



Scoil Naomh Molaise

Grange, Co. Sligo

Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment

Child Safeguarding Statement

Scoil Naomh Molaise a primary school providing primary education to pupils from Junior Infants to Sixth Class.

In accordance with the requirements of the [Children First Act 2015](#), [Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children 2017](#), [the Addendum to Children First \(2019\)](#), the [Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools \(revised 2023\)](#) and [Tusla Guidance on the preparation of Child Safeguarding Statements](#), the Board of Management of Scoil Naomh Molaise 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 Ms Louise O'Connor (Principal).
- 3 The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is Ms Geraldine Haran (Deputy Principal).
- 4 The Relevant Person is Ms Louise O'Connor (Principal)
- 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.

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 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 Department of Education 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
 - Encourages Board of Management members to avail of relevant training
 - The Board of Management maintains records of all staff and Board member training

- In relation to reporting of child protection concerns to Tusla, all school personnel are required to adhere to the procedures set out in the *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools (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.
- 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.

Note: The above is not intended as an exhaustive list. Individual Boards of Management shall also include in this section such other procedures/measures that are of relevance to the school in question.

- 7 This statement has been published on the school's website and has been provided to all members of school personnel, the Parents' Association (if any) 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 24th June 2019.

This Child Safeguarding Statement was reviewed by the Board of Management on 17th October 2024. [most recent review date].

Signed: *Fr Christy McHugh*

Chairperson of Board of Management

Date: 17.10.24

Signed: *Louise O'Connor*

Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Date: 17.10.24

Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment

Written Assessment of Risk of Scoil Naomh Molaise

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 Naomh Molaise.

List of School Activities	The School has identified the following risk of harm in respect of its activities	The School has the following Procedures in place to address risks of harm identified in this assessment
<p>Recruitment of new staff and training of school personnel in Child Protection matters.</p>	<p>Risk of harm to pupils by school personnel.</p> <p>Risk of school personnel not being aware of their responsibilities under the legislation.</p> <p>Risk that harm to pupils is not recognised or reported to the appropriate authorities promptly.</p>	<p>All vetting procedures are strictly adhered to as per the terms of legislation – National Vetting Bureau (Children and Vulnerable Persons) Acts 2012-2016, Department of Education & Skills Circular 31/2016 and any directives issued by DES. Copies of documentation relating to vetting are retained securely.</p> <p>Our school's Child Safeguarding Statement & DES Child Protection Procedures are made available to all staff. School Personnel are required to adhere to the <i>Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools (revised 2023)</i> and all registered teachers are required to adhere to the <i>Children First Act 2015</i>.</p> <p>Since September 2019, all staff are required to sign a record annually indicating that they have familiarised themselves with the school's Child Safeguarding Statement & Risk Assessment Document and that they are aware that the Designated Liaison Person (DLP) is Louise O'Connor and the Deputy Designated Liaison Person (DDL P) is Geraldine Haran (Deputy Principal).</p> <p>DLP & DDL P will attend PDST face to face training, when available.</p> <p>All Staff to engage with Tusla training module & any other online training offered by PDST.</p> <p>BOM records all instances of staff and board training.</p> <p>Induction training provided to substitute teachers / SNAs by Principal.</p>

School personnel engaged in one to one teaching / counselling.	Risk of harm by school personnel.	All school personnel have received training in Child Protection. Most support rooms have a glass panel in doors. Open door policy if there is no glass panel. Table or appropriate space between teacher and pupil. Written parental consent is obtained for 1:1 support teaching. Parents/Guardians will be advised annually by way of telephone call or message on Aladdin if 1:1 support teaching is to take place. Special Educational Needs Policy in place.
Classroom teaching	Risk of harm by school personnel. Risk of harm when a teacher leaves the classroom / lack of supervision. Risk of harm when a class is split due to teacher absence.	All school personnel have received training in Child Protection. Children must be supervised at all times. If a teacher must leave the room, the door of the classroom will be left open and a neighbouring teacher will supervise the class. Adherence to school procedures. Class teachers organise a class split list and leave it visible above the teacher's desk in the classroom. A member of the school management team has responsibility for splitting the class in the event of teacher absence.
Care of children with special needs, including intimate care needs, care of infant pupils following a toileting accident.	Risk of harm to children with SEN who have particular vulnerabilities by school personnel. Risk of harm to a child while receiving intimate care.	Special Educational Needs Policy in place. Policy on intimate care to be developed 2024/2025.
Toilet areas (other than in classrooms).	Risk of harm due to inappropriate behaviour.	Usage and supervision safe practice.
Use of Sensory Room.	Risk of harm to pupils. Inappropriate behaviour.	Pupils must be supervised by an adult when using the sensory room. Open door policy in place if only one child is using the sensory room.
Curricular Provision in respect of Social, Personal and Health Education (SPHE), Relationships and Sexuality Education (RSE), Stay Safe.	Risk of harm due to curricular provision not being fully implemented.	Our school implements SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe programmes in full. Teachers record topics taught in Cuntas Míósúil (monthly progress report) which are uploaded to a C.M. folder on Google Workspace. Principal monitors the Cuntas Míósúil .
Managing of challenging behaviour amongst pupils, (including appropriate use of restraint, when required).	Risk of injury to pupils and staff.	School has a Code of Behaviour Other relevant policies: Safety Statement Supervision Policy (to be reviewed 2024/2025) Special Educational Needs Policy

Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils.	Risk of harm from other pupils, unknown adults at the gates / on the playground Inappropriate behaviour Children on the school grounds too early and unsupervised.	Parents are informed via the school new emails and other notes/letters/emails of school opening hours and procedure for dropping off / collecting children. Parents are also informed that the BOM cannot take responsibility for pupils outside of these hours. Supervision policy in place during school hours.
Visitors to the school.	Risk of harm due to ease of accessibility.	Parents/visitors will not gain access to the school/staff without making a prior appointment, unless cover can be provided for staff and staff are happy to meet the parent on arrival. Parents/visitors to the school are required to check in at the office. Parents/visitors are made aware of this through newsletters and school signage. A magnetic lock and keypad is placed on the main door of the school and at the entrance to the junior end of the school to ensure the safety of pupils and staff.
Recreation breaks for pupils.	Risk of harm due to: Inadequate supervision, Injury to pupils, Inappropriate behaviour, Bullying, Harm not recognised or properly or promptly reported.	Supervision Rota in place – yard is supervised by three teachers and 8 SNAs at each break/lunch time. (Currently 8 SNAs working in the school and split into two groups for yard supervision) Relevant policies: Code Of Behaviour Anti-Bullying Policy Safety Statement.
Outdoor teaching activities.	Risk of injury to pupils/bullying. Harm not recognised or properly or promptly reported.	Adequate supervision. Boundaries/safety issues well communicated. Hazards identified and remedied.
Sporting Activities (including annual sports day).	Risk of injury to pupils. Risk of bullying. Harm not recognised or properly or promptly reported. Inappropriate behaviour in changing room.	Adequate supervision. Policy & Procedures in place.
After school use of premises by other organisations.	Risk of child being harmed by a member of staff of another organisation or other person while child participating in after school activities. Bullying by other pupils participating in after school activities.	Organisations are required to apply to the Board of Management for permission to use the school premises or outdoor facilities annually. Copies of public liability insurance and details of the organisation's Child Protection Officer must be furnished to the BOM. Vetting procedures apply. Adequate supervision of pupils.

Sports Coaches / Music Teachers working in the school.	Risk of children being harmed by a member of staff of another organisation.	Vetting procedures followed – joint vetting agreement with relevant sporting organisation/body. No unsupervised access to pupils – a teacher is always present.
School tours / School outings.	Risk of a child being harmed by a member of school personnel, a member of staff of another organisation or other person while child participating in out of school activities e.g. tour, football match, outings etc.	Adequate supervision of pupils. School to check that personnel who are directly involved with or have access to pupils on the tour/outing have been Garda Vetted. Teachers to research tour venue and activities in order to ensure that activities are safe and age-appropriate.
Use of toilet (in-class).	Risk of harm to a child due to inappropriate behaviour by fellow pupils/members of school personnel.	Controlled usage, Adequate supervision.
School transport arrangements.	Risk of harm to pupils. Risk of harm not recognised or properly or promptly reported. Risk of inappropriate behaviour.	School policies apply on school outings and trips: Code of Behaviour Anti-bullying policy Safety Statement Parents of children availing of bus service to school enter into this arrangement with private bus operators. The operators' policies apply in this case.
Volunteers/Parents assisting with school activities.	Risk of child being harmed in the school by volunteer or visitor to the school.	Vetting Procedures in place. No unsupervised access to pupils – class teacher or another nominated teacher is always with the class.
Administration of First Aid.	Risk of pupil being harmed by a member of school personnel when administering First Aid.	School has procedures in place for the administration of First Aid (see Safety Statement).
Administration of Medication.	Risk of pupil being harmed by a member of school personnel when administering medication.	School has in place procedures for the administration of medication (see Safety Statement).
Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst pupils.	Risk of harm to pupils due to bullying.	Policy & Procedures in place. Anti-Bullying Policy. Code of Behaviour.
Use of external personnel to supplement curriculum.	Risk of harm to pupils by external personnel.	Vetting Procedures to be followed. Policy & Procedures in place. Adequate supervision.

<p>Participation by pupils in religious ceremonies / religious instruction external to the school.</p>	<p>Risk of harm to pupils by external personnel.</p>	<p>Parental Consent is obtained. Adequate supervision. Pupils not participating in religious ceremonies are supervised by a teacher in the school.</p>
<p>Care of pupils with specific vulnerabilities/ needs such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Pupils from ethnic minorities/migrants ● Children with SEN ● 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 Child Protection Notification System (CPNS) 	<p>Risk of harm due to bullying of pupils. Lack of language ability leading to harm. Cultural differences.</p>	<p>School policies/practices in place: Anti-bullying policy Stay Safe/SPHE/RSE programmes implemented Code of Behaviour Special Educational Needs Policy.</p>
<p>Use of Information and Communication Technology by pupils in school (including online teaching and learning).</p>	<p>Risk of harm due to children inappropriately accessing/using computers, social media, phones and other platforms/devices while at school. Staff not following policies & procedures. Risk of bullying/cyberbullying.</p>	<p>Pupils are prohibited from bringing and using mobile phones and similar devices in school. Pupils (3rd-6th class) have their own individual password protected login for Google Workspace / Chromebooks. Browsing history is monitored carefully. Teacher monitoring and observation while using school devices is of paramount importance. Children should not have access to school devices during wet yard days unless their teacher is present to monitor use. Parents are asked to be vigilant of their child's online activity.</p> <p>Our school has the following in place: ICT policy Acceptable Use Policy Mobile Phone Policy Anti-Bullying Policy Code of Behaviour Internet filtering in place</p>
<p>Student teachers on placement.</p>	<p>Risk of child being harmed by student teacher on placement.</p>	<p>Vetting of Student Teachers through their College of Education/University. Child Safeguarding Statement is provided.</p>

		Student Teacher is supervised by the classroom teacher. Student teachers do not have unsupervised access to pupils. Induction provided by classroom teacher.
Student Special Needs Assistants on placement (voluntary or part of course work).	Risk of child being harmed by SNA on work placement / volunteering.	Vetting procedures in place in accordance with legislation. Child Safeguarding Statement is provided. SNA on placement (or volunteering for experience) is supervised by a classroom teacher or Special Education Teacher at all times and does not have unsupervised access to pupils. Induction provided by the Principal or an assigned mentor.
Students participating in T.Y. work experience.	Risk of child being harmed by older students.	Vetting of TY students through their secondary school. Provision of vetting letter and copy of insurance from secondary school. Child Safeguarding Statement is provided. TY students remain under direct supervision of classroom teacher and do not have unsupervised access to pupils. Induction provided by the Principal or a nominated other.
Use of video/photography/other media to record school events.	Risk of harm due to: Identification of pupils, Geo-tagging of pupils' images, Inappropriate use of pupils' images, Inappropriate relationships/ communications between child and another child or adult, and, Cyberbullying.	School has an ICT policy in place. Parental consent is required before pupils are included in photographs or visual recordings. Photographs or visual recordings of <u>individual</u> children are not posted online. Individual pupils are not named under photographs.

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.