

19987J



Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment

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 **Noel McKeon**
3. The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is **Maria O'Loughlin**
4. The Relevant Person is (DLP) **Noel McKeon**
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, 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.

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 DES 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.

- In this school the Board has appointed the 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 schools 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 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.

This Child Safeguarding Statement was adopted by the Board of Management on 27th November 2024.

This Child Safeguarding Statement was reviewed by the Board of Management on 27th November 2024.

Signed: _____ (Chairperson of Board of Management)

Date: _____

Signed: _____ (Principal / Secretary to the Board of Management)

Date: _____

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 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, Newtownforbes, Co Longford, 19987J**

1. List of school activities

1. One-to-one teaching.
2. One-to-one assessments.
3. Sporting activities.
4. Use of toilets/changing/ shower areas in school and in Leisure Centre.
5. Use of Sports Complex.
6. Use of bus escorts.
7. Care of children with special educational needs, including intimate care where needed.
8. Administration of Medicines.
9. Administration of First Aid.
10. Curricular provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe.
11. Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst pupils.
12. Recruitment of school personnel including, Teachers/SNA's/Guest Speakers/Outside Agencies.
13. Sports coaches, volunteer parents, Caretaker/Secretary.
14. Use of Information and Communication Technology by pupils in the school.
15. Students/adults participating in work experience / training placement.
16. Risk of harm due to bullying of a child.
17. Risk of harm to a child while receiving intimate care.
18. School Tours/Day Trips/Playground/Church visits/Local amenities/School excursions (off site facilities).
19. Travelling to Sporting Events.
20. Extra-curricular competitions.
21. Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils
22. Recreation breaks for pupils
23. Classroom teaching
24. Outdoor teaching activities
25. Management of challenging behaviour amongst pupils, including appropriate use of restraint where required
26. Use of digital technologies by pupils in school
27. Use of video/photography/other media to record school event

28. Risk of pupils running away from supervising adult / classroom / school grounds when overwhelmed
29. Teacher and pupils teaching and learning remotely
30. Homework club

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

1. One-to-one teaching. Child vulnerable if isolated.
2. One-to-one assessment. Child vulnerable if isolated.
3. Sporting activities. Changing area possible area of harm for children. Adequate supervision.
4. Use of toilets/changing/shower areas in Leisure Centre. Area is open to the public.
5. Use of Sports Complex. Need for adequate supervision.
6. Use of bus escort. Child is vulnerable.
7. Care of children with special educational needs, including intimate care where needed. Child is vulnerable.
8. Administration of Medicines. Need for care in administration of medicines.
9. Administration of First Aid. Care/respect when treating children.
10. Curricular provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe. Need for vigilance and need for correct delivery of the programmes.
11. Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst pupils. Children can be subjected to bullying by other pupils.
12. Recruitment of school personnel including, Teachers/SNA's, Sports Coaches, Volunteer parents, Caretaker/Secretary.
13. Use of information and communication Technology by pupils in the school. Children vulnerable in using technology and internet bullying.
14. Students/adults participating in work experience. It could be a case of stranger danger.

15. Risk of harm due to bullying of a child.

18. Risk of harm to a child while receiving intimate care.

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

1. All school personnel are provided with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement.
2. The Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017 are made available to all staff.
3. 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.
4. The school implements in full the Stay Safe Programme.
5. The school implements in full the SPHE curriculum.
6. 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.
7. The school has a clear policy on one-to-one teaching.
8. The school has a clear policy on one-to-one assessments.
9. The school has a yard supervision policy to ensure appropriate toilets, changing room areas.
10. The school has a Health and Safety Policy.
11. The school uses Garda vetted personnel in consultation with the parents as Bus Escorts.
12. The school has a Special Needs Policy.
13. The school has a policy and procedures for the administration of medicines.
14. The school has an intimate care needs policy in respect of students who require such care.
15. The school has in place a policy and procedures for the administration of First-Aid.
16. The school has in place a code of behavior for pupils.
17. The school has in place an ICT policy in respect of usage of ICT by pupils.
18. The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation and relevant DES circulars in relation to recruitment and Garda vetting.
19. The school has in place a policy and procedures for the administration of First Aid.
20. The school has in place an Acceptable Use of Internet Policy. The AUP has been reviewed to mitigate the potential risks linked to remote teaching and learning. • The school has in place a Mobile Phone Policy in respect of usage of mobile phones by pupils
21. The school has in place a Critical Incident Management Plan.
22. The school has taken all steps to ensure that rooms where teaching & learning in all setting (one to-one, group settings or whole class) have clear glass panels etc, as appropriate.
23. The school
Has provided each member of staff with a copy of the school's Safe Guarding Policy.
Ensures all new staff are provided with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement.
Staff have been provided with relevant training and continue to upskill.

Encourages board of management members to avail of relevant training

Maintains records of all staff and board member training

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.