



Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment

For: **Scoil Naisiúnta Chluain Mhaoláin (Clonmellon NS)**

At: **Clonmellon, Co. Westmeath**

This school is a

☒ Primary

☐ Secondary

☐ Special

School

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) and 2025, Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025 and Child Safeguarding: A Guide for Policy, Procedure and Practice, 2nd ed. (Tusla, 2024), the board of management has adopted the Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment set out in this document.

The board of management has adopted and will implement fully and without modification the department's Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025 as part of this overall Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment.

Name of the Designated Liaison Person (DLP):

Lavinia Williams

Name of the Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP/DDLP):

Nicola Darby

In the absence of the DLP, the Deputy DLP shall assume responsibilities of the DLP

Name of Relevant Person

Lavinia Williams

(In schools this person is the DLP)

Relevant Person can be contacted on:

0469433301 principal@clonmellonns.ie

Under the Children First Act 2015 Relevant Person means a person who is appointed by a provider of a relevant service to be the first point of contact in respect of the Child Safeguarding Statement. This person is nominated by the board of management to manage and provide oversight of child protection concerns/allegations of child abuse.

Name of Chairperson of the board of management:

Seamus Reilly

In the event that both DLP and DDLP are absent and unavailable, and where there is no staff member formally acting in their role, the chairperson of the board of management, or in an ETB school the chief executive or their delegate, assumes the role of DLP.



Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment

The board of management recognises that child protection and safeguarding permeate all aspects of school life and must be reflected in all of the school's policies, procedures, practices and activities. In all of these, 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 cooperate with the relevant statutory authorities in relation to child protection and welfare matters.
- Adopt safe practices to minimise the possibility of harm happening to children and protect members of school personnel from the necessity to take unnecessary risks that may leave themselves open to accusations of child abuse.
- Develop a practice of openness with parents and encourage parental involvement in the education of their children.
- Fully respect confidentiality requirements as set out in the Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025 in dealing with child protection matters.
- Adhere to the above principles in relation to any vulnerable adult.

Procedures and Measures in Place

Our Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment has been developed in line with requirements under the Children First Act 2015, the Children First: National Guidance 2017, and Child Safeguarding: A Guide for Policy, Procedure and Practice, 2nd ed. (Tusla, 2024), and the Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025. In addition to the procedures listed in our risk assessment, the following procedures support our intention to safeguard children while they are availing of our service:

❖ Procedure for the Management of Allegations of Abuse or Misconduct against School Personnel Relating to a Child Availing of Our Service

~ Where any member of school personnel is the subject of any investigation in respect of any act, omission or circumstance in relation to a child attending the school, the school is required to adhere to the relevant procedures set out in Chapter 7 of the Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025 and to the relevant agreed disciplinary procedures for school staff which are published on the gov.ie website



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❖ Procedure for the Safe Recruitment and Selection of School Personnel to Work With Children

~ The school is required to adhere to the requirements of the Vetting Act. The selection or recruitment of staff and their suitability to work with children, requires the school to adhere 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 Youth and available on the gov.ie website and as outlined in Chapter 10 of the procedures.

~ A written protocol is in place authorising immediate action for cases which require an employee to be immediately absented from school for child safeguarding reasons.

❖ Procedure for Provision of and Access to Child Safeguarding Training and Information, Including the Identification of the Occurrence of Harm

~ The school provides information and training to members of school personnel in relation to the identification of the occurrence of harm (as defined in the 2015 Act) as follows:

~ The school has provided each member of school personnel, including any new members of school personnel, (employees and volunteers, board of management members, student teachers and those on work experience) with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment.

~ The school ensures that members of school personnel have availed of relevant training and completed child protection training.

~ The school encourages board of management members to avail of any relevant training and complete child protection training.

~ The board of management ensures that records of all staff and board member child protection training are maintained.

❖ Procedure for the Reporting of Child Protection or Welfare Concerns to Tusla

~ All members of school personnel are required to adhere to the procedures set out in the Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025, in relation to reporting of child protection concerns to Tusla. Mandated reporting applies to all registered teachers and any other mandated person who may be employed by the school, for example a chaplain or nurse. A full list of those people who are mandated persons is set out in Appendix 1 procedures.



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❖ Procedure for Maintaining a List of the Persons (if any) in the Relevant Service Who Are Mandated Persons

~ There is a procedure in place to maintain a list of mandated persons. Schools may on occasion employ additional staff who are mandated by virtue of their profession. This list will include all registered teachers and identify additional employees that are not registered teachers.

❖ Procedure for Appointing a Relevant Person (In schools this person is the DLP)

~ There is a procedure in place for appointing a relevant person.

The various procedures referred to in this Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment can be accessed via the school's website, the gov.ie website or will be made available on request by the school.

In accordance with the Children First Act 2015, the Addendum to Children First 2019 and 2025, and the Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025, the board of management 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.

Note: The procedures and measures in place outlined above, are not intended as exhaustive list. Individual boards of management shall also include in this section such other procedures and measures that are of relevance to the school.

This statement has been published on the school's website or will be made available on request by the school. It has been provided to all members of school personnel, the parents' association (if any), the patron and parents. A copy of this statement and risk assessment will be made available to Tusla and the department if requested. 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.

Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
1.	Training of school personnel in Child Protection matters	Risk of harm not being recognised by school personnel Risk of harm not being reported properly and promptly by school personnel	Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment & DES Child Protection Procedures 2025 made available to all staff School Personnel are required to adhere to the <i>Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools, 2025</i> and all registered teaching staff are required to adhere to the <i>Children First Act 2015</i> and its Addendum (2019) DLP& DDLP to attend Oide face to face training Staff and Board of Management members encouraged to avail of relevant training BOM maintains a record all staff and board training
2.	Recruitment of school personnel including - • Teachers • SNA's • Secretary /Cleaners • Bus Escorts • Groundskeeper - Hot Meals Operative	Risk of harm not being recognised by school personnel Risk of harm not being reported properly and promptly by school personnel	Child Safeguarding Statement & DES procedures made available to all staff Ensure applicants have completed Tusla training (Children First) or other relevant training. Garda Vetting Policy
3.	Classroom teaching One to one teaching	Risk of child being harmed in the school by a member of school personnel Risk of child being harmed in school by another child	A written protocol is in place authorising immediate action for cases which require an employee to be immediately absented from school for safeguarding reasons.



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		Risk of harm in one-to-one teaching or coaching situation	School complies with the agreed disciplinary procedures for teaching staff. The school has in place a policy and clear procedures for one-to-one teaching activities, using rooms with glass in window SEN policy Open door policy Staff Code of Conduct Supervision policy
4.	Outdoor teaching activities	Risk of child being harmed in school by another child Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children in school	Gates closed when younger classes engaged in outdoor learning. Use buddy system/ group system Health and Safety Policy
6.	Participation by pupils in religious ceremonies/ religious instruction external to the school	Risk of child being harmed in the school by a member of school personnel Risk of child being harmed in the school by another child Risks in relation to movement of children from school to another location	Supervision Policy School Tour policy Garda Vetting Policy
7.	Use of Toilet areas in school	Risk of child being harmed in the school by another child Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children in school	Supervision policy
9.	Managing of challenging behaviour amongst pupils, including appropriate use of restraint	Risk of child being harmed in the school by another child Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children in school.	Health & Safety Policy Code of Behaviour SNA policy Supervision Policy – Red Hand procedure



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		Risk of harm due to inadequate code of behaviour	
10.	Care of Children with special needs, including intimate care needs	Risk of harm to child while a child is receiving intimate care	SNA policy SEN policy Intimate Care Plan if required
11.	Showering protocol in school	Risk of harm to child while a child is showering in the event of toileting accident	Supervision Policy SNA policy
12.	Supervision of changing rooms when swimming	Risk of harm to child by member of staff/ staff of another organisation while a child is changing before/ after swimming	Supervision Policy School Excursion Policy SNA policy
13.	Curricular Provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay safe.	Non-teaching of same	School implements in full the Stay Safe programmes. SPHE and RSE covered as per school plan
14.	Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst pupils	Risk of child being harmed in the school by another child Risk of harm due to bullying of child Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children in school Risk of harm due to inadequate code of behaviour	Bí Cinéalta Policy (in accordance with Circular 55/2024) Code of Behaviour SPHE plan Anti-bullying campaign.ie / alternative anti-bullying lesson every 8 weeks
15.	Application of sanctions under the school's Code of Behaviour including detention of pupils, confiscation of phones etc.	Risk of harm due to inadequate code of behaviour	Code of Behaviour Open door policy
16.	Care of pupils with specific vulnerabilities / needs such as • Pupils from ethnic minorities/migrants	Risk of harm to children with SEN who have particular vulnerabilities, including medical vulnerabilities	Bí Cinéalta Policy (in accordance with Circular 55/2024) Code of Behaviour SEN policy



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	- 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 Tusla's Child Protection Notification System (CPNS)	Risk of child being harmed in the school by volunteer or visitor to the school Risk of child being harmed in the school by another child Risk of harm due to racism Risk of harm due to bullying of child Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children in school	
17.	Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children in school Risk of child being harmed in the school by another child Harm from unknown adults on the playground	Arrival and dismissal supervised by teachers Supervision Policy
18.	Recreation breaks for pupils	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children in school Risk of child being harmed in the school by another child	Supervision Policy Critical Incident Policy
19.	Sporting Activities	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children in school Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children while attending out of school activities Risk of child being harmed in the school by another child	The school has in place a policy and procedures for the use of external sports coaches Supervision Policy Excursion policy Critical incident Policy



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20.	Annual Sports Day	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children in school Risk of child being harmed in the school by another child Risk of harm from adults on the school grounds	Supervision Policy Critical Incident Policy
21.	Use of off-site facilities for school activities School outings	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children while attending out of school activities 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 e.g. school trip, swimming lessons	The school has in place a policy and procedures for the use of external sports coaches Supervision Policy School Excursion policy Critical Incident Policy
22.	School transport arrangements including the use of Bus Escorts	Risk of child being harmed in the school by a member of school personnel or staff of another organisation	Children instructed to wear seat belts and remain in seat, no shouting or throwing of items in bus. Bus Escorts Garda vetted.
23.	After school use of premises by school staff or other organisations	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children while on school premises.	Garda vetting of personnel Insurance Certificate of Company/individual on file.
24.	Student teachers undertaking training placement in school	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children in school Risk of harm due to inappropriate relationship /communications between child and another child or adult	The school has in place a policy and procedures in respect of student teacher placements. Child Safeguarding Statement made available to students. Work Experience Policy Garda Vetting Policy
25.	Students participating in work experience	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children in school	The school has in place a policy and procedures in



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		Risk of child being harmed in the school by volunteer or visitor to the school Risk of harm due to inappropriate relationship /communications between child and another child or adult	respect of students undertaking work experience in the school. Work experience Policy Garda Vetting Policy Supervision Procedures
26.	Use of external personnel to support the curriculum/ sports/ other extra-curricular activities • External Tutors or Guest Speakers i.e. sports coaches / music teachers/ visiting authors, engineers, architects, scientists, etc. • Volunteers/Parents in school activities • Visitors/contractors present in school during school hours • Visitors/contractors present during after school activities	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children in school Risk of child being harmed in the school by volunteer or visitor to the school Risk of harm due to inappropriate relationship /communications between child and another child or adult	The school has in place a policy and procedures for the use of external persons to supplement delivery of the curriculum, external sports coaches, Parents Association volunteers. Garda Vetting Policy Insurance Certificate of Company/individual on file.
27.	Children with Medical needs Administration of Medicine	Untimely/ Inappropriate administration of medicine	Administration of Medicine policy Supervision policy SNA policy
28.	Administration of First Aid	Risk of harm to pupils	Administration of Medicine policy Health and Safety Statement Supervision policy



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29.	Use of Information and Communication Technology by pupils in school Online teaching and Learning Remotely	Risk of harm due to inappropriate use of online remote teaching and learning communication platform such as an uninvited person accessing the lesson link, students being left unsupervised for long periods of time in breakout rooms. Risk of harm due to children inappropriately accessing /using computers, social media and other devices while at school Risk of harm due to bullying of child Risk of harm due to inappropriate relationship /communications between child and another child or adult Risk of Harm caused by member of school personnel accessing or circulating inappropriate material via digital device or other manner Accessing inappropriate websites	Digital Learning Plan Agree to Agree Programme Bí Cinéalta Policy Code of Behaviour re Mobile Phones Acceptable Use Policy, including section on remote learning. SPHE lessons on use of internet. Parental guidance on Internet Safety (provided by Agree to Agree programme and Parent talk on Internet Safety)
30.	Use of ipads, chromebooks and other devices in the classroom and in the course of the school day	Risk of harm associated with the misuse/ abuse of devices and various associated technologies	Acceptable Use Policy (in line with circ. 38/2018) Code of Behaviour
31.	Use of video / photography/other media to record school events	Risk of harm caused by member of school personnel accessing/circulating inappropriate material via	Digital Learning Plan Bí Cinéalta Policy Code of Behaviour



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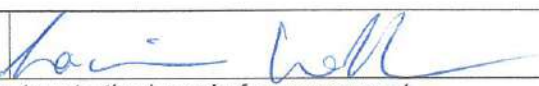
	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
		social media, texting, digital device or other manner Children's images being posted on social media without parental permission.	Acceptable Use Policy Data Protection Policy
32.	Management of Provision of Food and Drink	Risk of harm to child in relation to Hot Meals programme	

In accordance with Section 11 of the Children First Act 2015 and with the requirements of Chapter 9 of the Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025, the following is the written Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment.

In undertaking this Child Safeguarding Statement and 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 Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment was reviewed by the board of management on 27/04/2026 (most recent review date)

Signed: 	Date: <u>27/4/2026</u>
Chairperson of the board of management	

Signed: 	Date: <u>27/04/2026</u>
Principal/Secretary to the board of management	

This Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment is expected to be reviewed again on April / May 2027 (expected review date)



Appendix - Location of copies of the Child Protection Procedures and Children First Guidance

Children First National Guidance 2017 [Children First National Guidance 2017.pdf](#)

Department of Education and Youth website www.gov.ie/childprotectionschools

The school website www.clonmellonns.ie

Displayed in front porch of school and available in school Office on request.