



Child Safeguarding Statement

Scoil na Mainistreach 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 na Mainistreach 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 Matthew Heffernan (Principal)
- 3 The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is Barry Moyles (Deputy Principal). In the event of the DLP and the DDLP being absent, then the Chairperson will be contacted.
- 4 The Relevant Person is Matthew Heffernan
(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.

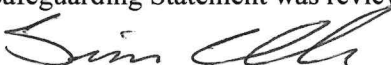
- In relation to the selection or recruitment of staff and their suitability to work with children, the school adheres to the statutory vetting requirements of the [National Vetting Bureau \(Children and Vulnerable Persons\)](#) Acts 2012 to 2016 and to the wider duty of care guidance set out in relevant 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.

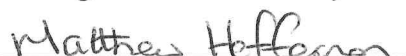
This Child Safeguarding Statement was adopted by the Board of Management on 27th January 2025

This Child Safeguarding Statement was reviewed by the Board of Management on 27th January 2025.

Signed: 

Chairperson of Board of Management

Date: 27/01/2025

Signed: 

Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Date: 27/1/25

Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment

Written Assessment of Risk of Scoil Na Mainistreach

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 Na Mainistreach.

1. List of school activities

- One to one teaching and small group withdrawal
- Classroom teaching
- Care of children with additional needs including intimate care needs
- Toilet areas and toileting during yard time
- Curriculum provision in respect of SPHE, RSE Stay Safe Programmes
- Recruitment of new staff
- Management of students with challenging behaviour
- External sports coaches including extra-curricular activities, coaches/teachers
- Cycle Safety Training
- Students participating in work experience/Transition year students
- Third level students participating in school placement
- Volunteers/parent helpers
- Swimming lessons
- Sports Day
- Supervision of children at playtimes during the school day
- Daily arrival and dismissal of students
- Visits in the Parish (Church/Library/Playground/Fieldtrips etc.)
- Visiting Speakers
- Use of ICT by pupils or staff
- Use of mobile phones by pupils
- Prevention of and dealing with bullying
- LGBTQI+ pupils, religious backgrounds, ethnic minorities etc.
- Administration of first aid
- Administration of medicines
- School trips
- Fundraising events involving pupils
- School transport arrangement including bus escorts
- School Access
- Distance/home learning

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

- Risk of harm by school personnel
- Risk of harm by inappropriate behaviour of staff
- Risk of harm by inappropriate behaviour of pupils
- Risk of harm from lack of knowledge of knowledge/training in *Children First National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children*.
- Risk of harm from lack of knowledge/training in *The Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools 2023*
- Risk of harm from non-teaching of SPHE/RSE/Stay Safe programmes
- Risk of harm from negligence causing injury to pupils and staff
- Risk of harm by external coaches/visitors/speakers to the school

- Risk of harm by TY/Work experience students
- Risk of harm by third level students
- Risk of harm by volunteers/parent helpers
- Risk of harm by coaches/volunteers/staff/other students at swimming lessons
- Risk of harm by spectators/parents attending Sports Day
- Risk of harm from other pupils in the playground
- Risk of harm from adults in the playground and passers-by- especially on Shackleton Road
- Risk of harm from traffic/vehicles/bicycles on arrival/dismissal from school
- Risk of harm from others using external facilities
- Risk of harm from inappropriate use of ICT/internet
- Risk of harm from inappropriate use of mobile phones
- Risk of harm due to bullying from a child
- Risk of harm due to incorrect administration of medicine
- Risk of harm from others at school trip venues
- Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision while attending out of school activities
- Risk of harm due to inappropriate relationship/communication with a pupil
- Risk of harm from unannounced visitors to the school, in particular during arrival and dismissal times as the school gates are open and it is easy to gain access
- Risk of harm from inappropriate communication with pupil by staff personnel while conducting distance learning.
- Risk of harm of cars/lorries entering properties unannounced.

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

- All school personnel are provided with a copy of the school's *Child Safeguarding Statement*. *New copy given at the start of the new school year.*
- Training of school personnel in child protection matters
- The *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2023* are made available to all school personnel
- DLP and DDLP attended face to face Child Protection training
- All staff has received Tusla training on Child Protection.
- All teaching staff have completed training online from the PDST
- All new staff are directed to undertake Child Protection training
- All new staff are vetted through the National Vetting Bureau
- Visiting staff and part-time teachers must comply with Garda vetting and be aware of the schools Child Safeguarding Statement
- All teachers must retain a copy of the Child Safeguarding Statement in their room
- Staff must provide certificate of completion of training in Child Protection
- The Board of Management retains all records of relevant staff training
- School Personnel are required to adhere to the *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2023* and all registered teaching staff are required to adhere to the *Children First Act 2015* and its Addendum (2019)
- The school has a policy in place for one to one teaching – All resource rooms should have a glass panel. Where this is absent, the door should remain open

- Two adults should be present for intimate care needs procedures. As per policy and care plans for children with intimate care needs
This may be teachers or SNAs depending on availability
- RSE and SPHE curricula can be differentiated if necessary for pupils
- A toilet procedure is in place in the school
- The school has a yearly reviewed Code of Behaviour
- The school has in place a Critical Incident Management Plan
- The school has in place a Special Education Policy.
- The school implements in full the Stay Safe Programme, RSE programme and the SPHE Curriculum. Staff training in same is facilitated when available
- The school has a health and Safety policy in place
- Garda vetting procedures in place for visitors from external organisations
- Teachers are to be present at all times where external speakers/coaches/visitors are used
- Students under the age of 16 seeking work experience are not accommodated
- Students over the age of 16 are Garda vetted
- Letters of agreement are completed with third level institutions
- The Child Safeguarding Statement is made available to all temporary staff
- Once off volunteers in the school are supervised by staff
- Regular volunteers in the school are Garda vetted
- Workers/coaches at the swimming pool must be Garda vetted
- Additional supervision provided to classes attending swimming. Staff do not assist with drying/dressing pupils, with the exception of children with additional needs who may be assisted by an SNA, in view of the accompanying teacher
- No child should be left alone with a staff member or coach at any time at the pool
- Children are supervised at Sports Day at all times. Children must remain with their class and teacher at all times
- The school has a Supervision Policy in place for yard times and wet days
- The school has a yearly reviewed Anti-Bullying Policy that complies fully with the *Anti-Bullying Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools, 2013*
- The school have procedures in place for the arrival at and dismissal from school
- Traffic Management procedures are in place outside the school - lollipop lady
- Children are always supervised by staff when visiting locations outside of the school
- The school has an ICT and Acceptable Usage Policy
- The school has internet filtering level 3 on all student devices
- The use of mobile phones is covered by the school's Code of Behaviour. Student mobiles must remain switched off and handed into the office in the morning. They are picked up at home time
- First Aid kits are available in the school
- First Aid training is provided to school staff where necessary
- The school has an Administration of Medication policy
- Additional training for administration of medication is provided where necessary
- All school trip venues are chosen after careful consideration of safety and educational value. Where venues have staff working with children, on some activity tours, staff must be Garda vetted
- Codes of conduct for school personnel on bus escort/school transport duty
- The school requests confirmation from bus companies that drivers have been Garda vetted

- Supervision is provided on entry and exit to the school. Gates are closed during the school day to restrict access to the school
- All visitors to the school must report to the office. All access to classrooms is restricted during the day
- Deliveries to the school during school hours must be done through the office or if by another entrance, be supervised by ancillary staff or a member of staff
- Staff instructed that all communications on distance learning must go to parents' email address. Work can be assigned/completed/corrected on the agreed school platform 'Seesaw for Schools'
- Staff are not permitted to give own phone number or personal contact details to parents. Only school emails should be used.

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 27th January 2025. It shall be reviewed as part of the school's annual review of its Child Safeguarding Statement.