

Child Safeguarding Statement

Scoil Mhuire, Moylagh 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 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 Scoil Mhuire, Moylagh 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 **Miriam McCabe**
- 3 The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is **Sarah Brady**
- 4 The relevant person is; **Miriam McCabe**
- 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 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 (Revised 2023), 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 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.

- 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 in February 2018 .

This Child Safeguarding Statement was reviewed by the Board of Management on 26th November 2023 .

Signed: _____

Chairperson of Board of Management

Signed: _____

Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Date: _____

Date: _____

Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment

Written Assessment of Risk of Scoil Mhuire, Moylagh.

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 [name of school].

1. List of school activities	2. The school has identified the following risk of harm in respect of its activities –	3. The school has the following procedures in place to address the risks of harm identified in this assessment -
Training of school personnel in Child Protection matters	Harm not recognised or reported promptly	Child Safeguarding Statement & DES procedures made available to all staff DLP& DDLP to attend PDST training All Staff to view online training offered by PDST BOM records all records of staff and board training
One to one teaching	Harm by school personnel	The following will be adhered to to mitigate against risk: Where possible more than one child in the group. Door to remain open during lesson Table between teacher and pupil Windows to remain clear of posters etc.
Care of Children with special needs, including intimate care needs	Harm by school personnel	Policy on intimate care
Toilet areas / Classroom at lunchtime.	Inappropriate behaviour	Teacher in room Statement regarding Supervision/Breaktime routines.

Curricular Provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay safe.	Non-teaching of same/ substitute in class	School implements SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe in full Included in the folder of work for planned absence.
LGBT Children/Pupils perceived to be LGBT	Bullying	Anti-Bullying Policy Code of Behaviour Circular 45/13
List of School Activities	The School has identified the following Risk of Harm	The School has the following Procedures in place to address risk identified in this assessment
Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils	Harm from older pupils, unknown adults on the playground	Children are permitted to enter the school grounds at 9:10am and go directly to their classroom where they will be supervised by their class teacher.
Managing challenging behaviour amongst pupils.	Injury to pupils and staff	Health & Safety Policy Code Of Behaviour NEWB Guidelines on Developing COB 2008
Sports Coaches	Harm to pupils	Policy & Procedures in place Referenced in PE Policy Teachers always present. Adequate Vetting
Students participating in work experience	Harm by student	Work experience Policy Child Safeguarding Statement. Adequate supervision by class teacher.
Recreation breaks for pupils	Risk of child being harmed in school by another child.	Anti-Bullying Policy Yard Duty Rota for supervision
Classroom teaching	Risk of harm due to inappropriate relationship/communications between child and another child or adult	Garda Vetting Teaching Council Code of Conduct
List of School Activities	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 outings: Tours / Library	Harm from unknown adults, other pupils	Adequate Planning and Supervision. Admin of Medicine Policy

		Teacher to ensure they bring Emergency Contact Details.
School trips: Swimming	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	As above
School trips: Football	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children in school/on pitch	As above
Annual Sports Day	Risk of Child being harmed by other children	PE Policy / Behaviour Policy
Fundraising events involving pupils: Sponsored Walk	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children	Teachers accompanies their class on walk
Use of off-site facilities for school activities: Christmas Play	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children	Adequate supervision of pupils.
List of School Activities	The School has identified the following Risk of Harm	The School has the following Procedures in place to address risk identified in this assessment
Administration of Medicine		Admin of medicine policy Staff first Aid Training - Latest: Online First Aid September 2021
Administration of First Aid	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	Admin of Medicine Policy.
Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst pupils	Risk of child being harmed in school by another child.	Code of Behaviour Policy Friendship Week Anti-Bullying Week Stay Safe Programme

Training of school personnel in child protection matters		Policy available/ visible in each classroom Policies available to new staff School facilitates attendance of staff at courses
Use of external personnel to supplement curriculum (Accord, Brendan Somers / Computers teacher, Drummer, Forge Restaurant)	Risk of child being harmed in the school by volunteer or visitor to the school	Vetting for all visitors Adequate supervision by class teacher
List of School Activities	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 pupils with specific vulnerabilities/ needs such as <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 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 - Tusla 	Risk of child being harmed in the school by volunteer or visitor to the school Risk of harm to children with SEN who have particular vulnerabilities	Code of Behaviour Policy Friendship Week Anti-Bullying Week Stay Safe Programme
Recruitment of school personnel including - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Teachers ● SNA's ● Caretaker/Secretary/Cleaners ● Sports coaches ● External Tutors/Guest Speakers ● Volunteers/Parents in school activities ● Visitors/contractors present in school during school hours 	Harm not recognised or properly or promptly reported	Child Safeguarding Statement & DES procedures made available to all staff Staff to view Tusla training module & any other online training offered by PDST Vetting Procedures

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visitors/contractors present during after school activities 		
List of School Activities	The School has identified the following Risk of Harm	The School has the following Procedures in place to address risk identified in this assessment
Use of Information and Communication Technology by pupils in school	Bullying Risk of harm due to children inappropriately accessing/using computers, social media, phones and other devices while at school	ICT policy Anti-Bullying Policy Code of Behaviour Acceptable Use Policy
Engagement with Online/Distance Learning	Risk of Harm by member of school personnel through engagement with pupils online learning on various online platforms.	Acceptable Use Policy ICT E Learning Plan Teaching Council Code of Conduct for Teachers.
Application of sanctions under the school's Code of Behaviour including detention of pupils, confiscation of phones etc.		Code of Behaviour
Student teachers undertaking training placement in school	Risk of harm due to inappropriate relationship/communications between child and another child or adult	Garda Vetting Adequate supervision and oversight by class teacher.
Use of video/photography/other media to record school events (Facebook)	Risk of harm caused by member of school personnel accessing/circulating inappropriate material via social media, texting, digital device or other manner	Photography Policy

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 _____. It has been reviewed as part of the school's annual review of its Child Safeguarding Statement on _____ November 2022.

Signed: _____

Date: _____

Chairperson, Board of Management

Signed: _____

Date: _____

Principal / Secretary to the Board of Management