

Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment

For:

Scoil Mhuire, Moylagh

At:

Moylagh, Oldcastle, Co.Meath, A82 YF90

(School Address)

This school is a *Primary 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)* and 2025, *Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025* and *Child Safeguarding: A Guide for Policy, Procedure and Practice, 2nd ed.* (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 and will implement fully and without modification the department's *Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025* as part of this overall Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment.

Name of the Designated Liaison Person (DLP):

Gráinne Mc Phillips

Name of the Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP/DDLP):

Sarah Brady

In the absence of the DLP, the Deputy DLP shall assume the responsibilities of the DLP.

Name of Relevant Person

Gráinne Mc Phillips

(In schools, this person is the DLP)

The Relevant Person can be contacted at:

086 2666 429

Principal@moylaghns.com

(insert phone & email)

Under the Children First Act 2015, 'Relevant Person' means a person appointed by a provider of a relevant service to be the first point of contact in respect of the Child Safeguarding Statement. The board of management nominates this person to manage and provide oversight of child protection concerns/allegations of child abuse.

Name of Chairperson of the board of management, or in an ETB school, the Chief Executive or their delegate:

Caroline Tuite

In the event that both the DLP and DDLP are absent and unavailable, and there is no staff member formally acting in their role, the chairperson of the board of management, or in an ETB school, the chief executive or their delegate, assumes the role of DLP.

The Board of Management recognises that child protection and safeguarding permeate all aspects of school life and must be reflected in all of the school's policies, procedures, practices, and activities. In all of these, the school will adhere to the following principles of best practice in child protection and welfare. The school will:

- D 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.
- D Adopt safe practices to minimise the possibility of harm happening to children and protect members of school personnel from the necessity to take unnecessary risks that may leave themselves open to accusations of child abuse.
Develop a practice of openness with parents and encourage parental involvement in the education of their children.
- D Fully respect confidentiality requirements as set out in the *Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025* in dealing with child protection matters.
- D Adhere to the above principles in relation to any vulnerable adult.

Procedures and Measures in Place

Our Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment have been developed in line with the requirements under the Children First Act 2015, the Children First: National Guidance 2017, and Child Safeguarding: A Guide for Policy, Procedure and Practice, 2nd ed. (Tusla, 2024), as well as the *Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025*. In addition to the procedures listed in our risk assessment, the following procedures support our intention to safeguard children while they are availing of our service:

- > Procedure for the Management of Allegations of Abuse or Misconduct against School Personnel Relating to a Child Availing of Our Service
 - ~ Where any member of school personnel is the subject of any investigation in respect of any act, omission or circumstance in relation to 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 to the relevant agreed disciplinary procedures for school staff which are published on the gov.ie website

- > Procedure for the Safe Recruitment and Selection of School Personnel to Work with Children
 - ~ The school is required to adhere to the requirements of the Vetting Act. The selection or recruitment of staff and their suitability to work with children, requires the school to adhere 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 Youth and available on the gov.ie website and as outlined in Chapter 10 of the procedures.
 - ~ A written protocol is in place authorizing immediate action for cases which require an employee to be immediately absent from school for child safeguarding reasons.
- > Procedure for Provision of and Access to Child Safeguarding Training and Information, Including the Identification of the Occurrence of Harm
 - ~ The school provides information and training to members of school personnel in relation to the identification of the occurrence of harm (as defined in the 2015 Act) as follows:
 - ~ The school has provided each member of school personnel, including any new members of school personnel (employees and volunteers, board of management members, student teachers and those on work experience) with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment.
 - ~ The school ensures that members of school personnel have availed of relevant training and completed child protection training.
 - ~ The school encourages board of management members to avail of any relevant training and complete child protection training.
 - ~ The board of management ensures that records of all staff and board member child protection training are maintained.
- > Procedure for the Reporting of Child Protection or Welfare Concerns to Tusla
 - ~ All members of school personnel are required to adhere to the procedures set out in the *Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025*, in relation to reporting of child protection concerns to Tusla. Mandated reporting applies to all registered teachers and any other individuals who are mandated to report, such as a chaplain or nurse, who the school may employ. A complete list of mandated individuals is set out in Appendix 1 of the procedures.
- > Procedure for Maintaining a List of the Persons (if any) in the Relevant Service Who Are Mandated Persons
 - ~ There is a procedure in place to maintain a list of mandated persons. Schools may, on occasion, employ additional staff who are mandated by virtue of their profession. This list will include all registered teachers and identify additional employees who are not registered teachers.
- > Procedure for Appointing a Relevant Person (In schools this person is the DLP)
 - ~ There is a procedure in place for appointing a relevant person.

> Protocol authorizing immediate action

- ~ In the context of these procedures, where circumstances warrant it, as an essential precautionary measure in order to protect the children in the school, the chairperson of the board of management is authorised by the school authority to direct an employee to immediately absent himself or herself from the school without loss of pay until the matter has been considered by the employer. It is very important to note that the action under the protocol is intended to be precautionary and not disciplinary. The action under this protocol is an interim measure pending the employer's further consideration of the matter. The employee will be invited to a meeting with the chairperson of the board of management is authorised by the school authority to direct an employee to the allegation and the action being taken. The employee may be accompanied by an appropriate person of their choice and will be so advised. In any event, the employee will also be advised of the matter, in writing. The chairperson of the board of management shall also make a record of the meeting which shall be retained on the relevant case file.

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

In accordance with the Children First Act 2015, the Addendum to Children First 2019 and 2025, and the *Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025*, the Board of Management has assessed the potential for harm to a child while attending school or participating in school activities. A written assessment outlining the identified areas of risk and the school's procedures for managing those risks is included with the Child Safeguarding Statement.

Note: The procedures and measures in place are not intended as an exhaustive list. Individual boards of management shall also include in this section any other methods and measures that are relevant to the school.

This statement has been published on the school's website or will be made available on request by the school. It has been provided to all members of school personnel, the parents' association (if any), the patron and parents. A copy of this statement and risk assessment will be made available to Tusla and the department 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.

Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment

List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
1. Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils	• Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision in school • Risk of a child being harmed by a volunteer or visitor to the school • Risk of a child being harmed by another child, bullying, or racism	• Yard/Playground/Toilets supervision policy for assembly, breaks, dismissal; supervision rota • Garda Vetting for staff, volunteers, contractors; references per recruitment circulars • Health & Safety policy; first-aid and emergency procedures
2. Recreation breaks for pupils	• Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision in school • Risk of a child being harmed by another child, bullying or racism	• Yard/Playground/Toilets supervision policy for assembly, breaks, dismissal; supervision rota • Code of Behaviour and Anti-Bullying policy (Bí Cineálta / Circular 55/2024); anti-racism initiatives • First Aid policy; trained first aiders; PPE; incident reporting
3. Classroom teaching	Risk of harm not being recognised, reported properly or promptly; or where staff have not received appropriate training Risk of the child being harmed by a member of school personnel Risk of a child being harmed by another child, bullying, or racism Risk of harm due to children inappropriately accessing/using computers, social media, phones and other devices while at school Risk of child being harmed in the school by a volunteer or visitor to the school	• Child Safeguarding Statement & Risk Assessment shared with all staff • Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025 available and adhered to; Children First Act 2015 compliance • Code of Conduct and agreed disciplinary procedures for staff • Training records maintained for staff and board; ongoing refresher training - AUP Policy in place in the school for all pupils and staff members
4. One-to-one teaching	• Risk of harm in one-to-one teaching/counselling/coaching situations • Risk of harm due to inappropriate relationship/communication between a child and another	• Clear procedures for one-to-one teaching and counselling (visibility, consent, recording) - SEN Policy • Child Safeguarding Statement & Risk Assessment shared with all

	child or adult	staff
5. One-to-one learning support	• Risk of harm in one-to-one teaching/counselling/coaching situations • Risk of harm to children with SEN or medical vulnerabilities • Risk of harm in one-to-one teaching/counselling/coaching situations • Risk of harm due to inappropriate relationship/communication between a child and another child or adult Risk of child being harmed in the school by a volunteer or visitor to the school	• Clear procedures for one-to-one teaching and counselling (visibility, consent, recording) • Special Educational Needs policy; behaviour support plans • Clear procedures for one-to-one teaching and counselling (visibility, consent, recording) • Garda Vetting for staff, volunteers, contractors; references per recruitment circulars
6. One-to-one counselling		
7. Outdoor teaching activities	• Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision in school • Risk of child being harmed by another child; bullying or racism	• Yard/Playground/Toilets supervision policy for assembly, breaks, dismissal; supervision rota • Health & Safety policy; first-aid and emergency procedures Risk Assessment completed prior to outdoor lessons
8. Online teaching and learning remotely	• Risk of harm due to inappropriate use of online/remote platforms (e.g., uninvited access, unsupervised breakout rooms) • Risk of harm due to inappropriate access/use of computers, social media, phones, and devices • Risk of harm caused by staff communicating inappropriately with pupils via social media, texting, or circulating inappropriate material	• Acceptable Use Policy incl. remote learning; smartphone/tablet policy (Circular 38/2018) • Child Safeguarding Statement & Risk Assessment shared with all staff • Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025 available and adhered to; Children First Act 2015 compliance
9. Sporting activities	• Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision in school • Risk of a child being harmed by another child, bullying, or racism	• Policy for external sports coaches (qualification + vetting; staff present) • Health & Safety policy; first-aid and emergency procedures • First Aid policy; trained first

	Risk of child being harmed in the school by a volunteer or visitor to the school	aiders; PPE; incident reporting • Child Safeguarding Statement & Risk Assessment shared with all staff
10. School outings	• Risk of child being harmed by school personnel or others during out-of-school activities (e.g., trips, swimming) • Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision while attending out-of-school activities • Risk of a child being harmed by another child, bullying, or racism	• Policy and procedures for school outings and off-site activities; written risk assessments • Garda Vetting for staff, volunteers, contractors; references per recruitment circulars • Health & Safety policy; first-aid and emergency procedures Code of Behaviour & Bí Cineálta
11. Use of toilet/changing/shower areas in schools	• Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision in school • Risk of harm while a child is receiving intimate care	• Yard/Playground/Toilets supervision policy for assembly, breaks, dismissal; supervision rota • Intimate Care policy/plan where required
12. Annual Sports Day	• Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision in school • Risk of a child being harmed by a volunteer or visitor to the school	• Health & Safety policy; first-aid and emergency procedures • Yard/Playground/Toilets supervision policy for assembly, breaks, dismissal; supervision rota • Policy for external sports coaches (qualification + vetting; staff present)
13. Fundraising events involving pupils	• Risk of a child being harmed by a volunteer or visitor to the school • Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision in school • Risk of a child being harmed by another child, bullying, or racism	• Garda Vetting for staff, volunteers, contractors; references per recruitment circulars • Health & Safety policy; first-aid and emergency procedures • Yard/Playground/Toilets supervision policy for assembly, breaks, dismissal; supervision rota Code of Behaviour & Bí Cineálta
14. Use of off-site facilities for school activities	• Risk of child being harmed by school personnel or others during out-of-school activities (e.g., trips, swimming) • Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision while attending out-of-school activities	• Policy and procedures for school outings and off-site activities; written risk assessments • Garda Vetting for staff, volunteers, contractors; references per recruitment circulars • Health & Safety policy; first-aid

	• Risk of a child being harmed by a volunteer or visitor to the school	and emergency procedures
15. School transport arrangements, including the use of bus escorts	• Risk of child being harmed by school personnel or others during out-of-school activities (e.g., trips, swimming) • Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision while attending out-of-school activities • Risk of a child being harmed by another child, bullying, or racism	• Policy and procedures for school outings and off-site activities; written risk assessments • Garda Vetting for staff, volunteers, contractors; references per recruitment circulars • Health & Safety policy; first-aid and emergency procedures - Code of Behaviour & Bí Cineálta • Child Safeguarding Statement & Risk Assessment shared with all staff
16. Care of children with special educational needs, including intimate care where needed	• Risk of harm to children with SEN or medical vulnerabilities • Risk of harm while a child is receiving intimate care • Risk of a child being harmed by another child, bullying, or racism	• Special Educational Needs policy; behaviour support plans • Intimate Care policy/plan where required • Clear procedures for one-to-one teaching and counselling (visibility, consent, recording) - Code of Behaviour & Bí Cineálta • Special Educational Needs policy; behaviour support plans • Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025 available and adhered to; Children First Act 2015 compliance • Health & Safety policy; first-aid and emergency procedures • Health & Safety policy; first-aid and emergency procedures The school encourages personnel to avail of relevant training • Child Safeguarding Statement & Risk Assessment shared with all staff Relevant Staff Garda Vetted
17. Management of challenging behaviour amongst pupils, including appropriate use of restraint where required	• Risk of a child being harmed by another child, bullying or racism • Risk of the child being harmed by a member of school personnel	
18. Management of the provision of food and drink	Risk of harm where members of school personnel have not received appropriate Training External Staff working in the school	

19. Administration of medicine	• Risk of harm to children with SEN or medical vulnerabilities	• Medication policy and procedures; consent and trained staff • Training records maintained for staff and board; ongoing refresher training
20. Administration of First Aid	• Risk of harm not being recognised, reported properly or promptly; or where staff have not received appropriate training	• First Aid policy; trained first aiders; PPE; incident reporting • Health & Safety policy; first-aid and emergency procedures
21. Curricular provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe	• Risk of harm not being recognized, a disclosure not reported promptly or adequately, or where staff have not received appropriate training • Risk of a child being harmed by another child, bullying or racism	• Delivery of Stay Safe and SPHE curricula • Child Safeguarding Statement & Risk Assessment shared with all staff - Internet Safety Talk every second year for 4th – 6th.
22. Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst pupils	• Risk of a child being harmed by another child, bullying or racism	• Code of Behaviour and Anti-Bullying policy (Bí Cineálta / Circular 55/2024); anti-racism initiatives • Delivery of Stay Safe and SPHE curricula
23. Training of school personnel in child protection matters	• Risk of harm not being recognised, reported properly or promptly; or where staff have not received appropriate training	Anti-Bullying & Friendship Week • Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025 available and adhered to; Children First Act 2015 compliance • Child Safeguarding Statement & Risk Assessment shared with all staff • Training records maintained for staff and board; ongoing refresher training
24. Use of external personnel to supplement curriculum	• Risk of child being harmed by a volunteer or visitor to the school • Risk of harm due to inappropriate relationship/communication between a child and another child or adult	• Policy for external persons supplementing curriculum (staff always present) • Garda Vetting for staff, volunteers, contractors; references per recruitment circulars • Code of Conduct and agreed disciplinary procedures for staff

25. Use of external personnel to support sports and other extracurricular activities	• Risk of a child being harmed by a volunteer or visitor to the school • Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision in school	• Policy for external sports coaches (qualification + vetting; staff present) • Garda Vetting for staff, volunteers, contractors; references per recruitment circulars • Yard/Playground/Toilets supervision policy for assembly, breaks, dismissal; supervision rota
26. Care of pupils with specific vulnerabilities/needs	• Risk of harm to children with SEN or medical vulnerabilities	• Special Educational Needs policy; behaviour support plans • Child Safeguarding Statement & Risk Assessment shared with all staff
27. Children on Tusla's Child Protection Notification System (CPNS)	- Risk of harm not being recognised by school personnel - Risk of harm not being reported properly and promptly by members of school personnel	• Child Safeguarding Statement & Risk Assessment shared with all staff • Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025 available and adhered to; Children First Act 2015 compliance
28. Children with medical needs	• Risk of harm to children with SEN or medical vulnerabilities	• Medication policy and procedures; consent and trained staff • Special Educational Needs policy; behaviour support plans
29. Recruitment of school personnel, including teachers/SNAs, caretakers/secretaries/cleaners and sports coaches	• Risk of the child being harmed by a member of school personnel	• Safe recruitment per Department circulars; induction includes safeguarding • Garda Vetting for staff, volunteers, contractors; references per recruitment circulars • Code of Conduct and agreed disciplinary procedures for staff
30. External Tutors/Guest Speakers	• Risk of child being harmed by a volunteer or visitor to the school • Risk of harm due to inappropriate relationship/communication between a child and another child or adult	• Policy for external persons supplementing curriculum (staff always present) • Garda Vetting for staff, volunteers, contractors; references per recruitment circulars • Yard/Playground/Toilets supervision policy for assembly, breaks, dismissal; supervision rota • Garda Vetting for staff, volunteers, contractors; references per recruitment circulars
31. Volunteers/Parents in school activities	• Risk of child being harmed by a volunteer or visitor to the school	• Child Safeguarding Statement &

		Risk Assessment shared with all staff
32. Visitors/contractors present in school during school hours	• Risk of child being harmed by a volunteer or visitor to the school	• Garda Vetting for staff, volunteers, contractors; references per recruitment circulars • Health & Safety policy; first-aid and emergency procedures • Child Safeguarding Statement & Risk Assessment shared with all staff
33. Participation by pupils in religious ceremonies/religious instruction external to the school	• Risk of child being harmed by school personnel or others during out-of-school activities (e.g., trips, swimming) • Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision while attending out-of-school activities	• Policy and procedures for school outings and off-site activities; written risk assessments • Garda Vetting for staff, volunteers, contractors; references per recruitment circulars
34. Use of Information and Communication Technology by pupils in school, including social media	• Risk of harm due to inappropriate access/use of computers, social media, phones, and devices • Risk of child being harmed by another child; bullying or racism • Risk of harm caused by staff communicating inappropriately with pupils via social media, texting, or circulating inappropriate material	• Acceptable Use Policy incl. remote learning; smartphone/tablet policy (Circular 38/2018) • Code of Behaviour and Anti-Bullying policy (Bí Cineálta / Circular 55/2024); anti-racism initiatives • Code of Conduct and agreed disciplinary procedures for staff School Smartphone policy
35. Application of sanctions under the school's Code of Behaviour, including detention of pupils, confiscation of phones, etc.	• Risk of harm due to inadequate code of behaviour or poor sanction practice • Risk of harm due to inappropriate relationship/communication between a child and another child or adult	• Code of Behaviour and Anti-Bullying policy (Bí Cineálta / Circular 55/2024); anti-racism initiatives • Child Safeguarding Statement & Risk Assessment shared with all staff • Acceptable Use Policy incl. remote learning; smartphone/tablet policy (Circular 38/2018)
36. Students participating in work experience in the school	• Risk of child being harmed by a volunteer or visitor to the school • Risk of harm due to inappropriate relationship/communication	• Policies for student teacher placements and school-based work experience • Garda Vetting for staff, volunteers, contractors; references per recruitment circulars

	between a child and another child or adult	• Code of Conduct and agreed disciplinary procedures for staff • Policies for student teacher placements and school-based work experience • Garda Vetting for staff, volunteers, contractors; references per recruitment circulars • Child Safeguarding Statement & Risk Assessment shared with all staff • Acceptable Use Policy incl. remote learning; smartphone/tablet policy (Circular 38/2018) • Child Safeguarding Statement & Risk Assessment shared with all staff
37. Student teachers undertaking training placement in school	• Risk of child being harmed by a volunteer or visitor to the school • Risk of harm due to inappropriate relationship/communication between a child and another child or adult	
38. Use of video/photography/other media to record school events	• Risk of harm due to inappropriate relationship/communication between a child and another child or adult • Risk of harm due to inappropriate access/use of computers, social media, phones, and devices • Risk of child being harmed by a volunteer or visitor to the school	• Garda Vetting for staff, volunteers, contractors; references per recruitment circulars • Child Safeguarding Statement & Risk Assessment shared with all staff • Health & Safety policy; first-aid and emergency procedures
39. Use of school premises by other organisations during school day		

Examples of School Activities which schools may draw from, as appropriate
 In accordance with Section 11 of the Children First Act 2015 and with the requirements of Chapter 9 of the *Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025*, the following is the written Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment.

In undertaking this Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment, the Board of Management has endeavoured to identify as far as possible the risks of harm relevant to this school and to ensure that adequate procedures are in place to manage all identified risks. While it is not possible to foresee and eliminate all risk of harm, the school has in place the procedures outlined in this risk assessment to manage and mitigate risk to the greatest possible extent.

The board of management reviewed this Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment on **13th October 2025**

Signed: * Caoimhe Tuohy
 Chairperson of the board of management

Date: 13/10/25

Signed: * Gráinne McPhillips

Date: 13/10/25

This Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment is expected to be reviewed again in September/October 2026

* Document to be printed and signed with original signatures