



## Mandatory Template 1: Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment

### Child Safeguarding Statement

**Scoil Íde** 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 2017](#) and [Tusla Guidance on the preparation of Child Safeguarding Statements](#), the Board of Management of **Scoil Íde Primary School** 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 **Catherine Keane (Principal)**

The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is **Audrey Dempsey (Deputy Principal)**

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.



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 2017 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 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 school's 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 on request by the school.

**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.

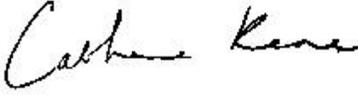
This statement has been published on the school's website and has been provided to all members of school personnel, the Parents' Association and the patron. It is readily accessible to parents and guardians on request. A copy of this Statement will be made available to Tusla and the Department if requested.

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 **17/05/2023**

This Child Safeguarding Statement was reviewed by the Board of Management on **17/05/2023**

Signed:   
Chairperson of Board of Management

Signed:   
Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Date: 17/05/2023

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## Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment

### Written Assessment of Risk of Scoil Íde

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 2017*, the following is the Written Risk Assessment of Scoil Íde.

List of school activities	The school has identified the following risk of harm in respect of its activities –	The school has the following procedures in place to address the risks of harm 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. Risk of child being recorded without consent.	Morning supervision of pupils. Dismissal supervision of pupils. Antibullying policy. Acceptable Use policy. Code of behaviour. Access to school grounds limited to one entry and exit point. Supervised entry/exit point. Mobile phone policy.
Recreation breaks for pupils	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children in school.	Yard supervision procedures. Code of behaviour. Antibullying policy.
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 has a code of conduct for school personnel (teaching and non-teaching staff) The school complies with the agreed disciplinary procedures for teaching staff.



	Risk of harm to a child if they accessed a personal or teaching device, such as a phone/laptop owned by a staff member.	All school personnel are provided with a copy of the school's <i>Child Safeguarding Statement</i> . The <i>Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017</i> are made available to all school personnel. School Personnel are required to adhere to the <i>Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017</i> and all registered teaching staff are required to adhere to the <i>Children First Act 2015</i> and its Addendum (2019).
One-to-one teaching/learning One-to-one counselling	Risk of child being harmed in the school by a member of school personnel.  Risk of harm in one-to-one teaching, counselling, coaching situation.	The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation and relevant DE circulars in relation to recruitment and Garda vetting. The school has a code of conduct for school personnel (teaching and non-teaching staff). The school complies with the agreed disciplinary procedures for teaching staff.
Outdoor teaching activities Onsite/off site	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 unknown persons on school grounds/off site. Risk of child being harmed by leaving the premises.	The school has a Health and Safety statement. Supervision procedures. School has limited their entry/exit points.
Fire drill evacuation	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children. Risk of child being harmed in the school by another child/adult.	Health and Safety procedures for evacuations. Supervision procedures.  Critical Incident plan.



Movement breaks	<p>Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children.</p> <p>Risk of child being harmed in the school by a member of school personnel.</p> <p>Risk of child being harmed in the school by another child.</p> <p>Risk of child being harmed in the school by volunteer or visitor to the school.</p>	<p>Supervision procedures.</p> <p>Special Educational Needs policy.</p> <p>Antibullying procedures and policy.</p> <p>Visitors to school procedures.</p> <p>Vetting procedures.</p> <p>Security/safety procedures.</p>
Pupils sent on class jobs/messages within school environment	<p>Risk of child being harmed in the school by volunteer or visitor to the school.</p> <p>Risk of child being harmed in the school by a member of school personnel.</p> <p>Risk of child being harmed in the school by another child.</p>	<p>Vetting procedures.</p> <p>Anti bullying procedures and policy.</p> <p>Supervision procedures.</p> <p>Health and Safety statement.</p>
Online teaching and learning remotely Online meetings	<p>Risk of harm due to inappropriate use of online platforms;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- such as an uninvited person accessing the lesson link.</li> <li>- students using chatrooms for purposes other than learning</li> <li>- students being left unsupervised for long periods of time in breakout rooms.</li> </ul>	<p>The school has an Acceptable Use Policy in place, to include provision for online teaching and learning remotely, and has communicated this policy to parents.</p> <p>The school has in place a policy governing the use of smart phones and tablet devices in the school by pupils as per circular 38/2018.</p> <p>Antibullying procedures include cyber-bullying.</p> <p>Guidelines for online etiquette and learning.</p>
Sporting activities/school outings	<p>Risk of child being harmed by a member of school personnel, a member of staff of another</p>	<p>Supervision procedures.</p> <p>Health and Safety procedures.</p>



	organisation or other person while child participating in out of school activities e.g. school trip, swimming lessons, library, sporting event.	School tour policy. Critical Incident policy.
Use of toilet/changing clothing in schools	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.
Annual sports day	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children. Risk of child being harmed in the school by another child/adult.	Health and Safety statement. Supervision procedures. External visitors vetted. Closed event – school community only.
Fundraising events involving pupils/school raffle/cake sale	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children. Risk of child being harmed in the school by another child/adult. Risk of harm due to unauthorised recording/online sharing of a child/event.	Supervision procedures. Acceptable Use policy  Parents Association members vetted.
Use of off-site facilities for school activities	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children. Risk of child being harmed by another child/adult.	Supervision procedures. Code of behaviour. Health and Safety statement.
Management of challenging behaviour amongst pupils, including appropriate use of restraint where required.	Risk of child being harmed by another child. Risk of child being harmed by an adult member of staff.	School is developing a policy about behaviours of concern* (noted item on review) Training for staff on managing challenging behaviour.



Care of children with special educational needs, including intimate care	Risk of harm to children with additional needs who have particular vulnerabilities, including care/safety/medical vulnerabilities.  Risk of harm to child while a child is receiving intimate care.	The school has an intimate care policy/plan in respect of students who require such care.  Special Educational Needs policy.
Management of provision of food and drink	Risk of harm to child due to lack of neglect/lack of food.	School identifies at risk children. Use of onsite breakfast club, Sherpa Kids.
Administration of medicine	Risk of child being harmed in the school by a member of school personnel.	Procedures for administering medicine/first aid. Health Care plans.
Administration of first aid	Risk of child being harmed in the school by a member of school personnel.	Procedures for administering First Aid. Staff trained in 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	Risk of harm to children in the event of bullying remaining unreported.	Antibullying policy and procedures. Teaching of the Stay Safe programme. Code of behaviour. Supervision procedures. Critical Incident policy.
Training of school personnel in child protection matters	Risk of harm not being reported properly and promptly by school personnel.	Inservice training. 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.



<p>Use of external personnel to support sports and other extra-curricular activities</p>	<p>Risk of harm due to inappropriate relationship/communications between child and another child or adult.</p>	<p>Garda vetting required prior to contact. School staff remain with children. Supervision procedures.</p>
<p>Care of pupils with specific vulnerabilities/needs such as <i>Pupils from ethnic minorities/migrants</i> <i>Members of the traveller community</i> <i>Lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender (LGBT) children</i> <i>Pupils perceived to be LGBT</i> <i>Pupils of minority religious faiths</i> <i>Children in care</i> <i>Children on Child Protection Notification System (CPNS)</i> <i>Children with medical needs</i></p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>The school undertakes inclusive initiatives and promotes a culture of inclusivity; <i>Friendship Week</i> <i>Student Council</i> <i>Anti Bullying Charter</i> <i>School assemblies celebrating diversity</i> Supervision procedures – including visitors to school.  Play Therapy supports.</p>
<p>Recruitment of school personnel including <i>Teachers/SNA's</i> <i>Caretaker/secretary/cleaners</i> <i>Sports coaches</i> <i>External tutors/guest speakers</i> <i>Volunteers/parents in school activities</i> <i>Visitors/contractors present in school during school hours</i> <i>Visitors/contractors present during after school activities</i></p>	<p>Risk of harm not being reported properly and promptly by school personnel.</p>	<p>The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation and relevant DE circulars in relation to recruitment and Garda vetting.  The school has a code of conduct for school personnel (teaching and non-teaching staff) The school complies with the agreed disciplinary procedures for teaching staff.  Procedures for contractor visits.</p>



Participation by pupils in religious ceremonies/religious instruction external to the school	Risk of harm due to inappropriate relationship/communications between child and another child or adult.	Supervision procedures.
Use of Information and Communication Technology by pupils in school, including social media	Risk of harm of online bullying Risk of harm due to access to content/strangers Risk of harm due to children inappropriately accessing/using computers, social media, phones and other devices while at school.	The school has an Acceptable Use policy in place, to include provision for online teaching and learning remotely, and has communicated this policy to parents.
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 child.  Risk of harm not being reported properly and promptly by school personnel.	The school has in place a Code of Behaviour 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.	The school has in place a policy and procedures in respect of student teachers undertaking placement in the school.
Use of video/photography/other media to record school events	Risk of harm due to children due to digital recording/sharing of school events.	Consent procedures. GDPR guidelines. Data Protection policy.



Media coverage at offsite events	Risk of harm due to children due to digital recording/sharing of school events.	Consent procedures. GDPR guidelines.
Unauthorised school access	Risk of child being harmed in the school by an unknown child/adult gaining access into the school.	Supervision procedures. Health and Safety statement.
Afterschool clubs	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.

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.