

Mandatory Template 1: Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment Template

Child Safeguarding Statement

Scoil Chroí Íosa 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 and 2025)**, the Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025, and Tusla Guidance on the preparation of Child Safeguarding Statements, the Board of Management of Scoil Chroí Íosa 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 Schools 2025 as part of this overall Child Safeguarding Statement.
2. The Designated Liaison Person (DLP) is: **Colin Barry**
3. The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is: **Sibylline Colbert**
4. The Relevant Person is: **Colin Barry** (*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, harm, or neglect.
 - Develop a practice of openness with parents and encourage parental involvement in the education of their children.
 - 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 Schools 2025** 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, including mandatory training for the 2025 procedures via Oide.
 - 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 Schools 2025**, including in the case of registered teachers, those in relation to mandated reporting and the **reporting of retrospective abuse** under the Children First Act 2015 and the 2025 Guidelines.
 - 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 and 2025)**, 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.
7. This statement has been published on the school's website and has been provided to all members of school personnel, **the Parents' Association**, 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 of Education 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:

10/9/25

This Child Safeguarding Statement was reviewed by the Board of Management on:

10/9/26

Signed: Richard O'Dwyer SJ (Chairperson of Board of Management)

Date: 10/9/26

Signed: [Signature] (Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management)

Date: 10/9/26

Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment

Written Assessment of Risk of Scoil Chroí Íosa

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 Risk Assessment of Scoil Chroí Íosa.

1. List of School Activities

- Daily arrival, assembly, and dismissal of pupils.
- Recreation breaks (playgrounds, corridors, and wet-day classroom supervision).
- Classroom teaching and learning environments.
- One-to-one or small group teaching, learning support, and resource settings.
- Outdoor teaching activities, school garden usage, and environmental studies.
- Online/remote teaching and learning (use of school learning platforms, video calls, digital apps).
- School outings, field trips, overnight trips, and foreign travel.
- Sporting activities, swimming lessons, and active transport (walking/busing) to off-site amenities.
- Use of school toilet areas, changing rooms, and shower facilities (where applicable).
- Annual school events (Sports Day, concerts, graduation, confirmation/communion celebrations).
- Fundraising events involving pupils both during and outside school hours.
- Care of children with special educational needs, including intimate care, toileting, and hoist transfers.
- Management of challenging behaviour among pupils, including crisis de-escalation and the appropriate use of physical restraint.
- Administration of First Aid and management of specific medical conditions (e.g., allergies, epilepsy).
- Curricular delivery of Social, Personal and Health Education (SPHE), Relationship and Sexuality Education (RSE), and the **Stay Safe Program**.
- Prevention, tracking, and resolution of bullying behaviors (including cyberbullying and identity-based bullying).

- Training and induction of school personnel in child protection and statutory reporting guidelines.
 - Use of external personnel to supplement the curriculum, provide sports coaching, or deliver specialized extracurricular workshops.
 - Care of pupils with specific vulnerabilities/needs (ethnic minorities; Traveller community, LGBTQ+ youth, children in care, children on Tusla's CPNS, children with medical needs).
 - Recruitment, induction, and vetting of all school personnel (Teachers, SNAs, Caretaker, Secretary, Cleaners, Volunteers, Transition Year students, and Student Teachers).
 - Application of digital technology (school website, social media channels, photography, and video recording at school events).
 - Visitors, contractors, and external service providers present on school grounds during operating hours.
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2. Risk of Harm Identified

(Under the Children First Act 2015, "harm" is defined as ill-treatment, neglect, or physical, sexual, or emotional abuse)

- Risk of child being harmed by a member of school personnel, volunteer, or external coach through direct physical, emotional, or sexual abuse.
 - Risk of child being harmed by another pupil through peer-to-peer physical aggression, severe emotional bullying, or sexualized behavior/harassment.
 - Risk of child abuse or neglect not being recognized or reported promptly by school staff to the DLP.
 - Risk of harm due to a lack of awareness of the *Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025* among new, temporary, or substitute staff.
 - Risk of child being harmed in a one-to-one setting due to poor visibility, inappropriate room configuration, or lack of clear sightlines.
 - Risk of harm during online or remote learning via exposure to inappropriate material, grooming, or unauthorized communication by third parties or peers.
 - Risk of emotional or physical harm to vulnerable pupils (e.g., minority faiths, LGBTQ+, ethnic minorities) due to targeted exclusion or discriminatory behavior.
 - Risk of harm during intimate care or medical procedures due to a lack of clear protocols, lack of training, or a failure to involve a second staff member/witness.
 - Risk of harm during out-of-school activities due to inadequate adult-to-pupil ratios, poor supervision, or unvetted external hosts/facilities.
 - Risk of harm via digital media, such as the unauthorized posting of pupil images or details on public platforms by staff, parents, or external visitors.
 - Risk of a person being recruited to work with children who is unvetted or unsuitable, or where a gap exists between the start date and the receipt of Garda Vetting disclosure.
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3. Procedures in Place to Address Risks

- **Mandatory Training & Induction:** All existing staff have completed the updated **Oide 2025 Child Protection training**. All new and substitute personnel are issued a hard copy of the Child Safeguarding Statement on day one and must complete the *Tusla Children First* E-learning module before taking up duties.
- **Strict Recruitment & Vetting Compliance:** The school strictly enforces statutory Garda Vetting requirements under the National Vetting Bureau Acts 2012–2016 for all employees, coaches, and volunteers. No person is permitted to engage with pupils until a clear disclosure is verified by the Principal.
- **One-to-One Policy Implementation:** All individual or small-group tuition rooms feature glass-paneled doors, clear sightlines, and open-door protocols where appropriate.
- **Digital & Acceptable Use Safeguards:** The school's **Acceptable Use Policy (AUP)** governs remote learning platforms, internet-enabled devices, and the ban on personal device usage by staff or pupils for school-related media.
- **Comprehensive Supervision Plan:** A comprehensive, rostered supervision plan covers all break times, arrival/dismissal points, corridor movements, and transitions to off-site sports facilities.
- **Targeted Safety Policies:** The school actively maintains and reviews its **Anti-Bullying Policy**, **Intimate Care Policy**, **Administration of Medication Policy**, and **Code of Behaviour** to ensure full alignment with national safety frameworks.
- **Curricular Delivery Protections:** Full, mandatory delivery of the **Stay Safe** and **SPHE/RSE** curriculums across all class standards to equip pupils with personal protection strategies.
- **BOM Oversight Mechanisms:** The Principal delivers the mandatory **Child Protection Oversight Report (CPOR)** at every single Board of Management meeting, adhering strictly to the structural and data protection requirements of the 2025 procedures.

This risk assessment was completed and reviewed by the Board of Management on:

10/9/26

Signed: Richard O'Dwyer (Chairperson of Board of Management)

Signed: Col Ben (Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management)

Mandatory Template 3: Notification regarding the Board of Management's review of the Child Safeguarding Statement

To: Scoil Chríosta school community

The Board of Management of Scoil Chríosta wishes to inform you that:

- The Board of Management's annual review of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement was completed at the Board meeting of 10/9/26 [date].
- This review was conducted in accordance with the "Checklist for Review of the Child Safeguarding Statement" published on the gov.ie website

Signed Richard O'Dwyer SJ Date 10/9/26

Chairperson, Board of Management

Signed [Signature] Date 10/9/26

Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

