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Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment

For:	Scoil Mhuire Naofa, Rathfeigh	<i>(School Name)</i>
At:	Edoxtown, Rathfeigh, Tara, Co.Meath. C15F220	<i>(School Address)</i>

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):

Seamus Tansley

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

Lisa Kennedy

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

Name of Relevant Person

Seamus Tansley

(In schools this person is the DLP)

Relevant Person can be contacted on:

041-9825156	rathfeighns@outlook.com
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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:

Derrick Monahan

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.	Training of school personnel in Child Protection matters	Harm not recognised or reported promptly The Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools (revised 2023) are made available to all school personnel	Child Safeguarding Statement & DES procedures made available to all staff. DLP & DDLP to attend Oide training. All Staff to view TUSLA training module and online training offered by TUSLA and Oide. Board of Management records all records of staff and board training. Child Protection on all Board and Staff meetings.
2.	One-to-one teaching; One-on-one SNA care; Principal or teacher meeting one-on-one with a pupil	Harm by school personnel	Special Education Policy. Open doors or glass in door/window when teaching one-to-one. Table between teacher and pupil where appropriate. Pupils collected and returned to class by the Special Education Teacher.
3.	Care of Children with special needs, including intimate care needs (toileting, showering, changing clothes, etc)	Harm by school personnel	Policy on Intimate Care. Two staff members to be present.
4.	Use of toilets in school at break times	Harm by school personnel Harm by other people	Usage and supervision protocol – Children encouraged to use toilet before going out to yard. Children get permission from teacher on yard before going into the classroom toilet.

Child Protection Statement and Risk Assessment

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
5.	Curricular Provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe	Non-teaching of same	School implements SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe programmes in full.
6.	Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst pupils	Harm to pupils by peers Bullying other pupils	Bí Cinealta Policy. Code of Behaviour.
7.	Parents entering school	Harm to pupils	Child Safeguarding Statement. Parents can only access the school through the main door. Parents only let into the building by the school secretary.
8.	Students participating in work experience	Harm to pupils by student Confidentiality	Work experience student to be supervised by classroom teacher. Garda Vetting – Procedures for all student teachers undertaking placement in the school. Child Safeguarding Statement.
9.	Trips around the locality e.g. Church, Library, Park, Shopping Centre	Harm by known or unknown adults	Child Safeguarding Statement. Constant and vigilant supervision by teachers.
10.	School day-trips/outings	Harm by known or unknown adults	School Tour Policy. Adequate supervision by teachers.
11.	Annual Sports Day/Arts Day	Harm by unknown adults	Garda vetting. Child Safeguarding Statement. Supervision by class teacher and other staff members.

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	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
12.	Visiting contractors (e.g. IT companies, security company, Fire Safety personnel, builders, etc.	Harm by unknown adults	Children to be under supervision of class teacher.
13.	Use of video/photos/other media to record school events	Public access online to children's images	Parental permission is sought annually in each class for the school website, Facebook, videos, etc.
14.	After school use of the school premises e.g. Gymnastics, Speech and Drama etc	Harm by unknown adult	Children left in the school after hours should be supervised by their after-school's activity teacher.
15.	Swimming	Harm by school personnel or staff at swimming pool	High ratio of adults to pupils. Adults always working in groups. Adults never alone with a child. Child Safeguarding Statement. Code of Behaviour. School personnel supervising in swimming changing area.
16.	Use of Information Technology by pupils in school	Bullying Risk of harm due to children inappropriately accessing/using computers and other school devices at school	Bí Cinealta Policy. Code of Behaviour Policy. Safer Internet Awareness classes termly in school. No Mobile phones, smart watches and other devices allowed by the children in school.

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WEEKLY ACTIVITIES			
1.	In-school sports coaching or activities such as drama/yoga/dance/mindfulness/Well-Being	Harm by adults	School Safe Guarding Statement. Garda vetting. Teacher is present when coach/teacher is working with children
2.	After school sports clubs (GAA, hurling, camogie, basketball, etc.) or other activities e.g. Choir, with staff members	Harm by school personnel	Code of Behaviour. Child Safeguarding Statement.
AD-HOC OCCURENCES			
1.	Student teachers undertaking training placement in school	Harm to pupils by student teachers Confidentiality	Garda vetting – for all student teachers. Student teachers supervised by class teachers. Child Safeguarding Statement.
2.	Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils	Harm by unknown adults on the playground	The doors to the school open at 8.50am. Children are supervised in classrooms by class teachers. Junior/Senior Infants go home at 1.40pm. Infants handed to parents/guardians at home time. 1 st -6 th class go home at 2.40 pm. Class teachers walk out with the children to their parents/guardians or the school bus. Pupils who arrive late/depart early signed in/out by parents/guardians at reception. Late arrivals recorded on

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			Aladdin system.	
	LIST OF SCHOOL ACTIVITIES	The school has identified the following Risk of Harm in respect of its activities	The School has the following Procedures in place to address risk identified in the assessment	
1.	Children in yard at break times	Interaction with strangers outside school	Adequate supervision. Two class teachers on yard duty. Teachers have walkie-talkies to communicate with staff members inside the school.	
2.	Pupils on jobs around the school	Harm from school personnel/unknown adults	Children to go in pairs.	
3.	Administration of Medicine Administration of First Aid	Harm by school personnel	First Aid Policy. First Aid training for staff. First Aid Kits available – Defibrillator available outside the front door of the school. Ensuring teacher/SNA not alone with child.	
4.	Use of sensory room	Harm by school personnel	Door to sensory room kept open while in the sensory room.	
5.	Coming to school by bus	Harm by adult	Garda vetting for bus.	
6.	Stranger entering the building	Harm by unknown adult/abduction	Visitors must ring the front door before entering into the school and then get buzzed in by secretary or another staff member.	

Additional pages may be added as required

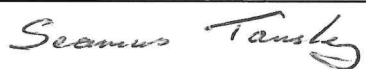
Child Protection Statement and Risk Assessment

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 were reviewed by the board of management on 1/10/26 (most recent review date)

Signed:*		Date:
Chairperson of the board of management		1/10/26

Signed:*		Date:
Principal/Secretary to the board of management		1/10/26

This Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment is expected to be reviewed again in September 2027

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

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

The Child Protection Procedures are accessible online on the Department of Education and Youth website www.gov.ie/childprotectionschools , providing a link to the Children First National Guidance 2017.pdf.

A hard copy of the procedures and booklets associated with the procedures are located in the office filing cabinet.

All teachers, SNAs and secretary have a hard copy of the procedures.