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Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment

For:	St. Killian' College
At:	New Inn, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway

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):

Michelle Hynes

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

Pauline Davoren

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

Name of Relevant Person

Michelle Hynes

(In schools this person is the DLP)

Relevant Person can be contacted on:

09096-75811	michelle.hynes@gretb.ie
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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:

Michael Maher

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 refer

Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment

List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
Daily arrival and dismissal of students	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of students in school. Risk of student being harmed in the school by another student.	Supervision of students by staff during morning supervision of students arriving to school and during after school dismissal. Bí Cineálta and Code of Behaviour implemented during this time.
Recreation breaks for students	Risk of student being harmed while in the school yard. Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of students in school. Risk of harm due to inappropriate communications between a student and another student.	Adequate supervision by members of school staff. Supervision rota in place for the school year. Structured rota in place for access to courts and centre. Bí Cineálta and Code of Behaviour implemented during this time.
Classroom teaching	Risk of student being harmed in the school by a member of school personnel or by another student.	Glass panel in all classroom doors. Supervision of student interactions by staff. Garda vetting of all staff.
One-to-one teaching	Risk of harm in one-to-one teaching situations.	Glass panel in all doors. Doors remain open where possible. Garda vetting of all staff.
One-to-one learning support	Risk of harm in one-to-one learning support situations.	Glass panel in all doors. Doors remain open where possible. Garda vetting of all staff.
One-to-one counselling	Risk of harm in one-to-one counselling situations.	Glass panel in all doors. Doors remain open where possible. Garda vetting of all staff.
Outdoor teaching activities	Risk of student being harmed while on the school grounds.	Adequate supervision by members of school staff

List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
	Risk of student being harmed in the school by another student.	Supervision of student interactions by staff. Garda vetting of all staff. Health & Safety Statement implemented
Online teaching and learning	Cyber bullying Inappropriate communication	Acceptable Use Policy implemented Digital safety lessons in place
Sporting activities	Risk of student being harmed in the school/on the school grounds by a member of school personnel or by another student. Risk of student being harmed in the school by volunteer or visitor to the school. Risk of harm due to bullying of student.	Garda vetting of all staff. Supervision of student interactions by staff and BÍ Cineálta policy adhered to. Supervision of student activities involving external personnel. Code of Behaviour adhered to.
School Outings	Risk of student being harmed by another student, member of school personnel, a member of staff of another organisation or other person while student participating in out of school activities e.g. school trip. Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of student while attending out of school activities.	Garda vetting of all staff. Supervision of students by staff. On tours where students may not be supervised by staff at all times, the following protocols will be in place; -Buddy systems/Group systems, whereby no student will be alone. -Students informed of where staff will be stationed, should they require assistance. -Parents/Guardians informed and explicit consent gained for such a trip in advance.
School trips involving overnight stay and/or foreign travel.	Risk of student being harmed by another student, member of school personnel, a member of staff of another organisation or other person while student participating in out of school activities e.g. school trip.	Garda vetting of all staff. Supervision of students by staff. On tours where students may not be supervised by staff at all times, the following protocols will be in place; - Buddy systems/Group systems, whereby no student will be alone.

Child Protection Statement and Risk Assessment

List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of student while attending out of school activities.	-Students informed of where staff will be stationed, should they require assistance. -Parents/Guardians informed and explicit consent gained for such a trip in advance.
School Transport arrangements - private transport for school tours/outings etc.	Risk of student being harmed by school transport providers. Risk of student being harmed by another student.	Supervision of students by school personnel whilst on transport. Code of Behaviour adhered to.
Fundraising events involving students	Risk of student being harmed in the school by volunteer or visitor to the school.	Pupils supervised at all times by members of school personnel. Sign-in facility at reception to account for all visitors present in the school.
Use of off-site facilities for school activities	Risk of student being harmed by a member of school personnel, a member of staff of another organisation or other person while the student is participating in an off site activity.	Students supervised by members of school personnel.
Care of student/vulnerable adult with special educational needs, including intimate care where needed	Risk of harm to student with additional educational needs who have particular vulnerabilities, including medical vulnerabilities. Risk of harm to student/vulnerable adult while they are receiving intimate care.	Garda vetting of all staff. Implementation of relevant school policies.
Care of students with specific vulnerabilities/needs	Risk of student being harmed in the school by a member of school personnel or by another student. Risk of harm due to bullying of student.	Garda vetting of all staff. Supervision of student interactions. Implementation of Bí Cineálta policy.

Care of students with specific vulnerabilities/needs	Care of students with specific vulnerabilities/needs	Care of students with specific vulnerabilities/needs
Changing of students' clothes (because of a toileting accident/fall in yard/sporting activities etc.	Risk of student being harmed in the school by a member of school personnel and another student. Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of student in school.	Garda vetting of all staff. Students change themselves alone unless they have care needs. For students who need assistance, 2 adults should always be present, one to assist and one to remain outside the toilet/changing room.
Management of challenging behaviour amongst students, including appropriate restraint where required	Risk of student being harmed in the school by a member of school personnel or by another student. Risk of harm not being reported properly and promptly by members of school personnel.	Implementation of the school's Code of Behaviour policy. Implementation of Relate and Behaviours of Concern documents. Relevant training for staff. Garda vetting of all staff.
Administration of medicine	Risk of harm to student who have particular vulnerabilities, including medical vulnerabilities	Implementation of administration of medication policy outlining procedures to be followed. Training for staff if necessary
Administration of First Aid	Risk of student being harmed in the school by a member of school personnel.	Garda vetting of all staff. Administration of first aid to take place in an open classroom/space/office with the door open. A number of staff members are trained as First Aid Responders. Procedures to be followed outlined in administration of medication policy. Emergency medical response plan for individual students where relevant.

Child Protection Statement and Risk Assessment

List of School Activities	Care of students with specific vulnerabilities/needs	Care of students with specific vulnerabilities/needs
Curricular provision in respect of SPHE & RSE	Risk of harm where members of school personnel have not received appropriate training. Risk of harm due to inappropriate relationship/communications between a student and another student.	Implementation of SPHE and RSE policy outlining age-appropriate curriculum to be followed. Training for teachers in the RSE if required. Child Protection training for all staff.
Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst students	Risk of harm due to bullying of a student. Risk of harm not being recognised by school personnel. Risk of harm not being reported properly and promptly by members of school personnel.	Implementation of Bí Cineálta policy and procedure. Implementation of the school's Code of Behaviour policy. Adequate supervision by staff members.
Training of school personnel in child protection matters	Risk of harm where members of school personnel have not received appropriate training	DLP and DDLP Training in child protection matters. All staff training in child protection matters. Children First Course every year.
Involvement of external personnel to supplement the curriculum during the school day and other extra-curricular activities - e.g. Sports coaches, Guest speakers, Community Gardaí, Irish dancing etc	Risk of student being harmed in the school by volunteer or visitor to the school.	Appointments made in advance. Sign-in facility at reception to account for all visitors present in the school. Garda vetting of external personnel used to supplement the curriculum. Members of school personnel always present for the duration of activity.

List of School Activities	Care of students with specific vulnerabilities/needs	Care of students with specific vulnerabilities/needs
Visits from external agencies/community members -Tusla (Social worker/EWO), , Oide personnel, NEPS, DoE Inspectorate, Pastoral worker, etc	Risk of student being harmed in the school by volunteer or visitor to the school.	Appointments made in advance. Sign-in facility at reception to account for all visitors present in the school. School personnel always present for the duration of the activity to supervise the interactions of such personnel with the students. Such visitors are not left alone with pupils i.e. always accompanied by a member of school personnel, unless explicitly approved by parents. Glass panel in all support room doors.
Visits from other external representatives including book company reps., sales reps., contractors, etc	Risk of student being harmed in the school by volunteer or visitor to the school.	Sign-in facility at reception to account for all visitors present in the school. School personnel always present for the duration of the activity to supervise the interactions of such personnel with the students. Such visitors are not left alone with students i.e. always accompanied by a member of school personnel.
BOM and PA members attending meetings/visiting the school	Risk of student being harmed in the school by volunteer or visitor to the school.	BOM and PA meetings are held outside school hours. When visiting the school during school hours they are accompanied by a member of school personnel.

Child Protection Statement and Risk Assessment

List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
Volunteer and Parents/Guardians visiting the school.		Appointments made in advance. Sign-in facility at reception to account for all visitors present in the school. School personnel always present for the duration of the activity to supervise the interactions of such personnel with the students.
Students from ethnic minorities/migrants	Risk of harm due to racism.	Implementation of Bí Cineálta policy. The school implements in full the SPHE curriculum.
Members of the Traveller community	Risk of harm due to racism.	Implementation of Bí Cineálta policy. The school implements in full the SPHE curriculum.
Lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender (LGBTQ+) children Pupils perceived to be LGBTQ+	Risk of harm due to homophobia/bullying.	Implementation of Bí Cineálta policy. The school implements in full the SPHE curriculum.
Children in care	Risk of harm to students with particular vulnerabilities.	Garda Vetting of all staff. Staff awareness of students with particular vulnerabilities – liaise with Tusla in respect of such students.
Children on Tusla's Child Protection Notification System (CPNS)	Risk of harm to student with particular vulnerabilities.	Garda Vetting of all staff. Staff awareness of students with particular vulnerabilities – liaise/follow Tusla in respect of such students.

Child Protection Statement and Risk Assessment

List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
Recruitment of school personnel including teachers/SNAs, caretakers/secretaries/cleaners and sports coaches	Risk of student being harmed in the school by a member of school personnel.	Garda vetting as per teaching council requirements of all staff. Yearly review of Child Protection Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment.
HSE Vaccinations	Risk of student being harmed in the school by volunteer or visitor to the school.	Sign-in book at reception to account for all visitors present in the school. Parents/Guardian to sign permission documentation for their child. Testing to take place in a room with a glass panel/door open.
Official School Photographs	Risk of student being harmed in the school by volunteer or visitor to the school.	Sign-in facility at reception. Students supervised at all times by members of school personnel.
Use of Information and Communication technology by students, including social media	Risk of harm due to inappropriate relationship/communication between a student and another student/adult. Risk of harm due to students inappropriately accessing/using computers, social media, phones and other devices while at school.	Students supervised by members of school personnel when using ICT. Implementation of relevant school policies.
Application of sanctions under the school's code of behaviour including detention of pupils, confiscation of phones etc.	Risk of student being harmed in the school by school personnel.	Garda vetting of all staff. Implementation of Code of Behaviour policy outlining appropriate procedures and sanctions.

Child Protection Statement and Risk Assessment

List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
Student teachers and trainee SNA's undertaking training placement in school	Risk of student being harmed in the school by a member of school personnel, student, volunteer or visitor to the school.	The school has a policy in place in respect of personnel undertaking work experience in the school. Garda Vetting.
Use of video/photography other media to record/promote school events	Risk of student being harmed by member of school personnel and others accessing/circulating inappropriate or potentially inappropriate material via social media, texting, digital device or other manner.	Use of school devices to take pictures. Pictures stored on secure school drive. Parents/Guardian to sign permission documentation for their child.
Evening Study	Parents/Guardian to sign permission documentation for their child.	Garda Vetting of all staff. Glass panel in all classroom doors.
After-school extracurricular activities for students in the school run by member of school personnel	Risk of student being harmed in the school by a member of school personnel. Risk of student being harmed by another student.	Activities to take place outdoors in an open space, hall or in a classroom with a glass panel in the door. Supervision of student interactions. Garda vetting.
Students undertaking duties/jobs around the school, without adult supervision	Risk of student being harmed in the school by a member of school personnel or by another student. Risk of student being harmed in the school by volunteer or visitor to the school.	Students undertaking duties/jobs around the school to do so in groups of 2.

Child Protection Statement and Risk Assessment

List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
Students from the school participating in work experience elsewhere	Risk of student being harmed during work placement by a member of the organisation or visitor to the organisation.	Providing students with safeguarding guidance before placement. Designated school contact person for concerns.
Annual Sports Day	Risk of student being harmed in the school by a member of school personnel. Risk of student being harmed by another student.	Garda vetting of all staff. Administration of first aid to take place in an open classroom/space/office with the door open. A number of staff members are trained as First Aid Responders. Procedures to be followed outlined in administration of medication policy.

Child Protection Statement and Risk Assessment

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 _____ (most recent review date)

Signed:*	<i>Michael Maher</i>	Date:	<i>20/05/2026</i>
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Chairperson of the board of management

Signed:*	<i>Michelle Hyatt</i>	Date:	<i>20/5/2026</i>
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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 May 2027.

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 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.

They are available on the school website
Copies also available from Principal/ Deputy Principal
Copies available in the staffroom