

Mandatory Template 1: Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment Template

Child Safeguarding Statement

Scoil Mhuire agus Bharra is a primary school providing primary education to pupils from Junior Infants to Sixth Class. Scoil Mhuire agus Bharra operates across two sites: Scoil Mhuire agus Bharra Summerhill and Scoil Mhuire agus Bharra Seskin.

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 Mhuire agus Bharra 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 Cathal McCarthy

- 3 The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is Siobhán O' Regan

- 4 The Relevant Person is Cathal McCarthy
(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 (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 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 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 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 Tusla 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.

Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment

Written Assessment of Risk of Scoil Mhuire agus Bharra

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 agus Bharra 20587A

1. List of school activities

- Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils
- Recreation breaks for pupils
- Classroom teaching
- One-to-one teaching
- One-to-one counselling
- Outdoor teaching activities
- Sporting Activities
- School outings
- Use of toilet/changing/shower areas in schools
- Annual Sports Day
- Fundraising events involving pupils
- Use of off-site facilities for school activities
- School transport arrangements including use of bus escorts
- Care of children with special educational needs, including intimate care where needed
- Care of any vulnerable students, including intimate care where needed
- Management of challenging behaviour amongst pupils, including appropriate use of restraint where required
- Administration of Medicine
- Administration of First Aid
- Curricular provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe
- Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst pupils
- Training of school personnel in child protection matters
- Use of external personnel to supplement curriculum
- Use of external personnel to support sports and other extra-curricular activities
- Care of pupils with specific vulnerabilities/ needs such as
 - 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
- Recruitment of school personnel including -
 - Teachers/SNA's
 - Caretaker/Secretary/Cleaners
 - Sports coaches
 - External Tutors/Guest Speakers
 - Volunteers/Parents in school activities
 - Visitors/contractors present in school during school hours
 - Visitors/contractors present during after school activities

- Participation by pupils in religious ceremonies/religious instruction external to the school
 - Use of Information and Communication Technology by pupils in school
 - Application of sanctions under the school's Code of Behaviour including detention of pupils, confiscation of phones etc.
 - Students participating in work experience in the school
 - Student teachers undertaking training placement in school
 - Use of video/photography/other media to record school events
 - After school use of school premises by other organisations
 - Use of school premises by other organisation during school day
 - Infant Club
 - Parent and Toddler group
- Filming for FÍS

2. List of identified school activities and particular risk

Risk identified	Level of risk	Potential risk of harm	Procedure in place to manage risk Identified
Training of school personnel in Child Protection matters	High	Harm not recognised or reported properly	<p>Child Safeguarding Statement & DE procedures made available to all staff</p> <p>DLP& DDLP to attend face to face <i>DDLP attended Tusla Briefing /Consultation for P/DPs on 25/9/2023 in Cork.</i></p> <p><i>DLP attending training currently</i></p> <p>SNAs to complete Children First Training on Friday 17th January 2025</p> <p>All other staff to complete training in second term prior to Easter holidays</p> <p>BOM records all records of staff and board training</p>
The risk was identified of Transition/Fifth year students in classrooms.	Low	<p>Transition/Fifth year students behaving inappropriately.</p> <p>TY/Fifth Y Students lacking awareness of child safety issues</p> <p>Confidentiality</p>	<p>A max of two secondary pupils a week per campus (recommended)</p> <p>One student max in a classroom in any given time.</p> <p>Principal/ Deputy principal to meet with students prior to undertaking experience outlining the importance of confidentiality and that mobile phones should only be used at break times. No photos</p>

One to one teaching	Med	Risk of harm by school personnel	School policy on 1:1, glass panels on doors, open doors
The risk of management of challenging behaviour amongst pupils, including appropriate use of restraint where required was identified. What/who has such training?	High	Risk of harm to children with SEN who have particular vulnerabilities. Risk of child being harmed in the school by another child	BOM to provide training on managing behaviours of concern for SNAs (17/01/2025- <i>S. Allen</i>) NEPS psychologist and psychologist with WCCDNT providing ongoing support for staff Pupil specific behaviour plan initiated for pupils with behaviours of concern. Resources put in place to support the pupil and to protect the safety of other pupils. Case by case basis.
The risk was identified of vetting regarding outside personnel including coaches.	High	Risk of child being harmed in the school by volunteer or visitor to the school. Risk of child being harmed by a member of school personnel, a member of staff of another organisation or other person while child participating in out of school activities	All external staff/ coaches are vetted before commencing work in the school. Teacher remains with class when a football Coach/ outside coach is working with his/her class. In the event that training occurs during lunch time this will be addressed on a case by case basis.
The risk of pupils attending religious ceremonies/church ceremonies was identified.	Med	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children while attending out of school activities	Two members of staff will accompany the class.
The risk was identified of pupils that were non-practising	Med	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children	Pupils who are non-practising Catholics are accommodated in other classes if necessary with work set by teacher while their class is at a religious event
The risk of harm was identified of age appropriate children integrating into classes/lessons.	Med	Risk of child being harmed in the school by another child	A risk assessment is completed- what can be done to support the presence of the child in the classroom- further resources may be identified including the presence of extra staff
The risk was identified regarding swimming lessons, escorting to and from the pool.	Med	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children while attending out of school activities	Pupils from 3 rd -6 th class attend the pool Two staff members walk with the class and remain in the viewing area of the pool.

The risk was identified of strangers in the changing rooms at the swimming pool.	Med	<p>Risk of child being harmed by another child.</p> <p>Risk of child being harmed by a member of staff of another organisation or other person while child participating in out of school activities e.g. school trip</p>	<p>Venue takes responsibility. Note: class teacher, SNA and parent (if deemed necessary) attend the pool when special classes attend.</p> <p>Venue (Maritime) allows other members of the public to use the dressing rooms while the pupils are changing. <i>This needs to be addressed with management in the Maritime prior to swimming lessons this year.</i></p> <p>School staff, together with pool staff monitor ensure that no members of the public in changing rooms</p>
The risk was identified of parents in the changing room not being garda vetted.	Med	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children while attending out of school activities	Parents can only help their own children with changing in the dressing room as they have not been vetted
The risk was identified of no teacher supervision in the changing area.	Med	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children while attending out of school activities	<p>Venues take responsibility.</p> <p>Teacher positioned in close proximity to the door of the changing room.</p>
The risk was identified in the case where there are two buses for swimming and the class have to be split between two buses.	Med	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children while attending out of school activities	<p>There will always be a staff member on the bus accompanying pupils to the swimming pool</p>
The risk was identified of pupils in school with mobile phones and other forms of technology.	Med	<p>Risk of harm due to children inappropriately accessing/using computers, social media, phones and other devices while at school.</p> <p>Risk of harm caused by member of school personnel communicating with pupils in appropriate manner via social media, texting, digital device or other manner</p>	<p>The mobile phone policy needs to be updated</p> <p>Summerhill: Pupils with mobile phones hand to their class teacher in the morning and they are locked safely away until the end of the school day.</p> <p>Seskin: Pupils with mobile phones hand the phone to Ann (secretary) at the school office in the morning on arrival.</p> <p>If phones are being used on the school premises, they will be confiscated and returned at the end of the school day</p>
Care of children with special needs	High	Harm by school personnel	Intimate care policy- requires updating

including intimate care			
The risk of food allergy was identified, the use of EpiPen and the location of this if a teacher is absent.	High	<p>Risk of harm not being recognised by school personnel</p> <p>Risk of harm not being reported properly and promptly by school personnel</p> <p>Risk of child being harmed in the school by a member of school personnel</p>	<p>List of medical conditions and allergies is located on the noticeboard of the principal/ deputy principal's offices in Summerhill and Seskin</p> <p>Each class teacher has access to their class cohort on Aladdin and the information retained by the school on allergies/ medication/ medical conditions. Each class teacher to familiarise themselves with the information pertinent to their class in September. Any omissions/ concerns to be reported to Principal/ Deputy Principal. Note issued to parents in September collecting information on newly diagnosed medical conditions/ allergies etc to ensure the information on Aladdin is up to date. Currently, we are exploring ways of utilising the Aladdin database to improve data storage and teachers access.</p> <p>Photos of the pupils requiring EpiPen:</p> <p>Summerhill: cupboard in the staff room.</p> <p>Seskin: secretary's office</p> <p>All of staff know where the EpiPen is located if the class teacher is absent.</p> <p>Summerhill: relevant classroom</p> <p>Seskin: In the medical cabinet in secretary's office</p> <p>When on a course day the teacher informs the class teacher if that pupil will be in their class.</p> <p>The icon/logo for nut allergy is located outside the specific classroom door.</p>
<p>The risk of pupils with epilepsy was identified.</p> <p>The risk of pupils with diabetes was identified</p>	High	<p>Risk of harm not being recognised by school personnel</p> <p>Risk of harm not being reported properly and promptly by school personnel</p> <p>Risk of child being harmed in the school by a member of school personnel</p>	<p>Policy on procedures for dealing with epilepsy</p> <p>In event of seizure, call 999.</p> <p>List of medical conditions and allergies is located on the noticeboard of the principal/ deputy principal's offices in Summerhill and Seskin</p> <p>Each class teacher has access to their class cohort on Aladdin and the information retained by the school on allergies/ medication/ medical conditions. Each class teacher to familiarise themselves with the information pertinent to their class in September. Any omissions/ concerns to be reported to Principal/ Deputy Principal. Note issued to parents in September collecting information on newly diagnosed medical conditions/ allergies etc to ensure the information on Aladdin is up to date.</p> <p>All members of staff know where the</p>

			<p>medication is located if the class teacher is absent.</p> <p>When on a course day the teacher informs the class teacher if that pupil will be in their class.</p>
The risk of pupils with Asthma was identified. The risk of pupils with inhalers was identified The risk of medicine being out of date	Med	<p>Risk of harm not being recognised by school personnel</p> <p>Risk of harm not being reported properly and promptly by school personnel</p> <p>Risk of child being harmed in the school by a member of school personnel</p>	<p>List of medical conditions and allergies is located on the noticeboard of the principal/ deputy principal's offices in Summerhill and Seskin</p> <p>Each class teacher has access to their class cohort on Aladdin and the information retained by the school on allergies/ medication/ medical conditions. Each class teacher to familiarise themselves with the information pertinent to their class in September. Any omissions/ concerns to be reported to Principal/ Deputy Principal. Note issued to parents in September collecting information on newly diagnosed medical conditions/ allergies etc to ensure the information on Aladdin is up to date.</p> <p>On enrolment, if medicine is required this is included in enrolment form- parents complete Medication form.</p> <p>All members of staff know where the medication is located if the class teacher is absent.</p> <p>When on a course day the teacher informs the class teacher if that pupil will be in their class.</p> <p>class teacher check date on medicine once a year</p>
The risk of pupils who are not to be administered waspeze.	Med	<p>Risk of harm not being recognised by school personnel</p> <p>Risk of harm not being reported properly and promptly by school personnel</p> <p>Risk of child being harmed in the school by a member of school personnel</p>	<p>Permission is given on enrolment form</p> <p>Names on yard first aid bag</p> <p>When on a course day the teacher informs the class teacher if that pupil will be in their class.</p>
The risk of pupils not collected at the end of avenue in Summerhill at end of day	Med	Risk of child being harmed by a person not connected to the school	<p>Adult to walk with pupils</p> <p>Principal to do intermittent spot checks</p> <p>If pupils are not collected they have been informed to walk back up the avenue and to return to the school office as a parent will be contacted</p>

The risk of parents and other community members attending Parent and Toddler group on Wednesday mornings in the Halla in Summerhill	Med	Risk of harm to a child	Parents are informed to attend the Halla Sign in sheet at Parent and Toddler for parents attending Sign displayed to show where the Halla is located in Summerhill
The risk of pupils moving from one campus to the other campus throughout the school day for school events etc.	Med	Risk of harm to a child	Pupils to be accompanied by a member of teaching personnel- Class Teacher/ SET/ Principal/ Deputy principal.
The risk to pupils of unvetted adults using the short cut through the Seskin campus throughout the school day.	Med	Risk of harm to child	When new Board of Management is established, this concern will be addressed, possibility of 'right of way'.

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

- The *Child's Safeguarding Statement* is on display at the entrance to the school: Summerhill: beside the door to the courtyard
Seskin: at the secretary's office
- The *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools (revised 2023)*, are made available to all school personnel. A hard copy is available in the office for all staff. The DLP and DDLP have their own hard copy and staff were informed where to access online.
- School Personnel are required to adhere to the *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools (revised 2023)*, and all registered teaching staff are required to adhere to the *Children First Act 2015*
- The school implements in full the Stay Safe and RSE Programme
- The school implements in full the SPHE curriculum
- The school has an Anti-Bullying Policy which fully adheres to the requirements of the Department's *Anti-Bullying Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools*
- The school provides yard/playground supervision to ensure appropriate supervision of children during, assembly, dismissal and breaks and in respect of specific areas such as toilets, changing rooms etc.
- The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation and relevant DE circulars in relation to recruitment and Garda vetting
- The school –
 - Has provided each member of school 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.
 - Maintains records of all staff and board member training

The school has in place a Critical Incident Management Plan

Due to amalgamation and the presence of two campuses. the following policies require attention:

- Health and Safety policy
- Special Educational Needs policy

- Policy and procedures for the administration of medication to pupils
- Intimate Care policy
- Code of Behaviour