

Child Safeguarding Statement

Scoil Mhuire, Coolcotts is 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 *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 Scoil Mhuire, Coolcotts 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 Dr Mags Jordan.
- 3 The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is Mr Dermot McDermott
- 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.
 - Comply fully with its statutory obligations under the Children First Act 2015 and other relevant legislation relating to the protection and welfare of children.
 - Co-operate fully 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.
 - Fully respect confidentiality requirements in dealing with child protection matters.
- 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 DES 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 DES and available on the DES 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 above named DLP as the "relevant person" (as defined in the Children First Act 2015) to be the first point of contact in respect of the 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, 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 attached as an appendix to this Statement.
 - The various procedures referred to in this Statement can be accessed via the school's website, the DES website or will be made available on request by the school.
- 6 This Statement has been published on the school's website and has been provided to all members of school personnel, the Parents' Association and the Patron. It is readily accessible to parents and guardians on request. A copy of this Statement will be made available to Tusla and the Department if requested.
- 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 9 March 2018.

Signed: Denis P Lennon

Chairperson of Board of Management

Date: 9 March 2018

Signed: Mags Jordan

Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Date: 9 March 2018

Risk Assessment

List of School Activities	Risk Level	The School has identified the following Risk of Harm	The School has the following procedures in place to address risk identified in this assessment
Training of school personnel in Child Protection matters	High	Harm to pupils not recognised or reported promptly	Child Safeguarding Statement, DES Procedures & National Guidance made available to all staff DLP& DDLP to attend PDST face-to-face training Staff to view online training offered by Tusla and PDST BoM maintains record of staff and board training
Recruitment of school personnel	High	Harm to pupils not recognised or properly or promptly reported	Vetting Procedures Child Safeguarding Statement, DES Procedures & National Guidance made available to all staff Staff to view online training offered by Tusla and PDST
Visitors to the school	High	Harm by visitors/uninvited guests Harm and/or injury to pupils	Full implementation of Closed Door Policy by staff and pupils Use of fob security system Full implementation of Stay Safe Programme
Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils	Medium	Harm from older pupils or unknown adults on the yard	Arrival supervised by Principal, Deputy Principal and Assistant Principals from 8.35am Dismissal supervised by Principal and Deputy Principal and class teachers at 1.30pm and 2.30pm One-to-one handover of infant pupils, 1 st /2 nd class pupils & Rainbow Unit pupils to Parent/Guardian or designated collector
Late arrival and early departure of pupils	Medium	Harm to pupils	Pupils who arrive late/depart early signed in/out by Parent/Guardian at secretary's office, including reason for same Phone verification with Parent/Guardian where child is being collected by unknown adult/adolescent Late arrivals and early departures recorded on Aladdin and monitored by Principal and Attendance Team

List of School Activities	Risk Level	The School has identified the following Risk of Harm	The School has the following procedures in place to address risk identified in this assessment
Recreation breaks for pupils	High	Harm and/or injury to pupils	External gates locked Pupils not permitted to re-enter school building First aid administered on yard SNA access for designated pupils Reduced recreation time and specific activities for designated pupils Supervision Policy to be revised by September 2018 Code of Behaviour & Anti-Bullying Policy Record keeping systems, including Aladdin
Breakfast Club Homework Club	Low Medium	Harm by Breakfast Club/Homework Club personnel Harm and/or injury to pupils	Vetting Procedures Child Safeguarding Statement Appropriate supervision Maintenance of Attendance Records & follow-up by HSCL as required
One-to-one teaching	Medium	Harm by school personnel Harm to pupils	Special Educational Needs Policy to be revised by September 2018 Whole-school timetabling Glass in classroom doors Appropriate seating arrangements
Sensory Room & OT Room	Medium	Harm by school personnel Harm to pupils	Special Educational Needs Policy to be revised by September 2018 Whole-school timetabling Glass in OT room door Cushion in sensory room door and adult visible in doorway
Movement Breaks	Medium	Harm by school personnel Harm to pupils	Special Educational Needs Policy to be revised by September 2018 Whole-school timetabling Movement Breaks hosted in public and circulation areas

List of School Activities	Risk Level	The School has identified the following Risk of Harm	The School has the following procedures in place to address risk identified in this assessment
Care of children with special needs, including intimate care needs	High	Harm by school personnel Harm to pupils	Special Educational Needs Policy to be revised by September 2018 Intimate Care Policy to be devised by September 2018
Administration of First Aid & Medication	Low	Harm by school personnel Harm to pupils	Administration of First Aid & Medication Policy to be updated by September 2018 First aid & medication administered by trained school personnel in public areas
Managing of challenging behaviour amongst pupils	High	Injury to pupils and staff	Management of Actual or Potential Aggression (MAPA) training for staff Behaviour Reductions Plans Counselling & Play Therapy Nurture Room Incredible Years & FRIENDS Programmes Immediate access to Principal, Deputy Principal & other key personnel Pupil Support Team Liaison with external agencies – NEPS, CAMHS, Tusla Supervision Policy to be revised by September 2018 Code of Behaviour & Restorative Practice Health & Safety Policy
Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst pupils, including during classroom teaching	High	Harm by fellow pupils Bullying	Anti-Bullying Policy Code of Behaviour Full implementation of Stay Safe Programme
LGBT children/pupils perceived to be LGBT	High	Harm by fellow pupils Bullying	

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Nurture Room	Medium	Injury to pupils and staff	Tailored professional development for staff via Nurture Group Network (NGN) Management of Actual or Potential Aggression (MAPA) training for staff Pairing & timetabling of pupils Room layout, facilities & resources Immediate access to Principal & other key personnel Pupil Support Team Liaison with external agencies – NEPS, CAMHS, Tusla Code of Behaviour & Restorative Practice Health & Safety Policy
Sports Coaches	Medium	Harm by sports coaches Harm to pupils	Vetting Procedures Child Safeguarding Statement Sports Coaches work under the direct supervision of the designated teacher
Sporting Activities, including swimming	Medium	Harm by school personnel/sports coaches Harm and/or injury to pupils	Vetting Procedures Child Safeguarding Statement Sporting activities take place in designated areas of school building/grounds and sport facilities at specified times Supervision Policy to be revised by September 2018 School personnel supervision in swimming changing area School personnel assistance for individual children with significant additional needs in swimming cubicle area, if needed
Participation in Inter-School Matches	Medium	Harm by school personnel/referees/other attendees Harm and/or injury to pupils	Vetting Procedures Child Safeguarding Statement Use of designated sport facilities at specified times Supervision Policy to be revised by September 2018 Two Scoil Mhuire personnel present at all times Bus system to transport pupils to/from inter-school matches

List of School Activities	Risk Level	The School has identified the following Risk of Harm	The School has the following procedures in place to address risk identified in this assessment
Sports Day	Medium	Harm from older past pupils or unknown adults on the school premises	Vetting Procedures Child Safeguarding Statement Sporting activities take place in designated areas of school building/grounds and sport facilities at specified times Supervision Policy to be revised by September 2018 Whole-school timetabling & record of attendance
School outings, including trips involving an overnight stay (6 th class only)	High	Harm by school personnel/tour venue personnel Harm and/or injury to pupils	School Tours/Outings Policy to be updated by May 2018 Selection of venues & grouping of pupils Pupil mobile phone protocol
Use of counsellors	High	Harm by counsellors Harm to pupils	Use of accredited and supervised counsellors only Vetting Procedures Child Safeguarding Statement Use of Parent/Guardian consent forms & review meetings Regular liaison with Principal and Pupil Support Team Whole-school timetabling & record of attendance Glass in meeting room doors Appropriate seating arrangements
Use of external personnel to supplement curriculum	Low	Harm by external personnel Harm to pupils	Vetting Procedures Child Safeguarding Statement External personnel work under the direct supervision of the designated teacher
Parents/Guardians participating in in-class activities	Low	Harm by Parents/Guardians at school Harm to pupils	Vetting Procedures Child Safeguarding Statement Induction provided for Parents/Guardians by HSCL Scoil Mhuire Code of Practice for Parents/Guardians to be devised by September 2018 Parents/Guardians work under the direct supervision of the designated teacher

List of School Activities	Risk Level	The School has identified the following Risk of Harm	The School has the following procedures in place to address risk identified in this assessment
Post-Primary students participating in work experience in the school	Low	Harm by post-primary students Harm to pupils	Vetting Procedures Child Safeguarding Statement Post-Primary students work under the direct supervision of the designated teacher
Student teachers undertaking training placement in school	Low	Harm by student teachers Harm to pupils	Vetting Procedures Child Safeguarding Statement Student teachers work under the direct supervision of the designated teacher
Volunteers or third level students participating in special educational needs (SEN) work placement	Medium	Harm by volunteers/third level students Harm to pupils	Vetting Procedures Child Safeguarding Statement Scoil Mhuire Code of Practice for Volunteers & Work Placement Students to be revised by September 2018
Use of Information and Communication Technology by pupils in school	Medium	Harm by fellow pupils Bullying	Cyber Bullying sessions for senior pupils & Parents/Guardians Anti-Bullying Policy Code of Behaviour ICT Policy to be revised by September 2018
Use of video/photography/other media to record school events	Medium	Harm to pupils	Written Parent/Guardian consent for images of his/her child to be taken and how they may be used Photography/videography of school activities and events undertaken by school personnel and used in compliance with school policy Pupil images and names do not co-appear on school website, other media Parents/Guardians not permitted to take photographs/videos at school activities and events of children other than their own

List of School Activities	Risk Level	The School has identified the following Risk of Harm	The School has the following procedures in place to address risk identified in this assessment
School-based celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation	Low	Harm by Church personnel Harm to pupils	Vetting Procedures Child Safeguarding Statement Church personnel work under the direct supervision of the designated teacher Whole-school timetabling Appropriate seating arrangements
After school use of school premises by other organisations	High	Harm by personnel from external organisations Harm to pupils	Vetting Procedures Child Safeguarding Statement

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 2017*.

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.

This risk assessment has been completed by the Board of Management on 9 March 2018. It will be reviewed as part of the school’s annual review of its Child Safeguarding Statement.

Signed: Denis P Lennon

Chairperson of Board of Management

Date: 9 March 2018

Signed: Mags Jordan

Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Date: 9 March 2018