

CSS 1

Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment

To:		(Name of School)
Arklow		GCM

This school is of the following type: post-primary school.

In accordance with the requirements of the Children First Act, 2015, in *Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children 2017*, in the Addendum to *Children First* (2019), in the Addendum to *Children First* (2025), in the Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025, and in *Child Safeguarding: Guidance on Policy, Procedure and Practice, 2nd Edition* (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 the Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025 from the Department as part of this overall Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment, and will implement them in full without any modification.

Name of the Designated Liaison Person (DLP): Déaglán Ó Laoire (Principal)

Name of the Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP): Eibhlín Uí Chonchubhair (VP)

In the absence of the DLP, the Deputy DLP will take on the responsibilities of the DLP.

Name of the Relevant Person

(In schools, this person is the same as the DLP)

The Relevant Person can be contacted as follows:

0402 91764	Gcm@kwetb.ie
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Under the Children First Act, 2015, Relevant Person means a person appointed by a relevant service provider to be the first point of contact in respect of the Child Safeguarding Statement. The board of management appoints that person to manage and oversee child protection concerns/allegations of child abuse.

Name of the Chairperson of the board of management or, in an Education and Training Board school, the name of the Chief Executive or their delegate: Cian Ó Cuanacháin

Where both the DLP and the Deputy DLP are absent and unavailable, and where no staff member is formally acting in their role, the chairperson of the board of management or, in an Education and Training Board school, the Chief Executive or their delegate, will take on the role of the DLP.

The board of management recognises that the protection and safeguarding of children forms part of every aspect of school life and must be reflected in all of the school's policies, procedures, practices and activities. In each of these areas, the school will adhere to the

following good practice principles in relation to the protection and welfare of children. 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 cooperate with the relevant statutory authorities in relation to matters concerning the protection and welfare of children.
- Adopt safe practices to minimise the risk of harm to children and to protect members of school personnel from the need to take unnecessary risks that could expose them to allegations of child abuse.
- Develop a practice of openness with parents and encourage parental involvement in their children's education.
- Fully respect the confidentiality requirements set out in the Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025 when dealing with child protection matters.
- Adhere to the above principles in relation to any vulnerable adult.

Procedures and Measures in Place

The Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment from us was developed in line with requirements under the Children First Act, 2015, *Children First: National Guidance 2017*, *Child Safeguarding: Guidance on Policy, Procedure and Practice, 2nd Edition* (Tusla, 2024), and the *Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025*. In addition to the procedures listed in our risk assessment, our commitment to safeguarding children while they avail of our service is supported by the following procedures:

> The Procedure for Managing Allegations of Abuse or Misconduct against Members of School Personnel Relating to a Child Availing of our Service

~ Where any member of school personnel is the subject of any investigation into any act, omission or circumstance regarding a child attending the school, the school will be 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, published on the website gov.ie

> The Procedure for the Safe Recruitment and Selection of Members of School Personnel to Work with Children

~ The school is required to comply with the requirements of the National Vetting Bureau Acts. When selecting or recruiting staff, and deciding on their suitability to work with children, the school is required to comply with the statutory vetting requirements of the National Vetting Bureau (Children and Vulnerable Persons) Acts, 2012 to 2016, and with the overarching duty of care guidance set out in relevant circulars from the Department of Education and Youth regarding Garda vetting and regarding recruitment, available on the website gov.ie, and set out in Chapter 10 of the procedures.

~ A protocol is in place for immediate action in cases where an employee is required to immediately be suspended from the school for child safeguarding reasons.

> The Procedure for Providing Child Safeguarding Training and Information, and Access to it, including Identifying the Occurrence of Harm

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

~ The school provided every member of school personnel, including any new members of school personnel (employees and volunteers, board of management members, student teachers, and people 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 have completed child protection training.

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

~ The board of management ensures that records are kept of all child protection training completed by staff members and board members.

> The Procedure for Reporting Child Protection Concerns or Child 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 child protection concerns to Tusla. Mandated reporting applies to every registered teacher and to any other mandated person employed by the school, such as a chaplain or nurse. A full list of those persons who are mandated persons is set out in Appendix 1 to the procedures.

> The Procedure for Keeping a List of Persons (if any) in the Relevant Service who are Mandated Persons

~ A procedure is in place to keep a list of mandated persons. Schools may, from time to time, employ additional staff members who are mandated persons by virtue of their profession. This list will include every registered teacher, and will identify other employees who are not registered teachers.

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

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

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

In accordance with the Children First Act, 2015, the Addendum to *Children First* 2019, the Addendum to *Children First* 2025, and the *Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025*, the board of management has carried out an assessment of any risk of harm to a child while attending the school or participating in school activities. Accompanying the Child Safeguarding Statement is a written assessment setting out the risk areas identified and the procedures the school has in place to manage those risks.

Note: The procedures and measures in place, as set out above, are not intended to be an exhaustive list. Individual boards of management will also include in this section whatever other procedures and measures are most appropriate to the school.

This statement was published on the school's website, or the school will make it available on request. It was provided to every member of school personnel, to the parents' association (if any), and to parents. A copy of the statement and this risk assessment will be made available to Tusla/Department and to the Department, if requested.

This Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment will be reviewed annually or as soon as practicable after a material change occurs to anything referred to in this statement.

Risk Assessment in relation to Child

Safeguarding

Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment

1. List of school activities

Arrival and departure of pupils daily; Recreational breaks for pupils; Classroom teaching; One-to-one teaching; One-to-one learning support; One-to-one counselling; Off-site teaching activities; Online/remote teaching and learning; Sporting activities; Musical activities School tours; School tours involving overnight stays; School tours involving foreign travel; Use of toilet areas/changing rooms/showers in schools; Annual Sports Day; Fundraising events involving pupil participation; Use of off-site facilities for school activities; School transport arrangements including use of bus escorts; Care of pupils with special educational needs, including intimate personal care where necessary; Care of any vulnerable pupil, including intimate personal care where necessary; Managing challenging behaviour among pupils, including the appropriate use of restraint where necessary; Management of food and drink provision; Medication administration; First Aid administration; Curricular provision in relation to SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe; Preventing and addressing bullying among pupils; Training school personnel in child protection matters; Use of external personnel to supplement the curriculum; Use of external personnel to support sports and other extra-curricular activities; Care of pupils with vulnerabilities/specific needs such as:

- Minority ethnic/migrant pupils
- Members of the Traveller community
- Lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender (LGBT) children
- Pupils perceived to be LGBT
- Pupils of minority religious faiths
- Children in care
- Children on the Child Protection Notification System
- Children with medical needs

Recruitment of school personnel, including:

- Teachers/SNAs
- Caretaker/Secretary/Cleaners
- Sports coaches
- External tutors/guest speakers
- Volunteers/parents in school activities
- Visitors/contractors on school premises during school hours
- Visitors/contractors present during after-school activities

Pupil participation in religious ceremonies/religious instruction off-site; Pupils' use of Information and Communication Technology in school, including social media; Imposing sanctions under the school's code of behaviour, e.g. keeping pupils in, confiscating phones; Pupils participating in work experience in the school; Pupils from the school participating in work experience in other locations; Student teachers undertaking training placements in the school; Use of video/photography/other media to record school events; Use of school premises by other organisations; Other organisations using school premises during the school day; Breakfast club; Homework/study club in the evening (if any).

1. The school has identified the following risk of harm in relation to its activities – ○

Risk of harm not being recognised by school personnel

- Risk of harm not being reported properly and promptly by school personnel
- Risk of a member of school personnel causing harm to a child in the school

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- Risk of a child causing harm to another child in the school
 - Risk of a volunteer or visitor to the school causing harm to a child in the school
 - Risk of a member of school personnel, a staff member of another organisation, or another person causing harm to a child while the child is taking part in activities off the school premises, e.g. school tour, swimming lessons
 - Risk of harm arising from misuse of a remote teaching and learning communication platform, such as an uninvited person accessing the lesson link, or pupils being left unsupervised for long periods in breakout rooms
 - Risk of harm arising from bullying of a child
 - Risk of harm to a child during the provision of intimate personal care
 - Risk of harm arising from an inadequate code of behaviour
 - Risk of harm in the context of one-to-one teaching, counselling or coaching
 - Risk of harm arising from a member of school personnel communicating with pupils inappropriately via social media, texting, digital device, or otherwise
 - Risk of harm arising from a member of school personnel accessing/distributing inappropriate material via social media, texting, digital device, or otherwise
 - Risk of harm arising from racism
 - Risk of harm arising from inadequate supervision of children in the school
 - Risk of harm arising from inadequate supervision of children while attending activities off the school premises
 - Risk of harm arising from inappropriate relationships/communication between child and child, or between a child and another adult
 - Risk of harm arising from children inappropriately accessing computers, social media, phones and other devices while in school
 - Risk of harm to children on the Child Protection Notification System who have particular vulnerabilities, including medical vulnerabilities.

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

- A copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement is provided to all school personnel
- The Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2025 are provided to all school personnel
- The school fully implements the Stay Safe Programme
- The school fully implements the SPHE curriculum
- The school fully implements the Junior Cycle Wellbeing Programme
- The school has an Anti-Bullying Policy that fully complies with the Department's Bí Cineálta Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools
- The school has a yard/playground supervision policy to ensure appropriate supervision of children arriving, departing, during breaks, and in specific areas such as toilets, changing rooms, etc.
- The school has a clear policy and procedures in place regarding school tours
- The school complies with legislative requirements regarding Garda vetting and relevant ETB/CEO circulars in relation to recruitment and Garda vetting
- The school complies with agreed disciplinary procedures for teaching staff

- The school has a Special Educational Needs policy
- The school has an intimate personal care policy/plan for pupils who require such care
- The school has a policy and procedures in place for administering medication to pupils

In relation to the school:

- It has provided a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement to every member of school staff
- It ensures that a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement is provided to every new staff member
- It encourages staff to avail of relevant training
- It encourages board of management members to avail of relevant training
- It keeps records of all staff and board member training
- The school has a policy and procedures in place for administering First Aid
- The school has a code of behaviour in place for pupils
- The school has an Acceptable Use Policy in place, including in relation to the provision of remote online teaching and learning, and this policy has been communicated to parents
- The school has a policy in place governing pupils' use of smartphones and tablet devices in the school in accordance with Circular 38/2018
- The school has a Home–School Links policy and related procedures in place

In accordance with Section 11 of the Children First Act 2015 and 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 preparing this Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment, the board of management has endeavoured to identify, as far as possible, the risks of harm relevant to this school and to ensure that adequate procedures are in place to manage all identified risks. While it is not possible to eliminate or predict every risk of harm, the procedures listed in this risk assessment are in place at the school to manage and reduce risk as far as possible.

The board of management reviewed this Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment on 21/9/26 (date of most recent review)

Signed:*	Cian Ó Cuanacháin	Date:21/9/26	

Chairperson of the Board of Management

Signed:*	Déaglán Ó Laoire	Date: 21/9/26	

Principal/Secretary of the Board of Management

This Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment is expected to be reviewed again on _____ 9/2027 _____ (*expected review date*)

Appendix – Location of Copies of the Child Protection Procedures and Children First Guidance

<https://www.gaelcholaistenamara.ie/page/Polasaithe-Policies/3/Index.html>

<https://www.gov.ie/ga/an-roinn-oideachais/poist-pholasai/n%C3%B3sanna-imeachta-maidir-le-cosaint-leana%C3%AD-do-scoileanna/>