

# Scoil Mochua

## Child Safeguarding Statement



Scoil Mochua 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 [insert school name] 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: **Catherine Carragher**
- 3 The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is: **Jenny Corr**
- 4 The Relevant Person is: **Catherine Carragher**  
(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. This person can also be the DLP)
- 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](http://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](http://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](http://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 25/9/2023 [date].

This Child Safeguarding Statement was reviewed by the Board of Management on 25/9/2023 [most recent review date].

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Chairperson of Board of Management

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

25/9/2023

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

25/9/2023

## Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment

### Written Assessment of Risk of Scoil Mochua

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 PostPrimary Schools (revised 2023)*, the following is the Written Risk Assessment of Scoil Mochua.

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 -
<p><b><u>Daily, curricular and high frequency activities</u></b></p> <p>Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils  <b>Classroom</b> teaching  <b>One-to-one</b> teaching including movement breaks  <b>Break</b> and lunch time  <b>Curricular</b> provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe  <b>Use</b> of Digital Technology by pupils both in school, and at home for remote learning</p>	<p><b>Risk of harm:</b> not being recognised by school personnel / not being reported properly and promptly by school personnel</p> <p><b>Risk of child being harmed in the school by:</b> a member of school personnel / another child/ volunteer or visitor to the school / a member of staff of another organisation or other person while child participating in out of school activities e.g. school trip, swimming lessons</p>	<p>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 and its Addendum (2019)</p> <p>The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation and relevant DES circulars in relation to recruitment and Garda vetting.</p> <p>The school adheres to the Teaching Council Code of Conduct.</p> <p>The school complies with the agreed disciplinary procedures for teaching staff.</p> <p>The school encourages staff and board of management members to avail of relevant training and maintains records of all such training.</p>
<p><b><u>Other Activities (on site)</u></b></p> <p><b>Outdoor</b> teaching activities (on site)  <b>Sporting</b> Activities  <b>Annual</b> Sports Day  <b>Class</b> Plays / concerts / musicals  <b>Care</b> of children with special educational needs, including intimate care needs where necessary</p>	<p><b>Risk of harm due to:</b> bullying of child / inadequate supervision of children in school / inadequate code of behaviour / level of access to school / inadequate supervision of children while attending out of school activities /inappropriate relationship/communications between child and another child or adult / children</p>	<p>The school has in place a policy and procedures: for the use of external persons to supplement delivery of the curriculum / for the use of external sports coaches / in respect of student teacher placements / in respect of students undertaking work experience in the school / The school has in place a policy and clear procedures in respect of school outings.</p> <p>The school implements in full the Stay Safe Programme and the SPHE curriculum</p>
<p><b><u>Activities (off site)</u></b></p>		

<p>School outings (off site) Use of off-site facilities for school activities School transport arrangements for outings</p>	<p>inappropriately accessing/using computers, social media, phones and other devices for school work, including remote learning / a member of school personnel communicating with pupils in appropriate manner via social media, texting, digital device or other manner</p>	<p>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 has in place a code of behaviour for pupils. The school has an Acceptable Use Policy in place, to include provision for online teaching and learning remotely. The school has a Visitor’s policy in place The school has a policy for the Use of Photographs and Videos.</p>
<p><b>Other Activities</b></p>		
<p>Recruitment of all school personnel Student teachers undertaking placement in school e.g. TY Students and trainee SNAs Use of external personnel to supplement curriculum Use of video/photography/other media to record school events After school use of school premises by other organisations</p>	<p>/ a member of school personnel accessing/circulating inappropriate material via social media, texting, digital device or other manner</p> <p><b>Risk of harm to children:</b> with SEN who have particular vulnerabilities /child with toileting issues (accidents, lack of independence when using the toilet, etc.) / in one-to-one teaching or interaction with teacher or SNA</p>	<p>The school has a Health and Safety policy (Safety Statement) The Safety Statement details:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Yard supervision procedures to ensure appropriate supervision of children during, assembly, dismissal and breaks and in respect of specific areas such as toilets</li> <li>○ Procedures for the Administration of First Aid</li> <li>○ Procedures for the Administration of Medication to pupils</li> </ul> <p>The school has in place a Critical Incident Management Plan. The school has a Special Educational Needs (SEN) policy. The SEN policy contains clear procedures for one-to-one teaching activities. The school has an Intimate Care and Toileting policy.</p>

**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.