

## Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment

### Child Safeguarding Statement

Scoil Chiaráin Naofa 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 [Tusla Guidance on the preparation of Child Safeguarding Statements](#), the Board of Management of Scoil Chiarain Naofa ,Dorus N.S 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 **Martina Tarpey**
- 3 The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is **Helen O Riordán**
4. The Relevant Person is **Martina Tarpey**.  
*(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

5..The following procedures/measures are in place:

- In relation to any member of staff who is the subject of any investigation (howsoever 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 DE 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 DE 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 Tusla, all school personnel are required to adhere to the procedures set out in the Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools (revised 2024), including in the case of registered teachers, those in relation to mandated reporting under the Children First Act 2015.
- In this school the Board has appointed the abovenamed DLP as the “relevant person” (as defined in the Children First Act 2015) to be the first point of contact in respect of the schools child safeguarding statement.
- 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 DE 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.

- 4 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 Tusla and the Department if requested.
- 5 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 Updated Child Safeguarding Statement was reviewed and adopted by the Board of Management on October 3<sup>rd</sup> 2024

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Thomas Mahon  
\_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Chairperson of Board of Management

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Martina Tarpey \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ October 3<sup>rd</sup> 2024

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## Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment

### Written Assessment of Risk of Scoil Chiarain Naofa—Doorus N.S

In accordance with section 11 of the Children First Act 2015 and with the requirement 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 Chiarain Naofa ,Doorus ,Cinn Mhara

1. List of school activities	2. The school has identified the following risk of harm in respect of its activities –	3. The school has the following procedures in place to address the risks of harm identified in this assessment -
Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils	Risk of child being harmed while on school grounds	In School Management team monitoring points of access during morning ‘meet and greet’ of pupils arrival .The school has a supervision policy to ensure appropriate supervision of children during arrival and dismissal
Recreation break for pupils	Risk of child being harmed while in the school yard	. Access points to the school closed. Adequate supervision by members of school personnel (SNAs and teaching staff) The school has a supervision policy to ensure appropriate supervision of children during recreational breaks, and in respect of specific areas such as toilets /classrooms..
Classroom teaching	Risk of child being harmed in the school by member of school personnel or by another child..	Supervision of pupil interactions by staff. Garda vetting of all staff
One-to-one teaching	Risk of child being harmed in the school by member of school personnel	Glass panel in all support room Garda vetting of all staff

Outdoor teaching Activities	Risk of child being harmed while on the school grounds	Access points to the school closed. Adequate supervision by members of school personnel
Sporting activities	Risk of child being harmed in the school/on the school grounds by member of school personnel or by another child. Risk of harm due to bullying of child Garda vetting of all staff.	Supervision of pupil interactions by staff.
. School tours/outings	Risk of child being harmed by member of school personnel, by another child or by personnel associated with school tour location	Garda vetting of all staff. Supervision of pupil interactions by staff. Supervision of pupil activities involving external personnel.
Sports day	Risk of child being harmed in the school by volunteer or visitor to the school	Supervision of pupil activities .
Class Swimming lessons	Risk of child being harmed by personnel working in swimming pool Risk of child being harmed by members of school personnel or volunteers in changing rooms/pool area	Supervision of pupil swimming lessons by school personnel Garda vetting of all staff and all volunteers
. School transport arrangements – bus for school tours	Risk of child being harmed by school transport providers	Supervision of pupils by school personnel
Care of children with S.E.N. incl. intimate care needs	Risk of harm to children with SEN who have particular vulnerabilities Risk of harm to child while a child is receiving intimate care	Garda vetting of all staff. Implementation of school SEN policy and Intimate Care Policy outlining procedures to be followed.
Care of children who require physical interventions, in order to ensure their safety and safety of others	Risk of child being harmed by member of school personnel	Garda vetting of all staff.
Administration of medication	Risk of child being harmed in the school by a member of school personnel	Garda vetting of all staff. Implementation of administration of medication policy outlining procedures to be followed. Profile of Medicinal needs of child available to staff/S.N.A with guidelines pertaining to individual child
Administration of first-aid	Risk of child being harmed in the school or on school grounds by a member of school personnel	Garda vetting of all staff. Administration of first-aid to take place in open classroom/School Yard setting with assistance of another member of staff

Curricular provision in respect of SPHE – RSE, Stay Safe	Risk of child being harmed in the school by a member of school personnel	Garda vetting of all staff. Implementation of SPHE policy outlining age-appropriate curriculum to be followed
Prevention and dealing with bullying among pupils	Risk of child being harmed in the school by another child	Code of behaviour. Anti-bullying policy. Supervision. Stay safe/SPHE programmes
Management of challenging behaviour among pupils	Risk of child being harmed in the school by a member of school personnel or by another child	Implementation of Code of Behaviour and Physical Intervention policies. Supervision of pupil interactions. Garda vetting of all staff.
Recruitment of school personnel	Risk of child being harmed in the school by a member of school personnel	Garda vetting of all staff. Yearly review of Child Protection Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment. Child Protection documents to hand in all rooms in the school
Care of pupils with specific vulnerabilities/needs such as; pupils from ethnic minorities/migrants, member of the Traveller community, LGBT children, pupils perceived to be LGBT, pupils of minority religious faiths, children in care	Risk of child being harmed in the school by a member of school personnel or by another child.	Garda vetting of all staff. Supervision of pupil interactions. Implementation of anti-bullying policy and associated initiatives –
. Use of ICT by pupils in the school	Risk of harm caused by pupil accessing inappropriate material via ICT devices	Pupils supervised by members of school personnel when using ICT and teachers encouraged to use child safe browser. Mobile phone and devices policy.
Management of provision of Food and Drink	Risk of child being harmed due to food allergy /dietary requirement	Staff supervision of pupils. when eating food in classrooms /school-yard. Staff to be made aware of the dietary requirements of children ..Implementation of administration of medication policy outlining procedures to be followed
Application of sanctions under the school's Code of Behaviour including detention of pupils	Risk of child being harmed in the school by school personnel	Garda vetting of all staff. Implementation of Code of Behaviour policy outlining appropriate procedures and sanctions. All staff made aware of the policy

Transition year students participating in work experience in the School.	Risk of child being harmed in the school by volunteer or visitor to the school	Garda vetting of students participating in work experience. Member of school personnel always present (i.e. TY student never left alone with child(ren)).
Student Teachers undertaking training placement in the school..	Risk of child being harmed in the school by volunteer or visitor to the school	Students to present evidence of Garda Vetting to the school prior to undertaking training placement.
Trainee Special Needs Assistants undertaking placement in the school.	Risk of child being harmed in the school by volunteer or visitor to the school	Garda vetting of trainee Special Needs Assistants
Use of video/photography/other media to record school events	Risk of child being harmed by member of school personnel and others accessing/circulating inappropriate or potentially inappropriate material via social media, texting, digital device or other manner	School events to be recorded by members of school personnel/ designated recording personnel only. Families reminded not to use media to record school events. If a member of school personnel uses a personal device for such, they must upload onto the school server (only) and delete permanently from personal device. (Staff formally reminded of this at the end of the schoolyear ).
After school use of premises by after-school care provider (pupils being collected at various times).	Risk of child being harmed Afterschool Provider— Doorus Montessori Pre-school personnel	Childcare provider -Doorus Montessori School -- to document evidence of Garda vetting of staff.
After school use of premises for extracurricular activities not run by school personnel – e.g dancing/Music Lessons (pupils all collected at the same time	) Risk of child being harmed by personnel running extra-curricular activities	Personnel to provide completed appendix 4 to BOM. Activities to take place outdoors in open space or in classroom with glass panel in door.
Breakfast Club/Homework club/After school activities run by Child Care Provider—Doorus Montessori School & Staff.	Risk of child being harmed in the school by member of school personnel or by another child	Garda vetting of all staff by After school Care Provider –Doorus Montessori School. Supervision of pupil interactions. Homework club to take place in classroom with access to school and afterschool facilities
Use of off-site facilities for school activities	Risk of child being harmed by others using the facility	Supervision of pupils at all times of members of school personnel

Involvement of personnel to supplement the curriculum (regular basis) during the school day – e.g. Music teacher, sports coaches etc	. Risk of child being harmed in the school by volunteer or visitor to the school	Garda vetting of external personnel used to supplement the curriculum. Members of school personnel always present for the duration of activity
Involvement of personnel to supplement the curriculum (one-off visit) e.g, Community Gardaí, Local heroes	Risk of child being harmed in the school by volunteer or visitor to the school	.. School personnel always present for the duration of the activity to supervise the interactions of such personnel with the pupils
Visits from external agencies/community members – Tusla (Social worker/EWO Visiting Teacher for the Deaf/Blind, PDST personnel, DES Inspectorate, .)	Risk of child being harmed in the school by volunteer or visitor to the school	Sign-in book /Q.R App on entrance door at reception to account for all visitors present in the school. Such visitors not left alone with pupils (i.e. always accompanied by a member of school personnel)
. Visits from book company representatives, sales representatives Delivery companies, bin collections, The Book People, contractors and maintenance workers	Risk of child being harmed in the school by volunteer or visitor to the school	I Sign-in book /Q.R. App on entrance door code at reception to account for all visitors present in the school. Such visitors not left alone with pupils (i.e. always accompanied by a member of school personnel)
Delivery companies, bin collections, The Book People, contractors and maintenance workers .	Risk of child being harmed in the school by volunteer or visitor to the school	Sign-in book/ Q.R. App on entrance door at reception to account for all visitors present in the school, where relevant. Such visitors not left alone with pupils (i.e. always accompanied by a member of school personnel)
HSE vaccinations .	Risk of child being harmed in the school by volunteer or visitor to the school	Sign-in book/ Q.R. App on entrance door at reception to account for all visitors present in the school. Parents/carers to sign documentation for administration of vaccinations.Pupil requiring assistance staff follow Intimate Care ProceduresPolicy Vaccinations to take place in classroom and more than one pupil present at a time
HSE hearing and vision tests	Risk of child being harmed in the school by volunteer or visitor to the school	Sign-in book / Q.R. App on entrance door at reception to account for all visitors present in the school. Parents/carers to sign documentation

		permitting hearing and vision testing of their child. Testing to take place in class-room
Changing of pupils clothes (because of toileting accident/fall in yard etc School cleaners	. Risk of child being harmed in the school by a member of school personnel	Garda vetting of all staff. Pupil to change themselves alone. Intimate Care Policy). Parents informed by class teacher at end of day.
School Cleaner	Risk of child being harmed in the school by volunteer or visitor to the school	School cleaners only work in the school outside of school hours
Annual book fair.	Risk of child being harmed in the school by volunteer or visitor to the school	Pupils are supervised by their parents/carers when visiting the book fair
Parents/family volunteers in the school	Risk of child being harmed in the school by volunteer or visitor to the school	Garda vetting of family volunteers if on an on-going basis
. BOM and PTA members attending meetings/visiting the school	Risk of child being harmed in the school by volunteer or visitor to the school	BOM and PTA meeting held outside school hours when children are not present. When visiting the school during school hours they are accompanied by a member of school personnel
l. . Prospective parents visiting the school	.Risk of child being harmed in the school by volunteer or visitor to the school	When visiting the school during school hours they are accompanied by a member of school personnel
School concerts (Christmas, Seachtain na Gaeilge, end-of-year etc	.) Risk of child being harmed in the school by volunteer or visitor to the school	Pupils supervised at all times by member of school personnel
Cake sales (fundraising	Risk of child being harmed in the school by volunteer or visitor to the school	) Pupils supervised at all times by member of school personnel
..		
Official school photographs	Risk of child being harmed in the school by volunteer or visitor to the school	Pupils supervised at all times by member of school personnel
Online teaching/remote learning	Risk of child being harmed online by member of school personnel, by another child, by a household member of another child or by anyone who accesses the online learning platform	Garda vetting of all school personnel. Procedures for online learning set out in the school's Remote Learning Policy. Ref: Online safety lessons in the school's AUP

**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*

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 reviewed and updated by the Board of Management on October 3<sup>rd</sup> 2024. It shall be reviewed as part of the school's annual review of its Child Safeguarding Statement annually .

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Thomas Mahon  
Chairperson, Board of Management  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
October 3<sup>rd</sup> 2024

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Martina Tarpey  
Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management  
Date \_\_\_\_\_  
October 3<sup>rd</sup> 2024