

Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment



Ennis

Reviewed & Updated 15.12.2022

Child Safeguarding Statement

Mandatory Template 1:

Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment Template

Child Safeguarding Statement

Scoil Chríost Rí 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 Chríost Rí 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 the school Principal: Hugh Connolly
- 3 The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (DDL) is school Deputy Principal: Mary Logan
- 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 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 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 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.
 - 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 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 these procedures.
 - 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 of Education and Skills 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.

The Child Safeguarding Statement was adopted by the Board of Management on March 8th 2018.

Signed: Johnny Flynn
Chairperson, Board of Management

Signed: Gearóid Roughan
Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Date: 8/03/18

Date 8/03/18

Update and Review:

The Board of Management's annual review of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement was completed at the Board meeting on 20/06/18.

Signed: Cecil McDonagh
Chairperson, Board of Management

Signed: Gearóid Roughan
Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Date: 20/06/18

Date 20/06/18

Update and Review

In line with the Mandatory Documents from the Department of Education (updated February 2019) which schools must use, the Board of Management's annual review of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement was completed at the Board meeting on 14/02/19.

Signed: James Cooney
Chairperson, Board of Management
Date: 14/02/19

Signed: Gearóid Roughan
Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management
Date: 14/2/19

Update and Review

In line with the Mandatory Documents from the Department of Education (updated February 2019) which schools must use, the Board of Management's annual review of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement was completed at the Board meeting on 10.12.2020

Signed: James Cooney
Chairperson, Board of Management
Date: 10-12-2020

Signed: Hugh Connelly
Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management
Date: 10-12-2020

In line with the Mandatory Documents from the Department of Education (updated Dec 2020) which schools must use, the Board of Management's annual review of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement was completed at the Board meeting on 16.12.2021

Signed: James Conroy
Chairperson, Board of Management

Date: 16/12/21

Signed: Patricia Connelly
Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Date: 16/12/21

Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment

Written Assessment of Risk - Scoil Chríost Rí

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 2017*, the following is the Written Risk Assessment of Scoil Chríost Rí.

In undertaking this risk assessment, the Board of Management following consultation with all members of the school community, has assessed the risks of harm that are relevant to our school and to ensure that adequate procedures are in place to manage all risks identified. The school has in place the procedures listed in this risk assessment to manage and reduce risk as far as is practically possible.

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. In accordance with section 2 of the Children First Act, 2015 the defined threshold of “harm” in relation to a child is as follows: “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.

The school provides all staff with our Child Safeguarding Statement, The DES Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017 and training in the Children First E-Learning Programme from Tusla.

The school implements in full the Stay Safe Programme. The school implements in full the SPHE Curriculum. The school has an Anti-Bullying Policy which fully adheres to the requirements of the Department’s Anti-Bullying Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools. The school has in place a Code of Behaviour.

Risk	Risk of Harm	Managing the Risk The school has the following procedures in place to address risk identified in this assessment
Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils	Harm to pupils	All staff are vetted. Staff supervision in place at arrival and dismissal
One to One Teaching	Harm to pupils	All staff vetted. All visiting tutors vetted All rooms have a glass panel in the door The school has a Special Educational Needs policy
One to One Counselling	Harm to pupils	All counsellors vetted All counsellors work in rooms with glass panels in doors

Sporting activities onsite and offsite	Harm to pupils	School ensures adequate supervision when activities take place on and off site
School Completion Project Summer Camps and Campaí Samhraidh	Harm to pupils	All teachers are qualified and vetted Overseer is qualified and vetted
Use of toilet, changing and shower areas in school	Harm to pupils	Children always supervised by vetted staff
Care of children with SEN	Harm to pupils	Children with SEN always supervised by staff
Management of pupils with behavioural needs	Harm to pupils	Special Educational Needs Policy Code of Discipline
Administration of Medicine	Harm to pupils	The school has an Administration of Medicines Policy
Administration of First Aid	Harm to pupils	The school has a Health & Safety Policy The school has an Administration of Medicines Policy
Use of ICT equipment by pupils in school and by pupils at home	Harm to pupils	The school has an AUP Policy which addresses safe use of IT equipment and IT equipment in the home for distance learning
Work experience/place ments in the school	Harm to pupils	All students on placement from 3 rd Level colleges are vetted by the college All students on placement from 2 nd level must be 16 yrs and older and be vetted
Bullying of pupils by pupils	Harm to pupils	School Anti Bullying Policy School Code of Behaviour
Breakfast Club	Harm to pupils	Breakfast Club is staffed by vetted volunteers A staff member is always present during breakfast at The Junction
Homework Club	Harm to pupils	Homework Club staff from SCP and CLDC are all vetted by their respective organisations

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*

Training of staff in child protection matters	Harm to pupils	All staff will receive regular refresher courses in child protection
Parents visiting the school	Harm to pupils	All parents working with children are vetted Parent visitors are supervised at all times on school premises Access to the school is controlled electronically and CCTV monitored
Collection of pupils from after school activities	Harm to pupils	Pupils are supervised by school and non-school staff until collected by a parent
Outside agency use of astro turf during school holidays	Harm to pupils	All Clare Youth Service staff have been trained for such activity, are Garda vetted. CYS have insurances covering such activity.

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.

The risk assessment has been completed by the Board of Management on March 8th 2018. It shall be reviewed as part of the school’s annual review of its Child Safeguarding Statement.

Signed: Johnny Flynn
Chairperson, Board of Management

Signed: Gearóid Roughan
Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Date: 8/03/18

Date 8/03/18

Update and Review:

The Board of Management’s annual review of the school’s Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment was completed at the Board meeting on 20/06/18.

Signed: Cecil McDonagh
Chairperson, Board of Management

Signed: Gearóid Roughan
Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Date: 20/06/18

Date 20/06/18

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Signed: James Cooney
Chairperson, Board of Management

Signed: Parvul Rughao
Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Date: 14/02/19

Date: 14/02/19

Update and Review:

In line with the Mandatory Documents from the Department of Education (updated February 2019) which schools must use, the Board of Management's annual review of the school's Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment was completed at the Board meeting on 10/12/2020.

Signed: James Cooney Date 10-12-2020
Chairperson, Board of Management

Signed: Hugh Connolly Date 10-12-2020
Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Update and Review:

In line with the Mandatory Documents from the Department of Education (updated Dec 2020) which schools must use, the Board of Management's annual review of the school's Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment was completed at the Board meeting on 16.12.2021.

Signed: James Cooney
Chairperson, Board of Management

Signed: Hugh Connolly
Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Date: 16/12/21

Date: 16/12/21

Update and Review:

In line with the Mandatory Documents from the Department of Education (updated Dec 2020) which schools must use, the Board of Management's annual review of the school's Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment was completed at the Board meeting on 16.12.2021.

Signed: James Cooney

Chairperson, Board of Management

Date: 15.12.22

Signed: Hugh Connolly

Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Date: 15.12.22