

Scoil Mhuire, Latton Castleblayney, Co. Monaghan

A75 P033

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Child Safeguarding Statement

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 \(2019\)](#), the [Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools \(revised 2023\)](#) and [Túsla Guidance on the preparation of Child Safeguarding Statements](#), the Board of Management of Scoil Mhuire has agreed the Child Safeguarding Statement set out in this document.

- 1 The Board of Management has adopted and will implement fully and without modification the Department's *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools (revised 2023)* as part of this overall Child Safeguarding Statement
- 2 The Designated Liaison Person (DLP) is **Joanne Gormley**
- 3 The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is **Aoife McAvinney**
- 4 The Relevant Person is **Joanne Gormley**
(The relevant person is one who can provide information in respect of how the child safeguarding statement was developed and will be able to provide the statement on request. In a school setting the relevant person shall be the designated liaison person.)
- 5 The Board of Management recognises that child protection and welfare considerations permeate all aspects of school life and must be reflected in all of the school's policies, procedures, practices and activities. In its policies, procedures, practices and activities, the school will adhere to the following principles of best practice in child protection and welfare:

The school will:

- recognise that the protection and welfare of children is of paramount importance, regardless of all other considerations;
- fully comply with its statutory obligations under the Children First Act 2015 and other relevant legislation relating to the protection and welfare of children;
- fully co-operate with the relevant statutory authorities in relation to child protection and welfare matters;
- adopt safe practices to minimise the possibility of harm or accidents happening to children and protect workers from the necessity to take unnecessary risks that may leave themselves open to accusations of abuse or neglect;
- develop a practice of openness with parents and encourage parental involvement in the education of their children; and
- fully respect confidentiality requirements in dealing with child protection matters.

The school will also adhere to the above principles in relation to any adult pupil with a special vulnerability.

- 6 The following procedures/measures are in place:
 - In relation to any member of staff who is the subject of any investigation (however described) in respect of any act, omission or circumstance in respect of a child attending the school, the school adheres to the relevant procedures set out in Chapter 7 of the *Child Protection Procedures*

for Primary and Post Primary Schools (revised 2023) and to the relevant agreed disciplinary procedures for school staff which are published on the 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 available on the gov.ie website.
- In relation to the provision of information and, where necessary, instruction and training, to staff in respect of the identification of the occurrence of harm (as defined in the 2015 Act) the school-
 - Has provided each member of staff with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement
 - Ensures all new staff are provided with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement
 - Encourages staff to avail of relevant training
 - Encourages Board of Management members to avail of relevant training
 - The Board of Management maintains records of all staff and Board member training
- In relation to reporting of child protection concerns to Túsła, all school personnel are required to adhere to the procedures set out in the *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools (revised 2023)*, including in the case of registered teachers, those in relation to mandated reporting under the Children First Act 2015.
- All registered teachers employed by the school are mandated persons under the Children First Act 2015.
- In accordance with the Children First Act 2015 and the Addendum to Children First (2019), the Board has carried out an assessment of any potential for harm to a child while attending the school or participating in school activities. A written assessment setting out the areas of risk identified and the school's procedures for managing those risks is included with the Child Safeguarding Statement.
- The various procedures referred to in this Statement can be accessed via the school's website, the gov.ie website or will be made available on request by the school.

Note: The above is not intended as an exhaustive list. Individual Boards of Management shall also include in this section such other procedures/measures that are of relevance to the school in question.

- 7 This statement has been published on the school's website and has been provided to all members of school personnel, the Parents' Association (if any) and the patron. It is readily accessible to parents and guardians on request. A copy of this Statement will be made available to Túsła and the Department if requested.
- 8 This Child Safeguarding Statement will be reviewed annually or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which this statement refers.

This Child Safeguarding Statement was adopted by the Board of Management on **14/11/2023**.

This Child Safeguarding Statement was reviewed by the Board of Management on **04/12/2024**.

Signed: *Colm Quinn*

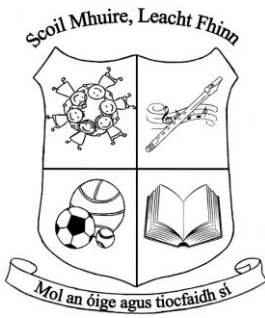
Chairperson of Board of Management

Date: **04/12/2024**

Signed: *Joanne Gormley*

Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Date: **04/12/2024**



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Scoil Mhuire Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment

Written Assessment of Risk of Scoil Mhuire, Latton

In accordance with section 11 of the Children First Act 2015 and with the requirements of Chapter 8 of the *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools (revised 2023)*, the following is the Written Risk Assessment of Scoil Mhuire, Latton.

1. List of school activities

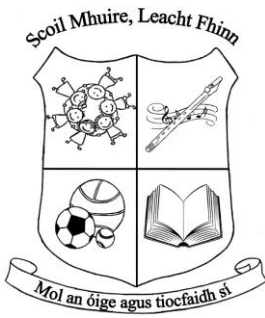
- Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils
- Recreation breaks for pupils
- Classroom teaching/Curricular Provision
- Small group and station teaching
- Withdrawal teaching (small groups/one-to-one)
- Behaviour Management
- Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst pupils
- Use of toilet areas in school
- Sporting activities
- School outings
- Sports Day
- Use of off-site facilities (E.g. Church/GAA facilities) for school activities
- Use of ICT by pupils in school
- Visitors to the school
- Care of pupils with Special Educational Needs, including intimate care when needed
- Administration of First Aid
- Continuing Professional Development for teachers
- Recruitment of School Personnel (including those on a part-time or voluntary basis to supplement curriculum and/or extra-curricular activities). Teachers/SNA's/Caretakers/ external tutors/guest speakers/volunteering parents in school activities/visitors/contractors present in school during school hours.
- Curricular Provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe
- Collection of Pupils during the school day
- Outdoor teaching activities
- Applications of sanctions under the school's Code of Behaviour including detention
- Use of video/photography/other media to record school events
- Use of external personnel to supplement curriculum/sports and other activities
- Use of ICT by pupils while engaging in distance learning in school, including social media.
- Administration of medicine
- Care of pupils with specific vulnerabilities/needs such as
 - Pupils from ethnic minorities, members of the Traveller Community
 - Pupils of minority religious faiths
 - Children in care
 - Children with medical needs
- Training of school personnel in child protection matters
- Students participating in work experience in the school
- Student teachers undertaking training placement in school.

2. The school has identified the following risk of harm in respect of its activities -

- Risk of child being harmed in school by a member of school personnel.
- Risk of child being harmed by a parent on school grounds
- Risk of child being harmed by another child
- Risk of child being harmed by volunteer or visitor to the school
- Risk of child being harmed while participating in school events outside of the school
- Risk of signs of harm not being recognised by school personnel
- Risk of signs of harm not being reported by school personnel
- Risk of harm to children with Special Educational Needs
- Risk of harm due to school-based bullying
- Risk of harm due to withdrawal of children from class
- Risk of harm during use of toilets
- Risk of harm while a child is receiving intimate care
- Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of pupils in school
- Risk of harm due to inappropriate communications/relationship between a child and another child
- Risk of harm caused by member of school personnel communicating with pupils in an inappropriate manner via social media, texting, digital device or other manner.
- Risk of harm caused by member of school personnel accessing/circulating inappropriate material via social media, texting, digital device or other manner
- Risk of harm due to child accessing inappropriate content using computers and other devices while at school
- Risk of harm due to child accessing inappropriate content using computers and other devices while engaging in distance learning
- Risk of harm due to inadequate Code of Behaviour

3. The school has the following procedures in place to address the risks of harm identified in this assessment –

- The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda Vetting legislation and relevant DE circulars in relation to recruitment and Garda Vetting.
- All staff present during the school day have completed the Túsla Children First E-learning Programme and updated training
- All school personnel are provided with copies of the Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017 and will adhere to procedures
- All school personnel are provided with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment
- All staff to receive further training for Safeguarding as soon as rolled out by OIDE/DE
- The school fully implements the Stay Safe Program
- The school fully implements the SPHE Whole School Curricular Plan
- Teachers will always ensure that digital content shown to children is age appropriate
- Supervision Policy is in place for the arrival and dismissal of pupils and is communicated to all parents
- Supervision Policy is in place during recreation breaks
- Regular timetabled visitors to the school are Garda vetted by the school or via a vetting agreement (GAA and other coaches, trainee teachers, students on work placement, substitute SNA's
- Children are closely supervised by teachers during all school events in which visitors are in the school
- Children are closely supervised by staff during all school events which take place outside school grounds
- Glass panels are installed in the doors of both Special Education Teaching Rooms
- Open door policy in place for use of any other room if small group activities are taking place
- Use and application of school policies, including Supervision Policy, Anti-Bullying Policy, Code of Behaviour, Acceptable Usage Policy for ICT, Attendance and Participation Policy, Policy on Distance Learning, Critical Incidents Policy, SEN Policy, Health and Safety Statement
- One child per toilet area only
- Toileting/Intimate Care Policy-Two adults present to assist with toileting accidents and



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Parents are notified.

- The school has implemented a sign-in system for the late arrival of pupils and a sign-out system for the early dismissal of pupils.
- Students and Staff are only allowed to communicate online using Google Workspace for Education.
- Teachers will ensure students are made aware of what they can do if they encounter inappropriate online content
- The school has an Anti-Bullying Policy which fully adheres to the Department's Anti-bullying Procedures for Primary and Post Primary schools.
- The school has-
 - provided each member of staff and all new staff with a copy of School's Safeguarding Statement including the Risk Assessment.
 - Ensured all new staff are provided with same
 - Encouraged staff to avail of training.
 - Encourages Board of Management to maintain records of all staff and board training

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 (revised 2023)*

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 04/12/2024. It shall be reviewed as part of the school's annual review of its Child Safeguarding Statement.

Signed: Colm Quinn

Date: 04/12/2024

Chairperson, Board of Management

Signed: Joanne Gormley

Date: 04/12/2024

Principal