



Child Safeguarding Statement

Scoil Mhuire Cúl an Áirne 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 Mhuire Cúl an Áirne 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 **Lorraine Mahon**
- 3 The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is **Shauna Flynn**
- 4 The Relevant Person is **Lorraine Mahon**.
- 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 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 DES 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.
- 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.
- 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 or will be made available on request by the school.

- 7 This statement and risk assessment has been provided to all members of school personnel, and the patron. It is published on the school website. 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 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.

This Child Safeguarding Statement was adopted by the Board of Management on 26th September 2023

Signed: Paul Carroll

Chairperson of Board of Management

Signed: Lorraine Mahon

Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Date: 26/9/2023

Date: 26/09/2023

Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment

Written Assessment of Risk of SN Mhuire, Cúl an Áirne

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 SN Mhuire, Cúl an Áirne.

In undertaking this risk assessment, the Board of Management of Scoil Mhuire, Cúl an Áirne, has endeavoured to identify as far as possible, the risks of harm that are relevant to our 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.

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 risks.

In accordance with section 2 of the *Children First Act 2015*, the defined threshold of “harm” in relation to a child is as follows:

“harm” means, in relation to a child

(a) assault, ill-treatment or neglect of the child in a manner that seriously affects or is likely to seriously affect the child's health, development or welfare, or

(b) sexual abuse of the child

whether caused by a single act, omission or circumstance or combination of acts, omissions or circumstances, or otherwise.

The definition of harm is also set out in Chapter 4 of the *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and post-Primary Schools (revised 2023)*.

List of School Activities	Risk of Harm	Procedures in place to address risk identified in this assessment
Training of school personnel in Child Protection matters	Harm not recognised or reported promptly	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• School Child Safeguarding Statement with Risk Assessment & Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools (revised 2023) are made available to all school personnel• School Personnel are required to adhere to the <i>Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-</i>

		<p>Primary Schools (revised 2023) and all registered teaching staff are required to adhere to the Children First Act 2015 and its Addendum (2019)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DLP& DDLP to receive online training. • All Staff members have viewed Túsla training module and online training offered by PDST • BOM records all records of staff and board training
One to one teaching	Harm by school personnel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All teachers and SNAs have been garda vetted. • Parents are informed and provide written consent if children are withdrawn from class on a regular basis. • Glass panels in the doors of all classrooms. • Glass panels will not be obscured in any way. • Windows not obscured by blinds.
Care of Children with special needs including intimate care needs	Harm by school personnel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All staff garda vetted. • School Policy on Intimate Care Needs outlines safety procedures to be followed. • Parental permission and agreement to be in place for any child with intimate care needs
Toilet areas	Inappropriate behaviour	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Only one pupil at a time permitted in the class toilets • During recreation breaks, pupils must get permission from the teacher on yard duty to enter the school to use the class toilet.
Care of pupils with specific vulnerabilities/ needs such as : Members of the Traveller community LGBT children Pupils perceived to be LGBT Children in care Children on CPNS	Harm by school personnel Harm from other pupils Bullying Harm from adults	<p>In line with our school Mission Statement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scoil Mhuire Cúl an Áirne is welcoming and caring of all pupils. In as far as possible the pupils and parents will be involved in identification of his/her personal requirements, wishes etc. • A written copy of any parental agreement that exists will be kept in the pupil's profile folder. • Parents will be notified of any changes from agreed procedures.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At all times the dignity and privacy of pupils will be paramount. <p>Practices and procedures in this regard are detailed in various school policies such as></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Code of Behaviour Anti- Bullying Policy S.P.H.E. Policy Supervision Policy Acceptable Usage Policy School Tours Policy
List of School Activities	The School has identified the following Risk of Harm	The School has the following Procedures in place to address risk identified in this assessment
Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils	Harm from older pupils, unknown adults on the playground	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children enter classroom directly on arrival. Supervision from 9.10 a.m by all staff. Parents reminded each year that children are not insured to be on the school premises before 9.10 am. Junior classes collected at school door at dismissal at 2.00pm. Prior notice to school if person not known to staff is to collect a child from Infants. Parents of pupils from 1st to 6th must ensure arrangements in place for collection at 3.00pm/3.10pm
Managing of challenging behaviour amongst pupils, including appropriate use of restraint	Injury to pupils and staff	<p>Restraint Policy Health & Safety Policy Code Of Behaviour</p> <p>As outlined in the DES Circular 02/05 some pupils with serious difficulties may require more urgent action.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Should these cases present, they will, with parent/guardian permission, be discussed with the relevant SENO and or NEPS psychologist. This may lead to a more detailed behavioural management programme being implemented at home

		<p>and/or in class or to a referral for further specialist assessment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SNA's and support teachers will follow educational plans for these particular students. • Intervention plans will be agreed with parents/guardians. • The school will engage the services of the Special Education Support Services (SESS) to support teaching and non-teaching staff when required. • Student Support file will document intervention.
List of School Activities	Risk of Harm	Procedures in place to address risk identified in this assessment
Sports Coaches	Risk of harm to pupil by an adult. Risk of harm not being recognised by school staff.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure garda vetting is in place. • Coach checks in with principal before commencing. • Identify children with additional needs to sports coach prior to lesson commencement. • Class teacher present during coaching.
Students participating in work experience	Risk of child being harmed in the school by another adult.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students must be able to provide current NVB vetting documentation which should be processed in advance of placement start date through the student's post-primary school or relevant college. • Due to current legislation, the school will not offer work experience/TY placement to students who cannot meet vetting obligations
Student teachers undertaking training placement in school	Risk of the child being harmed in the school by another adult.	<p>Prior to accepting a student on teaching placement it is the responsibility of that student to provide the school with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Written verification that the placement is supported by and indemnified by the college the student is attending. • Confirmation that National school vetting obligations (as per DES circular31/2016) will be

		<p>complied with in advance of commencing teaching placement.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teachers to remain with the class at all times.
Recreation breaks for pupils	<p>Risk of child being harmed in school by another child.</p> <p>Risk of the child being harmed in school by an adult</p>	<p>In line with our Health and Safety Policy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The school has a suitable yard supervision roster to ensure appropriate supervision of children during recreation breaks. • Any adult entering the yard will be met by the supervising teacher. • Incident Book will keep a record of any area of concern that may have arisen during recreation times.
List of School Activities	Risk of Harm	Procedures in place to address risk identified in this assessment
Classroom teaching	<p>Harm by school personnel.</p> <p>Harm from other pupils</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All teachers garda vetted. • All school staff will be supplied with a hard copy of the school Child Safeguarding Statement with Risk Assessment. • Glass panels in doors of all classrooms. • Glass viewing panels will not be obstructed in any way. •
Outdoor teaching activities	Risk of harm from other pupils	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rules for activity outlined clearly in advance. • Teacher supervision

<p>Sporting Activities</p> <p>Annual School Sports Day</p> <p>School Outings</p>	<p>Harm by school personnel.</p> <p>Harm from other pupils</p> <p>Harm from other adults at outside venue</p>	<p>In line with our school Supervision Policy, Health and Safety Policy, School Tours Policy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All teachers will exercise their Duty of Care to pupils during sporting activities whether undertaken on site or off site. • Transport to outside venues will be by bus provided by B.O.M.
<p>Fundraising events involving pupils</p>	<p>Harm from other pupils</p> <p>Harm from other adults at outside venue</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In a fundraising initiative outside school hours, parents will be informed that the children are under their supervision and care. This will be communicated on each occasion there is an fundraising event outside school hours.
<p>List of School Activities</p>	<p>Risk of Harm</p>	<p>Procedures in place to address risk identified in this assessment</p>
<p>Use of off-site facilities for school activities</p>	<p>Harm from other adults at the venue</p> <p>Harm from other pupils</p>	<p>In line with our school Supervision Policy Health and Safety Policy and School Tours Policy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All teachers will exercise their Duty of Care to pupils during school activities whether undertaken on or off site. • Prior to the use of off-site facilities, teachers will satisfy themselves as to the suitability of the venue.
<p>School transport arrangements</p>	<p>Risk of child being harmed by another adult.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School will only use transport operators who have a "Road Transport Operators Licence". • Pupils will not be permitted to board or remain on a bus without teacher supervision. • The school shall receive confirmation from any service provider that their employees are suitably vetted. •
<p>Administration of Medicine</p>		<p>In line with our Administration of Medicines Policy</p>

	Risk of the child being harmed in the school by an adult.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Members of staff may administer medication to pupils only in cases where an indemnity form has been signed by the parents and agreed by the Principal and Board of Management
Administration of First Aid	Risk of the child being harmed in the school by an adult	<p>In line with our Accident and Injury Policy.</p> <p>In the event of accident or injury to a pupil:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minor accidents/ injuries will be treated by the relevant staff member in the presence/ view of other pupils. Accidents/ injuries that involve treatment of minor cuts, bumps etc. in any intimate part of the body will be treated in the presence of another staff member.
List of School Activities	Risk of Harm	Procedures in place to address risk identified in this assessment
Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst pupils	Risk of harm due to the bullying of child.	<p>The school Anti-Bullying Policy and S.P.H.E. Policy are available to all staff.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The school implements in full the Stay Safe Programme The school implements in full the SPHE curriculum <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Anti-bullying policy is shared with the school community through the School Information booklet Promotion of a culture of openness and respect in which students can approach staff to discuss concerns and worries. Adequate supervision is provided to ensure codes of behaviour are being followed.
Use of external personnel to supplement curriculum	Risk of harm to child by an adult.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All personnel must show evidence of garda vetting. Programmes delivered under the supervision of class teacher.

<p>Recruitment of school personnel including -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teachers • SNA's • Caretaker/Secretary/Cleaners • External Tutors/Guest Speakers • Visitors/contractors present in school during school hours. 	<p>Harm not recognised or properly or promptly reported</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School Child Safeguarding Statement with Risk Assessment & Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools (revised 2023) • Staff to view Tusla training module & any other online training offered by PDST • Vetting Procedures • Class teacher will be present at all times in the event of a contractor/ serviceperson in class or on school grounds. •
<p>Application of sanctions under the school's Code of Behaviour including detention of pupils, confiscation of phones etc.</p>	<p>Harm by school personnel.</p> <p>Harm by pupil to others</p>	<p>In line with the School Code of Behaviour.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Detention of pupils during break times may be used as a sanction. During detention periods pupils will be supervised by teacher on duty having been informed by class teacher. Classroom door will remain open. • Any pupil found in possession of a phone during the school day will have it confiscated.
<p>List of School Activities</p>	<p>Risk of Harm</p>	<p>Procedures in place to address risk identified in this assessment</p>
<p>Use of Information and Communication Technology by pupils in school</p>	<p>Risk of harm due to children inappropriately accessing/using computers, social media, phones and other devices while at school.</p> <p>Bullying</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access to the internet is password protected and filtered by the PDST Technology in Education. All filtering levels are designed to block content of an illegal or pornographic nature. Our school has a level 4 filtering setting which allows access to You Tube but blocks websites that are categorised as Personal. • Teachers will use resources from webwise.ie to teach about Internet Safety/Cybersafety in all classes. • Parents will be referred to resources on webwise.ie <p>In line with our Acceptable Use Policy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Internet sessions will always be supervised by a teacher. • Pupils are not permitted to use personal devices in school.

Storage or publication of photos of children.	Risk of pupils images being accessed and used inappropriately.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parental consent to share photos of children on school website obtained by the school on enrolment. • Class teachers are made aware of any children whose photo may not be included. • Children's names are not published with photos uploaded to the school website. • Children are not permitted to use electronic devices unless under the supervision of class teacher and for educational purposes. • Children are not permitted to use camera phones/digital devices during the school day or on school outings.
Data Protection	Risk of personal information regarding pupils being accessed and used inappropriately.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Confidential documents relating to children in the school are stored securely. • Hard copies are stored in locked filing cabinets.
List of School Activities	Risk of Harm	Procedures in place to address risk identified in this assessment
Use of video/photography/other media to record school events	Bullying. Harm from adults	<p>It is school policy that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parents will be informed in the September/ January newsletters that any photographs or videos of school events or school related events taken by parents or other individuals are for private, personal use. • These photos or videos must not be uploaded to any website to be viewed by others (e.g. Facebook)
Participation of pupils in religious ceremonies external to school	Harm from other pupils Harm from adults	<p>In line with our Supervision Policy.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teachers will ensure there is effective supervision at all times both en route to and in the church. • Where ceremonies are conducted outside of school times it is parents' responsibility to ensure there are suitable arrangements in place for getting pupils to and from the event location.

Late drop off / early collection / attendance	Risk of child being harmed in school by adult	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Parents are asked to inform school if a child is going to be late arriving.• Early leavers must be collected at the classroom.• Significant concerns that may arise in relation to timekeeping are reported to the Education Welfare Officer
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This risk assessment has been completed by the Board of Management on 26th September 2023. It will be reviewed as part of the school's annual review of its Child Safeguarding Statement.

Signed: Paul Carroll

Chairperson of Board of Management

Signed: Lorraine Mahon

Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Date: 26/9/2023

Date: 26/09/2023