Gaelscoil na gCloch Liath



Na Clocha Liatha
Co. Chill Mhantáin
Uimh. Rolla 20301C
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CSS1

Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment

For:	**Gaelscoil na gCloch Liath**	*(School Name)*
At:	**Blacklion, Greystones, Co. Wicklow.**	*(School Address)*

This school is a: (tick appropriate) ☒primary ☐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) 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):

Rita Ní Thuathail

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

Celia Uí Fhloinn

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

Name of Relevant Person

Rita Ní Thuathail

(In schools this person is the DLP)

Relevant Person can be contacted on:

01-2010718	*086-8817632*

Under the Children First Act 2015 Relevant Person means a person who is appointed by a provider of a relevant service to be the first point of contact in respect of the Child Safeguarding Statement. This person is nominated by the board of management 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:

Paudie Ó Murchú

In the event that both DLP and DDLP are absent and unavailable, and where 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:

☒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 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.

☒Fully respect confidentiality requirements as set out in the Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025 in dealing with child protection matters.

☒Adhere to the above principles in relation to any vulnerable adult.

Procedures and Measures in Place

Our Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment has been developed in line with 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),* and 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 authorising immediate action for cases which require an employee to be immediately absented 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 mandated person who may be employed by the school, for example a chaplain or nurse. A full list of those people who are mandated persons is set out in Appendix 1 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 that 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.

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

Note: The procedures and measures in place outlined above, are not intended as exhaustive list. Individual boards of management shall also include in this section such other procedures and measures that are of relevance 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.	Children waiting for school start in the morning	*Adults in the yard that the children or the members of staff may not recognise, the risk that a child may be taken. *Bullying. *The risk that a child might leave the yard/school site.	*The school does not accept children before 8:15 and parents are asked not to send their chlildren to school before this time. If children travelling on the school bus arrive before this time, supervision is available from 8:10 for them. *The principal meets the children upon arrival at the front door. *The children walk through the foyer to their class lines in the yard. Two teachers and the SNAs supervise on the yard. The children must remain in their class lines, they are not permitted to walk/run around or play. *On wet days the children gather in the school hall/foyer.
2.	Administering medication to pupils	Danger that harm will be caused to a child	*A list of pupils with medical conditions is kept in the school office with details of the pupil and their medications on the box. *Children are not administered medication except in emergency situations. Parents are asked to come in to administer medications, or to give permission to the child to self-administer under the supervision of a staff member. *The Administration of Medicines Policy is followed.

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
3.	Toileting accident, first aid administration, or personal care for a pupil with special needs	*Danger of harm to the child. *Danger that an unfounded allegation will be made	*Staff ensure that another child or staff member is nearby to assist, if necessary. *In the case of a pupil with special needs and a requirement for personal care, an individual plan will be written by the school and signed by the parents.
4.	Pupils from ethnic/ religious/migrant minorities	Danger that they would be bullied	*The Code of Behaviour and Bí Cineálta are followed. *Friendship Week is used to foster friendship and respect. *SPHE lessons (including the Stay Safe programme), SEE lessons to foster awareness and understanding. *Group/project work to strengthen learning and awareness of other cultures, countries and people.
5.	LGBT pupils, or pupils perceived to be LGBT pupils	Danger that they would be bullied	*Every pupil is accepted as they are and as a unique individual. *The Code of Behaviour and Bí Cineálta are followed. *Friendship Week is used to foster friendship and understanding for/of everyone. *SPHE lessons, including Stay Safe.
6.	Children walking around the school on a message	*Children are without supervision/a member of staff. *Risk that the child will be left on his/her own. *Risk that the child may be harmed while unsupervised.	*Children are not permitted to walk around the school on their own. *Children will always be sent in pairs. *If one child is being collected early, *two* other children will be sent to the office with that child.

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
7.	Parents who are not allowed to collect their children (court order)	Risk that a child will be collected/taken by that parent	*There currently are no such orders in place at the moment. *The class teacher and office will be notified of such circumstances. *The staff will be informed in the same manner as they are informed about children with allergies.
8.	Attendance	That a child may absent unknown to their parents.	*Teachers are requested to ensure that they have a time for the roll call in their daily timetable. *The bell rings at 9:30 as a reminder to the teachers to call the roll. *Attendance is then recorded on DataBiz Eolas. *An automatic text message is sent home each morning when a child has been marked absent. *The parents are responsible for contacting the school if they are unaware of which of their children has been marked absent.
9.	Going out and coming in from the yard	Open doors; risk that a stranger may enter the school.	*It is not permitted to keep the doors open. They must be closed as the last child in the line exits/enters. It is the responsibility of each class teacher to ensure this is followed as they bring their class to and from the yard. *The side doors remain locked from the outside at all times. Two children

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			are sent in the main yard door to open the side door for the class.
10.	Teacher leaving the classroom	Risk that there will be misbehaviour or an accident	*The teacher must not leave their class unattended except in an emergency/exceptional situation. *If a teacher must leave their class, they will ask the teacher next door to supervise their class, the two classroom doors will be kept open. *When a child is attending SET, the SET teacher will send children from R2-6 back to the class teacher. S/he will walk younger children back to their class. If only one child is attending SET, the teacher will walk back to the relevant class with that child. *If a teacher is expecting an urgent family message the principal will be informed of this.
11.	SET teacher working alone with one child	*Risk that the child will be harmed *Risk that an unfounded allegation will be made	*The school ensures that there is a glass window in all classroom doors (mainstream and SET). *It is not permitted to cover the glass pane in the doors. *If there is no glass in the door, the door is kept open while the teacher is working with a child. *Recruitment best-parctice is followed as per DEY guidelines.

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
12.	Special Class; teacher working with one pupil/alone with a small number of pupils	*Risk that the child will be harmed *Risk that an unfounded allegation will be made	*An SNA is assigned to the class. *It is not permitted to cover the glass pane in the door. *Recruitment best-practice is followed as per DEY guidelines.
13.	Contractors/workers on site during the school day.	Strangers among the pupils. Risk that a child will be harmed.	*The teacher remains with their class, workers are not allowed to be left alone with pupils. *Where children are being sent around the school with a message they will always be sent in pairs, never alone. *Workers are asked to be Garda vetted beforehand if they are going to be working on site for a period or time.
14.	Students on teaching practice	Strangers among the pupils. Risk that a child will be harmed	*A letter from the college giving the student teacher permission to undertake teaching practice, and outlining their own procedures for their student teachers. *A copy of the School Child Protection Statement and Risk Assessment will be given to the student teacher.
15.	Students on work experience	Strangers among the pupils. Risk that a child will be harmed	*The class teacher is present at all times; a work experience student must never be left alone with pupils. *The student is not allowed to have his/her mobile phone visible or in use while on the school premises.

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
			*The student is asked to leave his/her bag in the office, as opposed to a classroom. *Students aged 16 year + will be required to have Garda vetting.
16.	Substitutes	Risk that a child will be harmed	*A hard copy of the school Child Protection Statment is given to the substitute. *The school ensures that the substitute is Garda vetted. *The school ensures that the substitute signs a foirm dheimhnithe/confirmation form. The school requests and makes a copy of a passport/driving licence.
17.	Recruitment	Risk to safety and security of the pupils	*The school ensures that teachers are registered with the Teaching Council. *Every effort is made not to employ teachers who are not fully qualified, and when they are it is due to exceptional circumstances. Department practices will be followed. *The school ensures that teachers are Garda vetted. *Department & our Patron recommendations and practices regarding recruitment are followed. *The School Child Protection Statement is given to new teachers, they are asked to confirm

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
			that they have read its contents.
18.	Parents/guardians in the school	Strangers in the school	*Parents must be Garda vetted if they are in the shcool on a regular basis (eg assisting with reading in the classroom) *All visitors come the school office for access. *Parents are requested to make an appointment to meet with teachers, and meetings will then take place outside of teaching time.
19.	Visitors to the school	Strangers on the school site	*School management adheres to best-practice as outlined by the Department in relation to visitors/speakers to schools. *The class teacher never leaves the pupils on their own with a visitor.
20.	Psychologists/professional therapists	Trangers on the school premises	*The school asks for proof of identity (passport/driving licence). *The school ensures that there is a glass window in the door of the room in which the visitor is working if they are removing a child from their classroom.
21.	Little break, lunch break	*Yard gates may be left open. *Doors may be left open. *Pupils going to the toilet. *Risk that bullying may happen or that a	*The class teacher ensures that the school door is closed once his/her class has exited/entered the building.

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
		child may be hurt due to misbehaviour	*The teachers on yard duty ensure the yard gates are closed. *The teachers ensure that the children are sent in pairs when being sent in from the yard to the toilet. *In the case of accidents, if it is deemed necessary to send a child for first aid, s/he is sent to the office with another child or an SNA. *The school ensures that there is a teacher on duty on each yard to monitor behaviour. Yard rules are explained to the children in class. If there is an incident on the yard the children are remineded of these rules. The Cód Iompair and Bí Cineálta are followed.
22.	Use of technology in the school/remote learning	*Risk that a child will come accross inappropriate material for his/her age. *Risk that allegations without foundation will be made.	*The use of technology is under the direciton of the teacher. *The Acceptable Internet Usage Policy is followed. *School procedures for the use of online calls or conferences (such as zoom) are followed. *Software screening is installed on devices. *The care of devices are under the care of a post holder. *The Smart Device Policy is followed.
23.	School activities (for example); • Yoga • Tinwhistle	strangers working with the children	*The shcool ensures that the visiting teacher is Garda vetted.

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	• Karate • Football/hurling/ athletics • Léim Thart (skipping)		*School management adheres to best-practice as outlined by the Department in relation to visitors/speakers to schools. *The class teacher ensures they do not leave the visiting teacher on their own with the children.
24.	School tours	*Risk that a child will leave the group or get lost. *Risk from strangers when the children are not on the school premises.	*The teacher takes additional adults on the tour with them. *Tours that are suitable for the age group, the needs of the children, and the number of pupils in the group are organised.
25.	School cleaners/caretakers	*Risk to safety/security of the children	*The cleaners do not beign their day until 2:30, and the caretaker unitl 3:00, when the school day has finished for the pupils. These staff members are employed directly by the school and are Garda vetted through our Patron.
26.	Home time	*Risk that a child will be released to the wrong person. *Risk that a child will leave the school without their parent/guardian.	*A named adult collects children from Junior Infants to 3rd Class. *Children from 4th – 6th Class are premitted to leave unaccompanied, it is explained to parents that it is their responsibility to decide as to whether their child is mature enough to walk home alone. *A teacher puts those who travel by bus on the

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
			buses. It is the responsibility of the parents to ensure they are at the other end to collect their children.
27.	Afterschool activities (for example); • Swimming • Football/hurling/ camogie • Chess • 3rd Language • Dancing • Tin whistle • Athletics • Karate • Homework Clubs	*People from outside the school working in the shcool. *The normal school staff may have left the building when aftershcool activites are taking place. *Bullying *Risk that a child will be harmed.	*The school ensures that the the tutor is Garda vetted. *The tutor is asked to ensure they have a Child Safeguarding Statement, in line with current guidelines. *The afterschool class is allowed on the condition that a roll call is taken at the beginning of each class. *The school ensure that the class takes place in a room that has a glass panel in the door. *The emergency exits and assembly points are displayed for the teacher. *The teacher will be responsible for ensuring that the children are collected after the class. H/she is responsible for making contact with parents/guardians if they are late to collect a child and for staying with that child until they have been collected. *Parents/guardians are responsible for taking their child to swimming, athletics and football/hurling/camogie (when it takes place outside of the school campus).

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
28.	Fire drill/emergency evacuation	*Gates are open, risk that a child will go missing. *Risk that a child will leave the school without the teachers knowledge.	*Each teacher does a class roll call. *The fire drill/emergency evacuation is practised. *A roll call is taken again when the class returns to the classroom.
29.	Taking of photographs at school/school events	Risk that there will be a misuse of the photograph.	*Staff are not permitted to publish images of pupils, their work, or classrooms on personal social media platforms. *Photographs of an individual child, or of christian and surnames together will not be published. The school has an Instagram account under the direaciton of management, which follows the porcedures outlined here.
30.	School occasions, eg. concerts, Christmas plays	*Risk that a child will go missing without the teacher knowing. *Risk that a member of the general public will enter the school without staff knowing.	*The class teacher takes the children to the hall. *The teacher remains with the chidlren. *Parents/visitors are asked to go directly to the hall and to wait there.
31.	Family Day/Open Day	*Risk that a child will go missing *Risk that a member of the public will enter the school unnown to us.	*On these occasions the parents are responsible for their own chidren; the parents arrive with their children and remain with them.
32.	Sports days	*Risk that a child will go missing. *Risk that a child will be hurt ue to misbehaviour or that bullying behaviour may take place.	*The teacher remains with the children. *Parents are brought to assist with the teachers. Parents who assist the school on a regular basis must be Garda vetted.

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
			*The teachers with the class/classes follow normal supervision and follow the Cód Iompair.

Additional pages may be added as required

Examples of Activities, Risks and Procedures

The examples listed in this document are provided to assist schools in undertaking their risk assessment under the Children First Act, 2015. Schools should note that this list of examples is not intended to be exhaustive, and that the inclusion of an example of a policy or procedure on these lists does not make it mandatory. It is the responsibility of each school to ensure, as far as possible, that any other risks and procedures that are relevant to its own particular circumstances are identified and specified in the written risk assessment and that adequate procedures are in place to address all risks identified.

It is acknowledged that schools already have in place a range of policies, practices and procedures to mitigate the risk of harm to children while they are participating in the activities of the school and that some school activities will carry low or minimal risks of harm compared to others. In the context of the risk assessment that must be undertaken by schools, the Children First Act, 2015 refers to risk as 'any potential for harm'.

Therefore, it is important that, as part of its risk assessment process, each school lists and reviews all of its various activities (which shall include identifying those that may carry low risk of harm as well as those that carry higher risks of harm). Doing so will help the school to:

- Identify, as required under the Children First Act, 2015, any risks of harm that may exist in respect of the school's activities.
- Identify and assess the adequacy of the various procedures already in place to manage those risks of harm.
- Identify and put in place any such additional procedures as are considered necessary to manage any risk identified.

Online Safety

The *Addendum to Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children 2017* published in January 2019 clarifies that organisations providing relevant services to children should consider the specific issue of online safety when carrying out their risk assessment and preparing their Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment.

The Guidance on Continuity of Schooling for primary and post-primary schools (April 2020) advises of the importance of teachers maintaining the safe and ethical use of the internet during distance learning and assisting parents and guardians to be aware of their role also. Schools should ensure that their Acceptable Use Policy (AUP) informs and guides remote or distance learning activity.

Risk in the context of this Child Safeguarding Statement and 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 the Children First Act 2015: '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, whether caused by a single act, omission or circumstance or a series or combination of acts, omissions or circumstances, or otherwise.

Examples of School Activities which schools may draw from, as appropriate

1. Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils
2. Recreation breaks for pupils
3. Classroom teaching
4. One-to-one teaching
5. One-to-one learning support
6. One-to-one counselling
7. Outdoor teaching activities
8. Online teaching and learning remotely
9. Sporting activities
10. School outings
11. School trips involving overnight stay
12. School trips involving foreign travel
13. Use of toilet/changing/shower areas in schools
14. Provision of residential facilities for boarders
15. Annual Sports Day
16. Fundraising events involving pupils
17. Use of off-site facilities for school activities
18. School transport arrangements including use of bus escorts
19. Care of children with special educational needs, including intimate care where needed
20. Care of any vulnerable adult students, including intimate care where needed
21. Management of challenging behaviour amongst pupils, including appropriate use of restraint where required
22. Management of provision of food and drink
23. Administration of medicine
24. Administration of First Aid
25. Curricular provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe
26. Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst pupils
27. Training of school personnel in child protection matters
28. Use of external personnel to supplement curriculum
29. Use of external personnel to support sports and other extra-curricular activities
30. Care of pupils with specific vulnerabilities/needs
31. Pupils from ethnic minorities/migrants
32. Members of the Traveller community

33. Lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender (LGBT) children
34. Pupils perceived to be LGBT
35. Pupils of minority religious faiths
36. Children in care
37. Children on Tusla's Child Protection Notification System (CPNS)
38. Children with medical needs
39. Recruitment of school personnel including teachers/SNAs, caretakers/secretaries/cleaners and sport coaches
40. External Tutors/Guest Speakers
41. Volunteers/Parents in school activities
42. Visitors/contractors present in school during school hours
43. Visitors/contractors present during after-school activities
44. Participation by pupils in religious ceremonies/religious instruction external to the school
45. Use of Information and Communication Technology by pupils in school, including social media
46. Application of sanctions under the school's Code of Behaviour including detention of pupils, confiscation of phones etc.
47. Students participating in work experience in the school
48. Students from the school participating in work experience elsewhere
49. Student teachers undertaking training placement in school
50. Use of video/photography/other media to record school events
51. After-school use of school premises by other organisations
52. Use of school premises by other organisations during school day
53. Breakfast club
54. Homework club/evening study
55. Children attending boarding schools or living away from home

Examples of Risks of Harm

1. Risk of harm not being recognised by school personnel
2. Risk of harm not being reported properly and promptly by members of school personnel
3. Risk of harm where members of school personnel have not received appropriate training
4. Risk of child being harmed in the school by a member of school personnel
5. Risk of child being harmed in the school by another child
6. Risk of child being harmed in the school by a volunteer or visitor to the school

7. Risk of child being harmed by a member of school personnel, a member of staff of another organisation or other person while a child is participating in out-of-school activities, e.g. school trip, swimming lessons
8. Risk of harm due to inappropriate use of online remote teaching and learning communication platform, such as an uninvited person accessing the lesson link, students being left unsupervised for long periods of time in breakout rooms
9. Risk of harm due to bullying of a child
10. Risk of harm due to racism
11. Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children in school
12. Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children while attending out-of-school activities
13. Risk of harm due to inappropriate relationship/communications between a child and another child or adult
14. Risk of harm due to children inappropriately accessing/using computers, social media, phones and other devices while at school
15. Risk of harm to children with special educational needs who have particular vulnerabilities, including medical vulnerabilities
16. Risk of harm to child while a child is receiving intimate care
17. Risk of harm due to inadequate code of behaviour
18. Risk of harm in one-to-one teaching, counselling, coaching situations
19. Risk of harm caused by a member of school personnel communicating with pupils in an inappropriate manner via social media, texting, digital device, or other manner
20. Risk of harm caused by a member of school personnel accessing/circulating inappropriate material via social media, texting, digital device or other manner
21. Risks where children are living away from home or attending boarding facilities

These are examples of policies and procedures that may be used to address Risks of Harm

1. All school personnel are provided with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment
2. The Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025 are made available to all school personnel
3. School personnel are required to adhere to the Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025 and all registered teaching staff are required to adhere to the Children First Act 2015 as well as supporting the continued implementation of the best practice guidance set out in Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children 2017 and its addenda, including the Addendum to Children First 2019 and 2025
4. A written protocol is in place authorising immediate action for cases which require an employee to be immediately absented from school for child safeguarding reasons
5. The school implements in full the Stay Safe Programme
6. The school implements in full the Social, Personal, and Health Education (SPHE) curriculum

7. The school implements in full the Wellbeing Programme at Junior Cycle
8. School authorities have a code of behaviour and an anti-bullying policy in place in accordance with the department's 'Bí Cineálta' procedures to prevent and address bullying in schools and as outlined in Circular 55/2024
9. The school has complied with the Understanding Behaviours of Concern and Responding to Crisis Situations developed by the Department of Education and Youth to address uncertainty for staff on how to respond when facing crisis situations where there are concerns regarding physical safety
10. The school undertakes anti-racism awareness initiatives
11. The school has a yard/playground supervision policy to ensure appropriate supervision of children during assembly, dismissal and breaks and in respect of specific areas such as toilets, changing rooms etc.
12. The school has in place a policy and clear procedures in respect of school outings
13. The school has a health and safety policy
14. The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation
15. The school adheres to the relevant Department of Education and Youth circulars in respect of recruitment
16. The school has a code of conduct for school personnel (teaching and non-teaching staff)
17. The school complies with the agreed disciplinary procedures for teaching staff
18. The school has a special educational needs policy
19. The school has an intimate care policy/plan in respect of students who require such care
20. The school has in place a policy and procedures for the administration of medication to pupils
21. The school has provided each member of school staff with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment
22. The school ensures all new personnel are provided with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment
23. The school encourages personnel to avail of relevant training
24. The school encourages board of management members to avail of relevant training
25. The school maintains records of all personnel and board member training
26. The school has in place a policy and procedures for the administration of First Aid
27. The school has in place a code of behaviour for pupils
28. The school has an Acceptable Use Policy in place, to include provision for online teaching and learning remotely, and has communicated this policy to parents
29. The school has in place a policy governing the use of smartphones and tablet devices in the school by pupils as per Circular 38/2018 and the national guidelines
30. The school has in place a Critical Incident Management Plan
31. The school has in place a Home School Liaison policy and related procedures

32. The school has in place a policy and procedures for the use of external persons to supplement delivery of the curriculum
33. The school has in place a policy and procedures for the use of external sports coaches
34. The school has in place a policy and clear procedures for one-to-one teaching activities
35. The school has in place a policy and procedures for one-to-one counselling
36. The school has in place a policy and procedures in respect of student teacher placements
37. The school has in place a policy and procedures in respect of pupils undertaking work experience in the school
38. The school has in place a policy and procedures in respect of pupils of the school undertaking work experience in external organisations
39. The school has in place a policy in relation to assisting members of school personnel in respect of disclosures of retrospective abuse
40. The school has considered the questions in Appendix 1 of the Child Protection and Safeguarding Procedures for Boarding Facilities Associated with Recognised Schools 2023 and implemented the necessary risk mitigation measures

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 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 Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment was reviewed by the board of management on 12 March 2026 (*most recent review date)*

Signed:*		**Date**:

Chairperson of the board of management

Signed:*		**Date**:

Principal/Secretary to the board of management

This Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment is expected to be reviewed again in June 2026 *(expected review date)*

** Document to be printed and signed with original signatures*

Appendix - Location of copies of the Child Protection Procedures and Children First Guidance

This may be in the form of specifying the online location for the procedures (Department of Education and Youth website www.gov.ie/childprotectionschools and/or the school website), providing a link to the Children First National Guidance 2017 Children_First_National_Guidance_2017.pdf, and stating the number and location of hard copies of these procedures available in the school.

Hard copies are available in the school office, and a copy is available in the Principal's office.
Digital copies are available online from the Department of Education and Youth;
https://www.gov.ie/en/department-of-education/collections/child-protection-procedures-in-schools/
Https://www.gov.ie/en/department-of-children-disability-and-equality/campaigns/children-first/

Hard copies of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment are available, on request, from the school office.
A copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment is available on our website; www.gscl.ie

A digital copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment is available for staff on the school's internal shared network. A copy is also e-mailed to staff upon completion of the annual review.