

# CSS1

## Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment

<b>For:</b>	<b>St. Columba's Comprehensive School</b>	<i>(School Name)</i>
<b>At:</b>	<b>Glenties, Co. Donegal.</b>	<i>(School Address)</i>

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):**

Mr. Brendan O'Mahony

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

Mrs. Charlene McNeill

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

**Name of Relevant Person**

Mr. Brendan O'Mahony

*(In schools this person is the DLP)*

**Relevant Person can be contacted on:**

074 955 1172      admin@glentiescomp.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:**

Father James Sweeney

*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 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	Inadequate supervision; harm by another child or adult	Staff presence and supervision arrangements in place; Code of Behaviour applied; staff aware of and trained in Child Protection Procedures, CSS shared with staff
2.	Recreation breaks for pupils	Bullying; inadequate supervision	Anti-bullying policy (Bí Cineálta); Active supervision during breaks; anti-bullying measures applied in line with Bí Cineálta; students encouraged to report concerns
3.	Classroom teaching	Harm not recognised or reported	Child Protection Procedures 2025 available; child safe guarding statement shared, SPHE curriculum; staff training, Teachers remain alert to signs of harm; concerns reported promptly in line with Child Protection Procedures; Wellbeing embedded in teaching
5.	One-to-one learning support	Risk of inappropriate interaction	SEN policy; one-to-one procedures, staff code of conduct
6.	One-to-one counselling	Risk in counselling situations	Counselling delivered by qualified personnel; clear boundaries maintained; sessions conducted in appropriate, observable settings
7.	Outdoor teaching activities	Inadequate supervision	Clear instructions given to students; supervision maintained at all times; safety considerations communicated in advance
8.	Online teaching and learning remotely	Inappropriate online access; unsupervised interaction	Acceptable Use Policy; Use of school-approved platforms only; teacher present throughout sessions; students not left unsupervised online
9.	Sporting activities	Harm by peers or adults or external adults / coaches	Activities supervised by school staff; Garda vetting in place for external coaches or school staff with vetting to chaperone external coaches, clear expectations communicated to students
10.	School outings	Harm during off-site activities	Appropriate staff-student ratios maintained; roll calls completed; students supervised at all times

*Additional pages may be added to the Risk Assessment as required*

Child Protection Statement and Risk Assessment

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
11.	School trips involving overnight stay	Increased vulnerability	Staff rooming arrangements agreed in advance; supervision maintained; clear behavioural expectations communicated vetting; staff code of conduct
12.	School trips involving foreign travel	Increased safeguarding risks	Additional risk assessments completed; close supervision; clear reporting lines in place
13.	Use of toilets/changing/shower areas	Inadequate supervision	Supervision maintained in shared spaces; students discouraged from loitering; Code of Behaviour applied
15.	Annual Sports Day	Inadequate supervision	Clear supervision plan in place; staff assigned specific areas; first aid provision available
16.	Fundraising events involving pupils	Harm by volunteers/visitors	Vetting; Students supervised by staff; volunteers monitored; Garda vetting where required; staff oversight
17.	Use of off-site facilities	Harm by external personnel	Staff supervision maintained; external facility staff monitored; expectations clearly communicated
18.	School transport / bus escorts	Inadequate supervision	Clear transport supervision procedures followed; staff responsible for student safety during transport, risk assessments completed where required
19.	Care of children with SEN incl. intimate care	Increased vulnerability; intimate care risk	Care provided by trained staff only; dignity and privacy respected; SEN policy followed where required
20.	Care of vulnerable adult students	Risk during intimate care	Support provided by trained personnel; care delivered respectfully; safeguarding measures maintained

*Additional pages may be added as required*

Child Protection Statement and Risk Assessment

	<b>List of School Activities</b>	<b>Risks Identified Against Each School Activity</b>	<b>Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk</b>
21.	Managing challenging behaviour	Risk during restraint	Understanding Behaviours of Concern guidance, De-escalation strategies used; physical intervention only where necessary and proportionate; incidents recorded
22.	Management of food and drink	Health and safety risk due to inadequate supervision or food allergy issues	Food handled safely; hygiene maintained, staff supervision during distribution; allergy information communicated
23.	Administration of medicine	Medical harm	Medication administered by designated staff; parental consent obtained; records maintained
24.	Administration of First Aid	Inappropriate response	First aid delivered by trained staff; incidents recorded; follow-up action taken
25.	SPHE / RSE	Inappropriate delivery	SPHE curriculum; Content delivered in an age-appropriate manner; student wellbeing prioritised; staff remain vigilant
26.	Prevention of bullying	Bullying harm	Bullying concerns addressed promptly; reporting procedures followed; Bí Cineálta applied
27.	Training of school personnel	Lack of awareness	Staff encouraged to engage in ongoing child protection training; awareness maintained records maintained
28.	External personnel – curriculum	Harm by visitors	External personnel supervised at all times; Garda vetting completed where required; school staff remain present
29.	External personnel – sports	Harm by coaches	External sports personnel supervised; Garda vetting in place where required; school staff oversight maintained
30.	Pupils with specific vulnerabilities	Increased risk	SEN policy; anti-bullying procedures, Additional supports provided as required; staff alert to increased vulnerability

Child Protection Statement and Risk Assessment

	<b>List of School Activities</b>	<b>Risks Identified Against Each School Activity</b>	<b>Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk</b>
31.	Pupils from ethnic minorities	Racism	Anti-racism initiatives, Bí Cineálta procedures, Inclusive practices promoted; racist behaviour challenged and addressed immediately
32.	Members of Traveller community	Discrimination	Anti-racism initiatives, Bí Cineálta procedures, Culturally respectful practices maintained; discrimination addressed promptly
33.	LGBT pupils	Bullying	Anti-bullying policy, Safe and inclusive environment promoted; bullying addressed promptly in line with Bí Cineálta
34.	Pupils perceived to be LGBT	Bullying	Bí Cineálta procedures, Staff attentive to peer interactions; bullying concerns addressed promptly
35.	Pupils of minority faiths	Exclusion	Code of behaviour, Bí Cineálta procedures , Respect for religious diversity promoted; inclusion supported
36.	Children in care	Increased vulnerability	Staff alert to additional vulnerabilities; concerns reported in line with Child Protection Procedures 2025, pastoral care through SST
37.	Children on CPNS (child protection notification system)	Risk not recognised	Child Protection Procedures 2025, Heightened vigilance maintained; information handled appropriately; Child Protection Procedures followed
38.	Children with medical needs	Medical harm	Medical needs communicated to relevant staff; appropriate responses in place
39.	Recruitment of school personnel (teachers, SNAs, Caretakers, secretary, cleaners, sports coaches	Unsuitable personnel – risk of harm	Garda vetting completed; recruitment circulars and procedures followed, professional boundaries maintained; supervision applied
40.	External tutors / guest speakers	Harm by visitors	External speakers supervised; expectations clearly communicated; vetting where required

Child Protection Statement and Risk Assessment

	<b>List of School Activities</b>	<b>Risks Identified Against Each School Activity</b>	<b>Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk</b>
41.	Volunteers / parents	Harm risk	Parents and volunteers supervised; Garda vetting applied where necessary, sign in procedures used
42.	Visitors/contractors (school hours)	Harm risk	Visitors supervised at all times; sign-in procedures used, garda vetting where required
43.	Visitors/contractors (after school)	Harm risk	After-school visitors supervised; access restricted to relevant areas
44.	Religious ceremonies off-site	Inadequate supervision	Students supervised during off-site religious activities; arrangements communicated in advance
45.	ICT & social media use	Online harm	AUP; smartphone policy, staff monitor use; inappropriate use addressed
46.	Code of behaviour sanctions	Inappropriate sanctions	Code of behaviour, Sanctions applied fairly; dignity and safety of students maintained
47.	Students on work experience (in school)	Harm risk	Students supervised at all times; tasks appropriate to age and ability
48.	Students on work experience (external)	Harm by others	External placements assessed; supervision arrangements confirmed, vetting in place where required
49.	Student teachers	Inadequate supervision	Student teachers supervised as appropriate; clear roles and expectations outlined as part of staff induction
50.	Use of photography/video	Inappropriate images	Consent obtained; images used appropriately; storage controlled

Child Protection Statement and Risk Assessment

	<b>List of School Activities</b>	<b>Risks Identified Against Each School Activity</b>	<b>Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk</b>
51.	After-school use of premises	Harm by external groups	External organisations monitored; safeguarding expectations communicated, insurance certs obtained where appropriate.
52.	Use of premises during school day	Harm by external groups	Staff supervision maintained during school-day use; access controlled, vetting where required
53.	Breakfast club	Inadequate supervision	Staff supervise students; clear routines established
54.	Homework club / evening study	One-to-one risk	Supervision maintained; interactions observable; professional boundaries upheld, teacher code of conduct
55.	Summer Programme	inadequate supervision of children while attending out of school activities	Staff ratios maintained; child protection procedures maintained, DLP / DDLP roles assigned, supervision plan implemented; emergency procedures in place
56.	Water sports / swimming pool	harm by a member of school personnel, external staff or other person while child participating	Staff supervision maintained; swimming instructors vetted; safety equipment used; ratios maintained
57	Horse riding	harm by a member of school personnel, external staff or other person while child participating	Staff supervision maintained; instructors vetted; helmets and protective equipment required
58.	Fitness suite	inadequate supervision of children in school	Staff supervision maintained; students trained on equipment use; emergency procedures in place
59.	Supports provided by our school Community Dog	inappropriate interaction with animal	Staff present; hygiene measures; clear boundaries communicated
60.	Activities on our school farm	inadequate supervision and farm hazards	Staff supervision; safety equipment; restricted access to hazardous areas
61.	Use of off-site facilities for school activities	harm by a member of school personnel, external staff or other person while child participating	Staff supervision maintained; external providers vetted; clear expectations communicated

Child Protection Statement and Risk Assessment

	<b>List of School Activities</b>	<b>Risks Identified Against Each School Activity</b>	<b>Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk</b>
62.	Students moving around school site	Students absconding / loss of students	Registration in every class; system to alert for missing students, supervision plans; staff-student ratios maintained; clear supervision responsibilities
63.	Students moving around school site	School site open to visitors / public and unauthorised persons on school premises	Clear visitor instructions to report to front office; controlled access; cameras; staff vigilance, sign in and sign out procedures, visitor lanyards.
64.	Students moving around the school site, engaging in lessons	Student injuries	Staff supervision; risk assessments; first aid administered by trained staff; incidents recorded
65.	Students attending school	Medical emergency	Staff aware of medical conditions; relevant students with care plans, emergency procedures in place; first aid trained staff
66	Students moving around the school site	Wheelchair users, mobility needs, students using crutches	Staff aware of access and evacuation needs; supervision during movement; appropriate access routes, risks assessments, access to school lift.
67.	Daily student interactions	Abuse not recognised by pupils; pupils lacking knowledge of personal safety	Full implementation of the Stay Safe Programme
68.	Junior Cycle classes; wellbeing supports;	wellbeing concerns not identified	Full implementation of the Junior Cycle Wellbeing Programme
69.	All teaching activities; staff conduct across school life	Failure to respond appropriately to staff misconduct	Compliance with agreed disciplinary procedures for teaching staff
70.	Practical lessons; PE; outdoor activities; school outings; workshops	Student injuries; unsafe practices; accidents during activities	Health and Safety Policy
71.	Classroom teaching; staff-student interactions; all school activities	Ongoing risk of harm where an allegation or safeguarding concern arises	Follow Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025

Child Protection Statement and Risk Assessment

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
		about a staff member	
72.	Whole-school context; emergencies during school day; outings	Medical emergencies; serious incidents; traumatic events	Critical Incident Management Plan
73.	Attendance issues; pastoral care; safeguarding concerns involving families	Poor communication with families; unreported safeguarding concerns	Home School Community Liaison Policy and Child Protection Procedures 2025
74.	Staff disclosures; pastoral support contexts	Staff uncertainty; mishandling disclosures; inappropriate response, emotional harm	Staff training and DLP to support staff dealing with abuse disclosures and joint reporting to TUSLA
75.	SPHE classes; pastoral care; daily student interactions	Abuse not recognised by pupils; pupils lacking knowledge of personal safety	Full implementation of the Stay Safe Programme
76.	Board of Management oversight; governance of school, compliance monitoring	Governance gaps; lack of safeguarding oversight	Board of Management members avail of safeguarding training
77.	Recruitment; induction of new staff; substitute teachers	Staff unaware of safeguarding responsibilities	Explicit induction procedure ensuring new personnel receive CSS & Risk Assessment
78.	Staff wellbeing; safeguarding reporting	Poor staff support; safeguarding non-compliance	Staff training and DLP to support staff dealing with abuse disclosures and joint reporting to TUSLA

## Examples of Activities, Risks and Procedures

The examples listed in this document are provided to assist schools in undertaking their risk assessment under the Children First Act, 2015. Schools should note that this list of examples is not intended to be exhaustive, and that the inclusion of an example of a policy or procedure on these lists does not make it mandatory. It is the responsibility of each school to ensure, as far as possible, that any other risks and procedures that are relevant to its own particular circumstances are identified and specified in the written risk assessment and that adequate procedures are in place to address all risks identified.

It is acknowledged that schools already have in place a range of policies, practices and procedures to mitigate the risk of harm to children while they are participating in the activities of the school and that some school activities will carry low or minimal risks of harm compared to others. In the context of the risk assessment that must be undertaken by schools, the Children First Act, 2015 refers to risk as 'any potential for harm'.

Therefore, it is important that, as part of its risk assessment process, each school lists and reviews all of its various activities (which shall include identifying those that may carry low risk of harm as well as those that carry higher risks of harm). Doing so will help the school to:

- > Identify, as required under the Children First Act, 2015, any risks of harm that may exist in respect of the school's activities.
- > Identify and assess the adequacy of the various procedures already in place to manage those risks of harm.
- > Identify and put in place any such additional procedures as are considered necessary to manage any risk identified.

## 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 24<sup>th</sup> February 2026 (*most recent review date*)

<b>Signed:*</b>		<b>Date:</b> 24/02/2026
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*Chairperson of the board of management*

<b>Signed:*</b>		<b>Date:</b> 24/02/2026
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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 before the end of February 2027 (*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

This may be in the form of specifying the online location for the procedures (Department of Education and Youth website [www.gov.ie/childprotectionschools](http://www.gov.ie/childprotectionschools) and/or the school website), providing a link to the Children First National Guidance 2017 [Children First National Guidance 2017.pdf](#), and stating the number and location of hard copies of these procedures available in the school.

The Child Protection Procedures are available online on the Department of Education and Youth website [www.gov.ie/childprotectionschools](http://www.gov.ie/childprotectionschools) and on the school website.

The Children First National Guidance 2017 is available using the following link: [Children First National Guidance 2017.pdf](#) and on the school website.

There are also 3 hard copies of both procedures available from the school's main office.