



Scoil Mhuire

Email: secretary@scoilmhuireshankill.ie Principal: Brian Coleman

Child Safeguarding Statement

Scoil Mhuire is a primary/special/post-primary school providing primary/post-primary education to pupils from Junior Infants to Sixth Class/First Year to Leaving Certificate Year (delete as appropriate).

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 2017](#) and [Tusla Guidance on the preparation of Child Safeguarding Statements](#), the Board of Management of [insert school name] 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 2017 as part of this overall Child Safeguarding Statement
- 2 The Designated Liaison Person (DLP) is Brian Coleman
- 3 The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is Lorraine Higgins
- 4 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.

- 5 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 2017 and to the relevant agreed disciplinary procedures for school staff which are published on the DE 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 DE 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 2017, including in the case of registered teachers, those in relation to mandated reporting under the Children First Act 2015.
- In this school the Board has appointed the abovenamed DLP as the "relevant person" (as defined in the Children First Act 2015) to be the first point of contact in respect of the schools child safeguarding statement.
- 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 DE 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.

- 6 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.
- 7 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 the 01.02.2023.

This Child Safeguarding Statement was reviewed by the Board of Management on 01.02.2023

Signed: Bi. P. Ryan

Chairperson of Board of Management

Date: 1/2/2023

Signed: Bi. Col

Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Date: 1/2/2023

Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment

Written Assessment of Risk of Scoil Mhuire

In accordance with section 11 of the Children First Act 2015 and with the requirements of Chapter 8 of the *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017*, the following is the Written Risk Assessment of [name of school].

1. List of school activities

- Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils – Senior and Junior doors
- Recreation breaks for pupils – Senior and junior yards/senior and junior corridors
- Classroom teaching
- One-to-one teaching – Learning support/ resource/mainstream teaching
- One-to-one counselling – Play therapy/Art therapy/Cottage homes/Wellbeing-Resilience
- Outdoor teaching activities – Cross curricular at all levels/Green Schools Committee
- Sporting Activities
- School outings – class tours/trips/school walks/attending mass or church activities
- Use of toilet/changing/areas in schools
- Annual Sports Day – Junior and Senior Sports Day
- Fundraising events involving pupils – Student Council/Junior Infants-6th class
- Use of off-site facilities for school activities
- School transport arrangements including use of bus escorts (Teachers/Parents/SNAs)
- Care of children with special educational needs, including intimate care where needed
- Management of challenging behaviour amongst pupils, including appropriate use of restraint where required
- Administration of Medicine
- Administration of First Aid
- Fire Drills
- Curricular provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe
- Student Council meetings and related activities
- Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst pupils – (Connect Crew – students)
- Training of school personnel in child protection matters
- Use of external personnel to supplement curriculum –
 - 🚩 Sports coaches/Dance/RSE/Choir/Connect Crew/Carambola
- Use of external personnel to support sports and other extra-curricular activities
 - 🚩 GAA coach
 - 🚩 Dance
 - 🚩 Cycling instructors
 - 🚩 Garda Visits
 - 🚩 Basketball coach

- ✚ Care of pupils with specific vulnerabilities/ needs such as
 - ✚ Pupils from ethnic minorities/migrants
 - ✚ 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 CPNS

- Recruitment of school personnel including -
 - ✚ Teachers/SNAs
 - ✚ Caretaker/Secretary/Cleaners
 - ✚ Sports coaches
 - ✚ External Tutors/Guest Speakers
 - ✚ Volunteers/Parents in school activities (Shared Reading/Time to Read/Roots of Empathy/Aistear)
 - ✚ Visitors/contractors present in school during school hours
 - ✚ Visitors/contractors present during after school activities

- Participation by pupils in religious ceremonies/religious instruction/ external to the school (6th class Retreats/Confirmation/Faith Friends/Communion/Confession/Walk to mass/Church visit)
- Use of Information and Communication Technology by pupils in school
- Application of sanctions under the school's Code of Behaviour
- Students participating in work experience in the school
- Students from the school participating in workshops/activities in other schools and with other students (e.g. Local Community Science Fair/Sporting events/matches/games)
- Student teachers undertaking training placement in school
- Use of video/photography/other media to record school events
- After school use of school premises by other organisations
 - ✚ ASA
 - ✚ Majorettes
 - ✚ Irish Dancing
 - ✚ July Supervision
 - ✚ Teacher Summer Courses
- Use of school premises by other organisation during school day (Cottage Homes)
- Homework club
- DEIS Summer Camp

2. Scoil Mhuire has identified the following risk of harm in respect of its activities -

- Risk of harm not being recognised by school personnel
- Risk of harm not being reported properly and promptly by school personnel
- Risk of child being harmed in the school by a member of school personnel
- Risk of child being harmed in the school by another child
- Risk of child being harmed in the school by volunteer or visitor to the school
- Risk of 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. school trip, swimming lessons
- Risk of harm due to bullying of child
- Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children in school
- Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children while attending out of school activities
- Risk of harm due to inappropriate relationship/communications between child and another child or adult
- Risk of harm due to children inappropriately accessing/using computers, social media, phones and other devices while at school
- Risk of harm to children with SEN who have particular vulnerabilities
- Risk of harm to child while a child is receiving intimate care
- Risk of harm due to inadequate code of behaviour
- Risk of harm in one-to-one teaching, counselling, coaching situation
- Risk of harm caused by member of school personnel communicating with pupils in appropriate manner via social media, texting, digital device or other manner
- Risk of harm caused by member of school personnel accessing/circulating inappropriate material via social media, texting, digital device or other manner
- Risks associated with data protection
- Risk of child leaving school/school grounds without permission
- Risk of child entering school/school grounds before or after school hours supervised/unsupervised by parent
- Risk of injury by tripping /falling due to dangerous condition of flooring throughout the school
- Risk of harm to children/school personnel if/when external doors are left open
- Risk of child being harmed in DEIS Summer Camp
- Risk of harm to school personnel running DEIS Camp.

Risk Assessment ASD Unit - October 2022

Risk:

- Flight Risk; pupils have run out of the room through the **fire escape door** on several occasions.

Response: Maintain tight supervision by SNA of pupil

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Response: Maintain tight supervision by SNA of pupil

- Risk of harm by **escaping from class**:

Response: Exit door has an electric release switch and it is placed above students' height.

- Risk of harm: **The lack of boundary fencing** and a safe enclosure in the yard and green nearest the ASD class presents a serious risk. If a pupil ran away, the pupil could reach the main road through a gap in the bushes. The pupil could be injured by the overgrown brambles. A pupil could be hidden from sight.
- Risk of harm: **No awareness of danger**- a student is orally fixated and will put objects in mouth routinely.

Response: Tight supervision of pupils. Safe storage of resources that the pupils might put in their mouths.

Risk Of harm: Sensory room **trip/injury** when playing in the sensory room. There is electrical equipment in place.

Response: The installers have soft padding. The items are secured. Electric points are positioned high above pupils reach and were installed by electrician.

Risk of harm to staff: On several occasions, SNAs and the class teacher have been struck by the pupils.

Response: The staff are learning to approach pupils in a safe way if the pupil is showing signs of being in a highly-aroused state (however the behaviour is typically unpredictable).

Incident Reports are kept.

Rota allows for SNA/teachers to have relief if they need to have a break.

Risk /**Covid Plan**- Parents of the pupils have had to come to the class on several occasions to bring their child home as the pupil will refuse for long periods to leave and no other solution is evident.

Response: Relax covid rule which does not permit parents /guardians on the grounds for this purpose and for these parents/guardians.

Risk: **Walking around the building** to get to the class accompanied by 2 SNAs; flight risk and also the pupil leans heavily on the SNAs/can be hard to guide safely without close supervision.

Response: 2 SNAs for this pupil when coming and going to the unit. Scooter in use to avoid having to intervene physically to encourage the pupil to come with the SNAs.

3. Scoil Mhuire has the following procedures in place to address the risks of harm identified in this assessment -

- All Scoil Mhuire personnel are provided with a copy of the school's **Child Safeguarding Statement**
- **The Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017** are made available to all school personnel

- School Personnel are required to adhere to the ***Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017*** and all registered teaching staff are required to adhere to the *Children First Act 2015*
 - Scoil Mhuire implements in full the Stay Safe Programme
 - Scoil Mhuire implements in full the SPHE curriculum
 - Scoil Mhuire has an Anti-Bullying Policy which fully adheres to the requirements of the Department's ***Anti-Bullying Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools***
 - Scoil Mhuire has a yard/playground supervision policy to ensure appropriate supervision of children during, assembly, dismissal and breaks and in respect of specific areas such as toilets, changing rooms etc.
 - Scoil Mhuire has in place a policy and clear procedures in respect of school outings
 - Scoil Mhuire has a Health and safety policy
 - Scoil Mhuire adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation and relevant DES circulars in relation to recruitment and Garda vetting
 - Scoil Mhuire has codes of conduct for school personnel (teaching and non-teaching staff)
 - Scoil Mhuire complies with the agreed disciplinary procedures for teaching staff
 - Scoil Mhuire has a Special Educational Needs policy
 - Scoil Mhuire has an intimate care policy/plan in respect of students who require such care
 - Scoil Mhuire has in place a policy and procedures for the administration of medication to pupils
 - Scoil Mhuire has in place a policy and procedures for the practice of Fire Drills
 - Scoil Mhuire –
 - ✚ Has provided each member of school staff with a copy of the school's **Child Safeguarding Statement**
 - ✚ Ensures all new staff members 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
 - ✚ Maintains records of all staff and board member training
 - Scoil Mhuire has in place a policy and procedures for the administration of First Aid
 - Scoil Mhuire has in place a code of behaviour for pupils
 - Scoil Mhuire has in place an ICT policy in respect of usage of ICT by pupils
 - Scoil Mhuire has in place a mobile phone policy in respect of usage of mobile phones by pupils
 - Scoil Mhuire has in place a Critical Incident Management Plan
 - Scoil Mhuire has in place a Home School Liaison policy and related procedures
 - Scoil Mhuire has in place a policy and procedures for the use of external persons to supplement delivery of the curriculum
 - Scoil Mhuire has in place a policy and procedures for the use of external sports coaches
 - Scoil Mhuire has in place a policy and clear procedures for one-to-one teaching activities
 - Scoil Mhuire has in place a policy and procedures for one-to-one counselling
 - Scoil Mhuire has in place a policy and procedures in respect of student teacher placements
 - Scoil Mhuire has in place a policy and procedures in respect of students undertaking work experience in the school
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- Scoil Mhuire stores confidential documents relating to students/staff and school personnel. The school has in place a policy and procedures in respect of sharing documentation. Parental permission for transfer of data (i.e. between staff/school/previous and prospective schools)

- Scoil Mhuire has in place a procedure for children who are identified as a potential 'Flight Risk'
- Scoil Mhuire has replaced faulty flooring where possible/has provided mats to replace damaged or missing tiles and has contacted the DES twice under the 'Emergency Fund' and three times under 'Summer Works'
- DEIS Camp: Run according to guidelines under B.O.M. approval (20/6/20)
- Additions to the policy, subject to B.O.M. approval.