training of school personnel in Child Protection matters	Training of school personnel in Child Protection matters	· Child Safeguarding Statement & DES procedures made available to all staff & also to new staff. · DLP, DDLP & all staff avail of relevant training & complete child protection training. · All Staff to view Tusla training module & any other online training offered by Oide. · BOM (Board of Management) maintains records of all staff and board training.
2 2 .	Use of external personnel to supplement curriculum	Harm by outside/external personnel	· Procedures in place for the use of external personnel · A teacher must always be present and attentive. · Appropriate vetting procedures adhered to. · SPHE curriculum fully implemented. · Visitors sign in and out in school office visitor's book

2 3 .	Use of external personnel to support sports and other extra-curricular activities	Harm to pupils by visitor to school	· A teacher must always be present and attentive. · Visitors to School Policy · Stay Safe Programme · Vetting compliance · Sign in/out in visitor's book · Main door locked · Adults only to admit visitors.
2 4 .	Care of pupils with specific vulnerabilities/ needs such as · Pupils from ethnic minorities/migrants · Members of the Traveller community · Lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender, questioning, other (LGBTIQA+ children) · Pupils perceived to be LGBTIQA+ · Pupils of minority religious faiths · Children in care · Children on Child Protection Notification System) · Children with SEN · Children with Medical Needs	Harm due to bullying (identity-based bullying, exclusion etc.)	· Code of Behaviour · Bí Cineálta Policy · Stay Safe, RSE and SPHE curriculum fully implemented · Critical Incident Policy · Intimate care and Toileting Policy · Open door/glass partition policy · Supervision Policy · Arrivals and Dismissals Policy · Anti-racism awareness initiatives undertaken

2 5	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	Not adhering to correct recruitment procedures Harm not recognised or properly or promptly reported	- Child Safeguarding Statement & DES procedures made available to all staff - Staff to view Tusla training module & any other online training offered by PDST - Vetting Procedures in relation to recruitment - Policy of vetting Parents / Volunteers - Policy on Visitors to Schools. Visitor must sign in & out book. Where relevant visitors must be vetted - Code of Professional Conduct for Teachers
2 6	Participation by pupils in religious ceremonies/religious instruction external to the school	Risk of harm by school personnel Risk of harm by unknown adult or older child	- Adequate supervision arranged. - Teacher present - Permission via Aladdin from parents giving consent to their child participating in such events - Pupil visibility & open-door policy

27.	Use of Information and Communication Technology by pupils in school	Risk of harm due to inappropriately accessing social media, computers, phones while at school or due to inappropriate communications between child or another child or adult. Bullying	ICT/ Acceptable Use policy · Code of Behaviour & Bí Cineálta Policy · Filters applied as per PDST and teacher vigilance in operation. · Pupils encouraged to report upsetting content etc Mobile phone and Smart watch ban. · Online Safety Educational Talks & SPHE
28.	Application of sanctions under the school's Code of Behaviour including detention of pupils, confiscation of phones etc.	Harm to student by member of school personnel. Inappropriate use of images Inadequate or inappropriate application of Code of Behaviour & Bí Cineálta Policy	Code of Behaviour, Bí Cineálta and Supervision/ Arrivals & Dismissal Policies · Policy for Taking and Using Digital Images of Children in School · Confiscated phones switched off, placed in sealed, signed envelope by child. · Code of Professional Conduct for Teachers

2 9 .	Student teachers & students undertaking placement in school training	Child being harmed while in school by a member of school personnel Inadequate access to policies or familiarity with policies and procedures	· Provision of copy of school's <i>Child Safeguarding Statement</i> to all new staff along with relevant policies and informing them of how to access all resources and collegial support · Vetting Procedures followed-vetted through their college. · Statutory Declaration and Form of Undertaking also viewed with note signed and filed to this effect. <i>Adherence to Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools 2025 and the Children First Act 2015. These documents re Child Protection are available to all staff through the secretary's office (See Document holder)</i> · Briefing all students in advance of commencement of placement & explaining how to access relevant policies · Teacher present in the room at all times. · Main door locked
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30.	Use of video/photography/other media to record school events	Risk of harm caused by member of school personnel/external personnel accessing or circulating inappropriate material via social media, texting, digital device or other manner.	· School Policy for Taking & Using Digital Images of Children Parental Permission signed/permitted via school enrolment allowing the use of images as per school policy. · Student mobile phones and smart watches ban. · Parents reminded at school events that any photos/videos taken are for personal use only and not to uploaded online.
31	Children on messages in the school	Risk of harm by school personnel Risk of harm by unknown adult or older child	• Children in pairs · Children instructed not to open the entrance door to any adult (know or unknown). A staff member must be consulted to deal with admittance to school.

3 2	School Swimming	Risk of harm by school personnel a member of staff of another organisation or other person Risk of harm by unknown/known adult or older child Inadequate Code of Behaviour & Bí Cineálta Policy	· Swimming Supervision Procedures in place · Supervision Protocols adhered to with appropriate and adequate adult to child supervision ratio. · Stay Safe Programme & SPHE curriculum fully implemented. · Vetting Procedures adhered to in respect of volunteers · Clear reporting & risk or incident assessment procedures in place · Code of Professional Conduct for Teachers
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3 3	Use of school premises by other organisations during school day	Risk of harm by a member of staff of another organisation or other person Risk of harm by unknown/known adult or older child	· Clear safeguarding responsibilities between the school and the preschool service · Adequate supervision or restricted access where children from different services share a premises · Clear access, supervision, and transition arrangements are in place to prevent unsupervised contact between children and adults across services
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Additional pages may be added as required

Online Safety

The *Addendum to Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children 2017* published in January 2019 clarifies that organisations providing relevant services to children should consider the specific issue of online safety when carrying out their risk assessment and preparing their Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment.

The Guidance on Continuity of Schooling for primary and post-primary schools (April 2020) advises of the importance of teachers maintaining the safe and ethical use of the internet during distance learning and assisting parents and guardians to be aware of their role also. Schools should ensure that their Acceptable Use Policy (AUP) informs and guides remote or distance learning activity.

Risk in the context of this Child Safeguarding Statement and 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 the Children First Act 2015: 'harm' means, in relation to a child— (a) assault, ill-treatment or neglect of the child in a manner that seriously affects or is likely to seriously affect the child's health, development or welfare, or (b) sexual abuse of the child, whether caused by a single act, omission or circumstance or a series or combination of acts, omissions or circumstances, or otherwise.

In accordance with Section 11 of the Children First Act 2015 and with the requirements of Chapter 9 of the Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025, the following is the written Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment.

In undertaking this Child Safeguarding Statement and 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 Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment was reviewed by the board of management on _____ (*most recent review date*)

Signed:*		Date:
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Chairperson of the board of management

Signed:*		Date:
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Principal/Secretary to the board of management

This Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment is expected to be reviewed again on _____ (*expected review date*)

** Document to be printed and signed with original signatures*

Appendix - Location of copies of the Child Protection Procedures and Children First Guidance

The Child Protection Procedures are available at www.gov.ie/childprotectionschools and on our school website www.scoilmhuirekilvemnon.ie

The Children First National Guidance 2017 is available at https://www.tusla.ie/uploads/content/Children_First_National_Guidance_2017.pdf

There is a hard copy of our schools CSS1 in each classroom, staff room, school hall and school office. - 6 in total.