

Scoil Mhuire

Principal:
Siobhán McKiernan
Deputy Principal:
Joanne Carr



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Scoil Mhuire 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) 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 of Scoil Mhuire 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.

The Designated Liaison Person (DLP) is Siobhán **McKiernan**

The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is **Joanne Carr**

The Relevant Person is **Siobhán McKiernan**.

The Relevant Person can be contacted on: 4592986 principal@scoilmhuireclondalkin.com

Chairperson of the Board of Management is **Ray Walsh**

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 members of school personnel from the necessity to take unnecessary risks that may leave themselves open to accusations of 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.

Procedure for the Management of Allegations of Abuse or Misconduct against School Personnel Relating to a Child Availing of our service

- In relation to any member of staff who 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.
- 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 Youth and available on the gov.ie website.

- 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 the 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-

- 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;
- 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 completed child protection training.
- The Board of Management ensures that records of all staff and board member child protection training are maintained.

Procedure for 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. (A list of mandated persons is set out in Appendix 1).
 - 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 child safeguarding statement.
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- 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.

1. 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, if requested.

0. 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 on 12th January 2026 and will be reviewed in January 2027.

Signed: _____
Ray Walsh
Chairperson of Board of Management

Signed: _____
Siobhán McKiernan
Principal

Date:

Date:

Date of next review: **January 2027**

**Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment
(of any potential harm)**

List of School Activities	Risks identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/ Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
Training of school personnel in Child Protection matters	Harm not recognised or reported promptly	<p>Child Safeguarding Statement & Department of Education and Youth procedures made available to all staff</p> <p>DLP& DDLP to attend OIDE face to face training on Child Protection. All Staff to view Tusla training module & any other online training offered by OIDE. Child Protection mentioned at every staff meeting. BOM records all records of staff and board training</p>
One to one teaching/learning	Harm by school personnel	See Health and Safety Policy for procedures.

		<p>Open doors</p> <p>Table between teacher and pupil</p> <p>Glass in window</p> <p>Parents are notified if child is receiving one to one teaching/ small group work</p> <p>The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation and relevant DE circulars in relation to recruitment and Garda Vetting.</p>
Care of children with special needs, including intimate care needs	Harm by school personnel	Parental permission is sought for any child that may require intimate care needs
Toilet areas	Inappropriate behaviour	School personnel follow school procedures.
Curricular Provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay safe.	Non-teaching of same. Unable to identify abuse, bullying, safety concerns.	School implements SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe in full
Managing of challenging behaviour amongst pupils, including appropriate use of restraint	Injury to pupils and staff	Code Of Behaviour
Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils	<p>Risk of child being harmed in the school by another child/adult.</p> <p>Risk of child being harmed by unknown persons on school grounds.</p> <p>Risk of harm being caused to a child as a result of leaving school grounds.</p>	<p>Health & Safety Policy</p> <p>Acceptable Use Policy</p> <p>Code of Behaviour</p> <p>Supervised entry/exit point.</p> <p>Access to school grounds is limited to one entry and exit point.</p> <p>Morning supervision of pupils.</p> <p>Dismissal supervision of pupils.</p> <p>Mobile Phone Policy</p>

Recreation breaks for pupils	Injury to pupils/Bullying Harm not recognised or properly or promptly reported	Supervision Procedures in place Health & Safety Policy Code of Behaviour Accident Report Forms Bí Cineálta Policy
Classroom teaching	Risk of child being harmed in school by a member of school personnel. Risk of harm not being recognised by school personnel. Risk of harm not being reported properly and promptly by school personnel.	School adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation and relevant DEY circulars in relation to recruitment and Garda Vetting. The school complies with the agreed disciplinary procedures for teaching staff. All school personnel are provided with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement. <i>The Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025</i> are made available to all school personnel. School Personnel are required to adhere to the <i>Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025</i> and all registered teaching staff are required to adhere to the <i>Children First Act</i> .
Outdoor teaching activities	Risk of a child being harmed in the school by a member of school personnel. Risk of harm not being recognised by school personnel. Risk of harm not being reported properly and promptly by school personnel.	Supervision procedures. Health & Safety Statement.

Sporting Activities	Risk of a child being harmed in the school by a member of school personnel, a member of staff of another organisation or other person while the child is participating in out of school activities e.g. school trip, swimming lessons, library, sporting event.	Health & Safety Statement Supervision procedures Critical Incident Policy.
Sports Coaches	Harm to pupils	The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda Vetting Legislation and relevant DEY circulars in relation to recruitment and Garda vetting.
Educational Trips/Matches	Harm to pupils	Children are accompanied by teachers. If travelling by bus, the bus provider must have appropriate seatbelts for every child travelling on the bus. Health & Safety Policy
Cycle Training	Harm to pupils.	Health & Safety Policy
Students participating in work experience	Risk of harm not being recognised by school personnel. Risk of harm not being reported properly and promptly by school personnel.	Child Safeguarding Statement. Students on work experience are supervised by class teacher. The school has in place policy and procedures in respect of students undertaking work experience in the school.
Use of off-site facilities for school activities	Harm to pupils	Supervision procedures Health & Safety Policy
After School Clubs	Risk of harm not being reported properly and promptly by school personnel.	The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda Vetting

		Legislation and relevant DEY circulars in relation to recruitment and Garda vetting.
Volunteers/Parents	Harm to pupils	The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda Vetting Legislation and relevant DEY circulars in relation to recruitment and Garda vetting.
Administration of First Aid /Medicine	Harm to child	Administration of Medicine Policy Procedures for administering First Aid. Staff trained in using the defibrillator. Staff members trained in First Aid. Health and Safety Policy
Media Coverage at offsite events Use of video/photography/ other media to record school events.	Risk of harm due to digital recording/ sharing of school events.	Permission sought from parents..
Fire Drill Evacuation	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children. Risk of a child being harmed by another child.	Health & Safety Procedures for evacuations. Supervision procedures. Critical Incident Plan.
Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst pupils	Harm to pupils	Code of conduct, Discipline for Learning documents Bí Cineálta policy and procedures. Stay Safe Programme Supervision procedures.
Care of pupils with specific vulnerabilities/ needs such as	Risk of harm due to racism. Risk of harm due to bullying of a child.	Bí Cineálta Policy Code of behaviour

<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 • Children with medical needs. 	<p>Risk of harm not being reported properly and promptly by school personnel.</p> <p>Risk of harm due to inappropriate/unauthorised relationship/ communications between child and another child or adult.</p> <p>Risk of harm to children due to unauthorised access with court orders.</p>	
<p>Recruitment of school personnel including</p> <p><i>Teachers/SNAs</i></p> <p><i>Caretaker/secretary/ cleaners</i></p> <p><i>External tutors/guest speakers</i></p> <p><i>Volunteers/parents in school activities</i></p> <p><i>Volunteers/contractors present in school during school hours</i></p> <p><i>Visitors/contractors present after school activities</i></p>	<p>Risk of harm not being reported properly and promptly by school personnel.</p>	<p>The school adheres to the relevant requirements of Garda Vetting legislation and relevant DE circulars in relation to recruitment and Garda vetting.</p> <p>The school complies with the agreed disciplinary procedures for teaching staff.</p>
<p>Use of external personnel to supplement curriculum</p>	<p>Risk of harm due to inappropriate relationship/communications between child and another child or adult.</p>	<p>Garda vetting required prior to contact.</p> <p>School staff remain with children.</p> <p>Supervision procedures.</p>

Use of Information and Communication Technology by pupils in school	Risk of online bullying. Risk of harm due to access to content/strangers. Risk of harm due to children inappropriately accessing/using computers, social media, phones and other devices at school. Staff not following policies & procedures	Acceptable Use Policy Bí Cineálta Policy
Application of sanctions under the school's Code of Behaviour including confiscation of phones etc.	Risk of harm to child/another child. Risk of harm due to bullying of a child. Risk of harm not being reported properly and promptly by school personnel.	Bí Cineálta 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 12/01/2026 It will be reviewed as part of the school's annual review of its Child Safeguarding Statement.

Signed Roy Walsh
Chairperson, Board of Management

Date 12-01-2026

Signed Siobhán Mc Kiernan
Principal/Secretary Board of Management

Date 12/01/26