



Child Safeguarding Statement – Scoil Mhichíl Naofa [18288B]

Scoil Mhichíl Naofa is a primary school providing primary education to pupils from Junior Infants to Sixth Class in mainstream and special education classes.

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 Mhichíl Naofa 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 Mr. Seán Hourihane;
3. The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DDLP) is Ms. Pauline O' Shea
Doogue;
4. The Relevant Person is Mr. Sean Hourihane;
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. 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.

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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 DE 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 DE 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 - All school personnel were required to undertake Tusla Training and to certify same;
 - Encourages Board of Management members to avail of relevant training; and ➤ 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.

- 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.

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- 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 03.10.2023.

_____ Tony O

Rourke Seán Hourihane

Chairperson of Board of Management Principal/Secretary to Board of Management Date:

03.10.2023 Date: 03.10.2023

Date of next review: March 2024

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Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment

Written Assessment of Risk of Scoil Mhichíl Naofa

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 Mhichíl Naofa.

List of School Activities	The School has identified the following Risk of Harm	The School has the following Procedures in place to address risk identified in this assessment
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<p>Training of school personnel in Child Protection matters</p>	<p>Harm not recognised or reported promptly</p>	<p>Child Safeguarding Statement & DES procedures made available to all staff</p> <p>DLP& DDLP to attend PDST face to face training in April/ May.</p> <p>All Staff recommended to view Tusla training module & any other online training offered by PDST. Staff members who were unable to attend staff CPD days are required to view online training and present certificate to Management.</p> <p>All staff required to undertake Tusla Course during Term 1 2020/21.</p> <p>All Staff advised of revised procedures and recommended to undertake Tusla Course. (Sept. 2023)</p> <p>Staff provided with two half days of in-service on Child Protection Procedures.</p> <p>BOM records all records of staff and board training.</p>
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<p>One to one teaching</p>	<p>Harm by school personnel</p>	<p>School has policy in place for one to one teaching Open doors where glass panels do not exist.</p> <p>Table between teacher and pupil</p> <p>Glass window in door</p> <p>If child is withdrawn from room for any reason by a staff member– leave door open or speak with child in</p>
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		view of another adult.
Care of children with special needs, including intimate care needs	Harm by school personnel	School issues directions to staff regarding intimate care Two adults/one child in special classes Intimate Care Needs Policy [Revised 2019].
Toilet areas	Inappropriate behaviour – specifically in old building where toilets are outside of the classroom.	Usage and supervision policy e.g. Two adults/one child in special classes Policy requires review to reflect the challenges of allowing children leave the classroom unsupervised. Beirt le Chéile currently operating.
Curricular Provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay safe.	Non-teaching of same	School implements SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe in full
Managing of challenging behaviour amongst pupils, including appropriate use of restraint	Injury to pupils and staff	Health & Safety Policy Code Of Behaviour Staff training in regard to Restraint [SNA]

<p>Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils</p>	<p>Harm from other pupils, unknown adults on the playground That children would be collected by an unknown person</p>	<p>Arrival and Dismissal Policy & Procedures. Amended by CRP New entrances/staggered times. Amended 29.03.2022 - Retained for the duration of Building Project.</p> <p>Supervision Policy - Amended by CRP - staggered breaks</p> <p>Health & Safety Policy - Amended by CRP - Strict COVID procedures.</p> <p>Authorised collection list</p> <p>Sign out book if during the day. Amended by CRP - notified now by Aladdin Noticeboard.</p> <p>No unauthorised adults on site</p> <p>Supervision at all entrances in the morning supervision Amended by CRP - Additional staff at entrances.</p> <p>Coded doors</p> <p>Junior Infants – 3rd must be collected by authorised adult. Some exceptions where parents/guardians give written permission</p> <p>4th-6th can be dismissed without adult upon written permission</p>
<p>Recreation breaks for pupils</p>	<p>Injury to pupils/ Bullying Harm not recognised or properly or promptly reported</p>	<p>Policy & Procedures in place Health & Safety Policy Code Of Behaviour Anti-Bullying Policy</p>

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Classroom teaching	Harm by school personnel	Code of Practice for Teachers
Outdoor teaching activities	Harm by school personnel	Code of Practice for Teachers
Choir	Harm by school personnel	Minimum of two staff members present
Access/Egress	Harm to pupils from unknown individuals	Front and rear of school secured with codes. Visitors required to wear tags Doors monitored at appropriate times e.g. morning/evening. Procedure for dismissing children. Amended 27.04.2021 - in accord with CRP.
Play Therapy	Harm to pupils	All persons working with children require vetting and to sign statutory declaration.
Sports Coaches	Harm to pupils	All coaches require vetting and to sign statutory declaration.
Students participating in work experience	Harm by student	Work Experience Policy Child Safeguarding Statement.
Educational Trips / Matches	Harm by School Personnel and/or by those assisting e.g. parent volunteers, coaches	Vetted staff members present and monitoring at event
Changing for sport activities	Harm by School Personnel and/or by those assisting e.g. parent volunteers, coaches	Current Policy – two adults must be present in the changing area for supervision.

Annual Sports Day	Harm by School Personnel and/or by those assisting e.g. parent volunteers, coaches and/or unknown persons	Vetted staff members present and monitoring at event
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Annual Art Exhibition	Harm by School Personnel and/or by those assisting e.g. parent volunteers, coaches and/or unknown persons	Vetted staff members present and monitoring at event
Annual Science Exhibition	Harm by School Personnel and/or by those assisting e.g. parent volunteers, coaches and/or unknown persons	Vetted staff members present and monitoring at event
Use of off-site facilities for school activities eg Pitches, Library, Church	Harm by School Personnel and/or by those assisting e.g. parent volunteers, coaches and/or unknown persons	Vetted staff members present and monitoring at event
School transport arrangements including use of bus escorts	Harm to pupils Harm not recognised or properly or promptly reported	Policy for Bus Escort – directed to seek advice from Principal/Deputy Principal – report all incidents where concerns arise.
Management of challenging behaviour amongst pupils, including appropriate use of restraint where required	Harm by school personnel	All SNA /Bus Escort staff have received Manual Handling/ MAPA training. Amended 27.04.2021 - Updated training Manual Handling Term 1 15.10.2021. MAPA Pending.

Administration of First Aid	Harm by school personnel	All administrative, SNA and bus escort staff [20.03.2018] have/will have received First Aid Training. Amended 27.04.2021 - Updated training Term 1 2021. Amended 03.10.2023 - Updated Training Term 1 2023/24.
Administration of Medicine	Harm by School Personnel	Administration of Medicine policy.

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Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst pupils	Harm by other students	Anti Bullying Policy Code of Behaviour Care Team SALT programme, Buddy Bench, Stay Safe Programme, SPHE Children are aware of alert system
Use of external personnel to supplement curriculum	Harm by Volunteers	All vetted for role as volunteers

<p>Care of pupils with specific vulnerabilities/needs such as</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pupils from ethnic minorities/migrants • Members of the Traveller community • Lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender (LGBT) children • Pupils perceived to be LGBT <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pupils of minority religious faiths • Children in care • Children on CPNS 	<p>Harm by other students - Bullying</p>	<p>Anti Bullying Policy Code of Behaviour Care Team</p>
<p>Swimming</p>	<p>Harm by School Personnel and/or by those assisting e.g. parent volunteers, coaches, other members of the community.</p>	<p>Current Policy – two adults must be present in the changing area for supervision.</p>

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<p>Yard</p>	<p>Harm by other students – (a) Bullying (b) Access from outside – harm from unknown person</p>	<p>(a) Anti Bullying Policy/ Code of Behaviour (b) Security doors/gates to the rear and front of school. Secured while children and staff are on site.</p>
<p>Parents Committee e.g. Fundraising events on site involving children</p>	<p>Harm by Volunteers e.g. brown envelope collections</p>	<p>All volunteers are vetted for the purposes of being a volunteer at the school and for being on site when the school is in operation.</p>

<p>Use of Information and Communication Technology by pupils in school</p> <p>Use of video / photography/other media to record school events</p>	<p>(a) Bullying (b) Staff not following policies & procedures. Inappropriate use of internet (c) School personnel communicating with staff on the internet/social media inappropriately</p>	<p>(a) Anti Bullying Policy & Code of Behaviour. Mobile Phone Policy - Pupils have to hand up phones to teachers first thing in the morning and are returned at dismissal time.</p> <p>(b) Acceptable Use Policy - Teacher always supervise when iPads are in use.</p> <p>(c) Staff advised not to communicate with pupils families online only by email/Google Meet for official school business. Amended 27.04.2021</p>
<p>Application of sanctions under the school's Code of Behaviour including</p> <p>(a) detention of pupils, (b) confiscation of phones</p>	<p>Harm by school personnel Staff not following policies & procedures</p>	<p>(a) No child taken alone on detention. Open doors where glass panels do not exist. Glass window in door. (b) Mobile phone policy</p>
<p>Students participating in work experience in the school</p>	<p>Staff not following policies & procedures e.g. students left unsupervised.</p>	<p>Vetting agreement with post primary schools – All students must be over 16 and vetted.</p>

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<p>Trainee teachers undertaking training placement in school</p>	<p>Staff not following policies & procedures e.g. trainee teachers left unsupervised.</p>	<p>Vetting agreement with Colleges – All students must be vetted.</p>
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Contractors present during school hours	Harm to student	<p>Required to sign in at office and wear visitor badge.</p> <p>Amended 27.04.2021 - All non school personnel should seek permission to be on premises i.e. outside defined site compound from commencement of Building Project.</p> <p>Amended 29.03.2022 - All contractors entering new FAB area and Old School Building will seek permission from Management.</p>
Use of premises by other organisations during the day e.g. Homework club	Harm to student	<p>Vetting agreement with respective organisation and requirement to sign statutory declaration. Copy of Child Safety Statement.</p>
Recruitment of School Personnel	Harm to student	<p>All required to be vetted and to sign statutory declaration prior to commencement of employment. Strict adherence to procedures for recruitment, reference checks etc.</p> <p>All new members of staff are directed to Child Safety Statement.</p>
Remote Learning	Harm to student - Online bullying and/or grooming	<p>All students/staff operate within the parameters of Google Classroom and Google Meet security requirements. [Amended by CRP 2020/21 & Staff Protocol 2020/21] [Remote Teaching & Learning Protocol January 2021]</p>

Use of Pitch at Clonmullion for duration of Building Works	Harm to students from persons unknown to staff	Amended 05.05.2022 - ensure access/egress gate remains closed while using area. Request unauthorised persons to leave the area. Advise Management if an issue persists.
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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.

The Addendum to *Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children* 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. [See *Acceptable Use Policy & Remote Teaching & Learning Protocol January 2021*]¹

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. [See *Acceptable Use Policy & Remote Teaching & Learning Protocol January 2021*]²

This risk assessment has been completed by the Board of Management on **07.03.2018**. It was reviewed as part of the school’s review and adoption of the revised Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools (Revised 2023).

Signed _____ Date: ___/___/_____ Tony O’ Rourke
Chairperson, Board of Management

Signed _____ Date: ___/___/_____ Sean Hourihane

¹ Inserted April 27th 2021

² Inserted April 27th 2021

[18288B] Principal/Secretary Board of Management

Reviewed March 21st 2019

Reviewed March 10th 2020

Reviewed April 27th 2021

Reviewed March 29th 2022

Reviewed October 3rd 2023

