



Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment

To: Scoil Chaitlín Maude (School Name)

At: Hazelgrove Tallaght, Dublin 24, D24RYW1 (School Address)

This school is a: Primary School | 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), Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2025, and Child Welfare: Guide to Policy, Procedure and Practice, 2nd Edition (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 the Department's Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2025 and will implement them fully and without modification as part of this Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment.

- **Name of Designated Liaison Person (DLP):** Fíona O Fiaich
- **Name of Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP):** Áine Ní Fhaogáin
 - *In the absence of the DLP, the Deputy DLP will assume the responsibilities of the DLP.*
- **Name of Relevant Person:** Fíona O Fiaich (In schools, this person is the DLP)
- **The Relevant Person can be contacted at:** 01 4520345 | oifig@scoilcm.ie

Under the Children First Act 2015, a "Relevant Person" means a person appointed by a relevant service provider as the first point of contact in respect of the Child Safeguarding Statement. The Board of Management is named as this person to verify and assess evidence of child abuse.

- **Name of Chairperson of the Board of Management:** Marcus Ó Léanacháin
 - *In cases where the DLP and Deputy DLP are absent and unavailable, and where no staff members are formally acting in the role, the Chairperson of the Board of Management assumes the role of the DLP.*

The Board of Management recognizes that child protection and welfare are interwoven into all aspects of school life and that this must be reflected in all school policies, procedures, practices, and activities. In all these cases, the school will adhere to the following principles of best practice in child protection and welfare:

The school will:

- Recognize that child protection and welfare are of paramount importance, regardless of any other considerations.
- Comply fully with its statutory obligations under the Children First Act 2015 and other relevant legislation relating to child protection and welfare.
- Cooperate fully with the relevant statutory authorities in relation to child protection and welfare matters.
- Adopt safe practices to minimize the possibility of harm to children and protect school staff from the need to take non-statutory risks that could leave them vulnerable to accusations of child abuse.
- Employ a practice of openness with parents and encourage parental participation in education.
- Fully respect confidentiality requirements as set out in the Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2025.
- Adhere to the aforementioned principles in relation to any vulnerable person.

Procedures and Measures in Place

This Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment has been published in accordance with the requirements of the Children First Act 2015, Children First: National Guidance 2017, and Child Welfare: Guide to Policy, Procedure and Practice, 2nd Edition (Tusla, 2024), and the Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025. In addition to the procedures listed in our risk assessment, the following procedures are in place to protect children while availing of our service:

- **Procedure for Managing Allegations of Abuse or Misconduct against School Personnel:** In cases where any member of school personnel is subject to an investigation regarding an act, omission, or circumstance involving 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 the relevant agreed disciplinary procedures for school staff published on the gov.ie website.
- **Procedure for Safe Recruitment and Selection of School Personnel to Work with Children:** The school is obliged to comply with the requirements of the Vetting Act. Staff selection or recruitment and their suitability to work with children requires the school to comply with statutory vetting requirements of the National Vetting Bureau (Children and Vulnerable Persons) Acts 2012 to 2016, and wider guidance on duty of care set out in relevant Garda vetting and recruitment circulars published by the Department of Education and Youth available on gov.ie and as set out in Chapter 10 of the procedures.
- **Written Protocol:** A written protocol is in place authorizing immediate action in cases where an employee is required to be out of position due to child-related matters or child protection allegations.
- **Procedure for Providing Training and Information on Child Protection:** The school provides information and training to school staff members regarding the identification of "harm" (as defined in the 2015 Act) as follows:
 - The school has provided a copy of the Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment to all school personnel (employees, volunteers, Board members, student teachers, and those on work experience).
 - Ensures school personnel have received relevant training and that child protection training is confirmed.
 - Encourages Board members to avail of any relevant child protection training provided.
 - The Board of Management ensures that records of child protection training for all staff and board members are maintained.
- **Procedure for Reporting Child Protection or Welfare Concerns to Tusla:** All school personnel are required to adhere to the procedures set out in the Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025 regarding reporting concerns to Tusla. Mandatory reporting applies to all registered teachers and any other person in the school's care (e.g., chaplain or nurse). A full list of "Mandated Persons" is set out in Appendix 1 of the procedures.
- **Procedure for Maintaining a List of Mandated Persons:** A procedure is in place to maintain a list of mandated persons. All registered teachers will be included in this list, and additional non-teaching professionals will be identified.
- **Procedure for Appointing a Relevant Person:** A procedure is in place to appoint a relevant person (in schools, this is the DLP).

The various procedures referred to in this Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment can be accessed via the school website, gov.ie, or provided by the school upon request.

In accordance with the Children First Act 2015 and the Addendum to Children First 2019 and 2025, the Board of Management has assessed any possibility of harm to a child while attending school or participating in school activities. A written assessment setting out the identified risk areas and school procedures for managing those risks is included with the Child Safeguarding Statement.

Please note: The procedures and measures set out above are not intended to be an exhaustive list. Individual Boards of Management will also include other procedures and measures relevant to the school in this section.

This statement is published on the school website or made available upon request from the school. It has been provided to all school staff, the parents' association (if any), the patron, and parents. A copy of this statement and the risk assessment is provided to Tusla and the Department if requested.

An annual review of this Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment will be conducted, or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which this statement refers.

Child Protection Risk Assessment

| List of School Activities | Risks Identified against each School Activity | Procedures/Measures in Place to Mitigate Risk |
|---------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. Daily arrival and departure of children | Lack of supervision; Pupils arriving/leaving without an adult; Weak supervision at gates; Traffic/road risks; Separation from group; One-to-one risks with strangers; Inappropriate digital contact/photos. | Supervision with correct ratios; Clear procedures for arrival/departure locations; Parent communication on safe routes; Safety plan for late arrivals; Clear communication with DLP. |
| 2. Children's break times | Inadequate supervision ratios; Separation from group; Bullying/fights between pupils; Boundary issues; Inappropriate physical contact; Health/safety accidents; Digital risks (unauthorized photos). | Supervision with correct ratios; Regular headcounts; Clear rules on areas and behavior; Anti-bullying guidance; Access to first aid; No phones/cameras in break areas. |
| 3. Classroom teaching | Inappropriate physical contact or misunderstanding; Lack of boundaries; Lack of supervision; Inappropriate communication (language/social media); Misuse of power/authority; Unsafe ICT use; Ignoring signs of abuse. | Adherence to Child Protection Policy; Regular Children First training; Transparency in interactions; Proper supervision and record-keeping; ICT safety measures. |
| 4. One-to-one teaching | Lack of visibility (closed rooms); Lack of supervision; Inappropriate contact or personal communication; Misuse of power; Risk of false allegations. | Open doors or rooms with windows; Adherence to policy; Brief logs of individual lessons; Clear professional boundaries; Regular training. |
| 5. External/Outdoor teaching | Providers unaware of school policy; Lack of supervision by school staff; Inappropriate contact; Digital risks (unauthorized recording); Lack of Vetting. | Valid Garda Vetting before start; Provide copy of Child Protection Policy; Supervision by school staff; Written code of conduct; Attendance records. |
| 6. Sporting Events | Inadequate supervision; Changing room risks (privacy/supervision); Inappropriate physical contact; Inappropriate/abusive behavior/pressure; Travel/bus risks. | Appropriate ratios at all times; Student/Coach code of conduct; Supervision in changing rooms; Parent consent for media; Vetting for all adults. |
| 7. School Trips | Lack of supervision; Separation from group; Transport/bus risks; Third-party risks (guides/providers); Health/safety accidents. | Appropriate ratios; Regular roll calls; Written parent consent; Clear safety/activity plan; Vetting for all adults present. |
| 8. Overnight School Trips | Supervision risks (night/free time); Accommodation risks (privacy/arrangements); Third-party risks; Digital risks; Transport risks. | Appropriate ratios; Regular headcounts (especially bed/breakfast); Written parent consent; Clear rules for rooms/free time; Vetting for all adults. |

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| 9. Use of toilets and changing rooms | Lack of supervision; Privacy risks (lack of screens); One-to-one risks; Unauthorized use of phones/cameras; Abusive/intimidating behavior. | Proper supervision; Clear instructions to students; Ensuring privacy (screens/doors); No phones/cameras; Brief record of events for transparency. |
| 10. Annual Sports Day | Lack of supervision in large areas; Health risks (heat/injury); Separation from group; Digital risks (unauthorized photos); Unvetted third parties. | Supervision with correct ratios; Regular headcounts; Health checks/First aid access; Behavior rules; Vetting for external staff; Parent consent for media. |
| 11. Fundraising events with children | Supervision risks; One-to-one risks with strangers; Financial security (loss/theft); Digital/media risks; Separation from group. | Supervised by staff/trained adults; Clear money-handling procedures; Regular counting; Guidance on strangers; Record of events for transparency. |
| 12. Care of children with SEN/Additional needs | Lack of supervision; Inappropriate physical contact (misunderstanding personal care); Health/wellbeing risks (allergies); Separation/wandering. | Proper ratios; Regular staff training on SEN child protection; Clear physical contact guidelines; Regular headcounts; Health records maintained. |
| 13. Managing challenging behavior | Inadequate supervision; Health/wellbeing stress for staff/pupils; Physical injury risks; Inappropriate physical restraint; Digital risks (recording). | Proper ratios; Regular training on behavior management; Clear boundaries/guidelines on physical contact; Records of behavior and interventions. |
| 14. Administering medicine and first aid | Lack of training/knowledge; Health/wellbeing risks (reactions); Lack of clear procedures/records; One-to-one privacy risks. | Regular First Aid/ |

| List of School Activities | Risks Identified | Procedures/Measures in Place |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 15. Curricular Provision in Social, Personal and Health Education (SPHE) and RSE | Non-teaching of relevant parts of the curriculum; Pupils not receiving age-appropriate safety information. | School implements SPHE/RSE as per Department guidelines; Use of Stay Safe and Walk Tall programs. |
| 16. Prevention and monitoring of Bullying | Risk of harm/emotional distress due to bullying; Peer-to-peer abuse. | Implementation of Anti-Bullying Policy; Restorative practice; Supervision and monitoring. |
| 17. Use of External Personnel to supplement Curriculum | Unvetted persons; Lack of knowledge of school safeguarding policies. | Garda Vetting required; External staff supervised by school teacher; Copy of Safeguarding Statement provided. |
| 18. Use of External Personnel to support Extra-Curricular Activities | Risk of one-to-one contact; Unvetted staff; Inappropriate behavior. | Strict Vetting procedures; Codes of Conduct; Supervision by school personnel. |
| 19. Care of pupils with specific vulnerabilities/Additional Needs | Increased vulnerability to abuse; Communication barriers; Physical care risks. | High supervision ratios; Specific training for SNAs/Teachers; Clear intimate care policies. |

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| 20. Recruitment of school personnel (Staff, Volunteers, Contractors) | Hiring unsuitable persons; Gaps in vetting or references. | Adherence to Department recruitment circulars; Verification of references and Vetting credentials. |
| 21. Use of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) by pupils | Cyberbullying; Access to inappropriate content; Grooming. | Acceptable Use Policy (AUP); Internet filtering; Supervision of digital activities. |
| 22. Application of sanctions under the Code of Behaviour | Risk of physical or emotional harm; Unfair/disproportionate treatment. | Clear Code of Behaviour; Sanctions applied fairly and without physical intervention. |
| 23. Students from Third Level Providers on placement | Lack of experience in child protection; Risk of inappropriate interactions. | Vetting from college; Supervision by class teacher; Briefing on school safeguarding rules. |
| 24. Participation by pupils in Religious Ceremonies/Sacraments | Supervision risks in external venues (Churches); One-to-one contact. | Staff supervision at all times; Risk assessment of external venues; Adherence to Parish safeguarding protocols. |
| 25. Use of video/photography/other media to record school events | Unauthorized sharing of images; Privacy breaches; Misuse of photos by third parties. | Parental consent required for all media; Official school devices used only; Clear policy on social media. |
| 26. After-school use of school premises by other organisations | Unsupervised access to building; Interaction between pupils and external adults. | Clear rental agreements; Requirement for external groups to have their own Child Safeguarding Statement. |
| 27. Use of school premises for fundraising/community events | Large crowds; Difficulty in monitoring all areas; Unvetted strangers on site. | Event-specific risk assessments; Designated "off-limits" areas; Staff presence and supervision. |
| 28. Administration of First Aid and Intimate Care | Risk of physical harm or misinterpretation; Privacy concerns. | Clear Intimate Care Policy; Two staff members present where possible; Record keeping of all interventions. |

Final Declaration and Implementation

This Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment was published in accordance with the requirements of the Children First Act 2015, the Children First: National Guidance 2017, and Child Welfare: Guide to Policy, Procedure and Practice, 2nd Edition (Tusla, 2024), and the Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025.

Please note: The procedures and measures set out above are not intended to be an exhaustive list. Individual Boards of Management will also include other procedures and measures relevant to the school in this section.

This statement has been published on the school website and is made available upon request from the school. It has been provided to all members of school staff, the Parents' Association (if any), the Patron, and parents. A copy of this statement and the risk assessment will be provided to Tusla and the Department of Education 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.

Ratification / Daingniú

Signed:



Chairperson, Board of Management

Signed:



Principal / Secretary to the Board

Date: 02/03/26

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This Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment is scheduled for further review on 28/02/27.

Appendix – Location of Child Protection Procedures and Children First Guidance

Online Locations

- Department of Education and Skills Website: <https://www.education.ie>
- Link: [Children First National Guidance 2017](#)
- School Website: www.scoilcm.ie

Child Protection Procedures available to read or download

- **School Storage Location:** Child Protection Procedures and Children First Guidance.

Hard Copies in the School

- A full copy is available to download from Google Drive or from the school website upon request.

Access Instructions

- **School Staff:** Accessible via Google Drive files.
- **Parents:** Online access via the school website; hard copies are available upon request at the Principal's office.
- **Pupils:** Access to simplified child protection information through SPHE/RSE lessons, based on the Procedures. A simplified version is posted at every entrance.