



Mandatory Template 1:

Child Safeguarding Statement

Gaelscoil na Cille 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 Gaelscoil na Cille 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 **Ciarán Ó Fearraigh**
- 3 The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is **Ailbhe Nic Caba**
- 4 The Relevant Person is **Ciarán Ó Fearraigh**
(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](http://gov.ie) 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 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 4th Nollaig 2019.

This Child Safeguarding Statement was reviewed by the Board of Management on 26th Samhain 2025.

Signed:

Chairperson of Board of Management

Signed:

Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Date: 26/11/25

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Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment

Written Assessment of Risk of Gaelscoil na Cille

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 2017*, the following is the Written Risk Assessment of Gaelscoil na Cille

<p>1. List of school activities</p> <p>Recruitment of all school personnel Training of school personnel in Child Protection matters</p>	<p>2. The school has identified the following risk of harm in respect of its activities –</p> <p>Harm not recognised or reported promptly</p>	<p>3. The school has the following procedures in place to address the risks of harm identified in this assessment -</p> <p>Child Safeguarding Statement & DES procedures made available to all staff. DLP& DDLP have attended PDST face to face training. DLP & DDLP have completed PDST training modules. All Staff have completed Tusla training module. All mandated persons (teachers) have completed PDST training module. All newly recruited staff to complete the above. Code of Professional Conduct for Teachers (Teaching Council:2016)</p>
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One to one teaching One to One Counselling	Harm by school personnel	School has policy in place for one-to-one teaching (SEN policy). Open doors where possible. Table between teacher and pupil. CCTV covering library & Special Education rooms. Code of Professional Conduct for Teachers (Teaching Council:2016)
Care of Children with special needs, including intimate care needs	Harm by school personnel	Policy on intimate care and toileting now in place.
Toilet areas	Inappropriate behaviour Harm in school by another child.	Supervision policy Anti-bullying policy (Bí Cineálta)
Curricular Provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay safe.	Non-teaching of same	School implements SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe in full
Sports Coaches	Harm to pupils	Sports coaches must be Garda vetted. Safe-guarding statement must be given to all coaches All sporting activities are fully supervised by teachers at all times.
Students participating in work experience	Harm by student	Work experience Policy All students over 16 must show proof of Garda Vetting. Students are not left in the care of work experience students.
Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils	Inappropriate behaviour Harm by student	Supervision policy
Recreation breaks for pupils	Inappropriate behaviour Harm in school by another child.	Supervision policy is strictly adhered to – adequate supervision is provided at all times. Anti-bullying policy



Classroom teaching	Harm not recognised or reported promptly.	Child Protection procedures revised regularly at staff meetings. Code of Professional Conduct for Teachers (Teaching Council:2016)
Outdoor teaching activities	Harm by student	Supervision policy is strictly adhered to.
Sporting Activities	Harm by school personnel, another child, a member of staff from another Organisation.	Garda vetting & statutory declaration in place. Supervision policy is strictly adhered to. Anti-bullying policy in place as per in school. Pupils not left in care of staff from other schools/organisations.
Swimming	Harm by school personnel, another child, a member of staff from another Organisation. Parent volunteer	Pool chosen with individual changing cubicles. Garda vetting & statutory declaration in place. Supervision policy is strictly adhered to. Anti-bullying policy in place as per in school. Pupils not left in care of staff from other schools/organisations.
School outings	Harm by school personnel, another child, a member of staff from another Organisation.	Garda vetting & statutory declaration in place. Supervision policy is strictly adhered to. School tour policy is in place and strictly adhered to. Anti-bullying policy in place as per in school. Pupils not left in care of staff from other schools/organisations
School trips involving overnight stay	Harm by school personnel, another child, a member of staff from another Organisation.	Garda vetting & statutory declaration in place. Supervision policy is strictly adhered to. School tour policy is in place and strictly adhered to.



			Anti-bullying policy in place as per in school. Pupils not left in care of staff from other schools/organisations
Annual Sports Day		Harm by another child or volunteer.	Supervision policy in place and strictly adhered to. Anti-bullying policy. Vetting of volunteers where appropriate Pupils are not left in the care of volunteers
Fundraising events involving pupils		Harm by another child or volunteer.	Supervision policy in place and strictly adhered to. Anti-bullying policy. Vetting of volunteers where appropriate Pupils are not left in the care of volunteers
Administration of Medicine Administration of First Aid		Harm by School Personnel	Procedures in place for administration of Medicine & First Aid.
Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst pupils		Harm by another child	Anti-bullying Policy Appropriate supervision at all times. Fun Friends programme SPHE programme Anti-Bullying and Friendship Weeks Workshops on Bullying and Cyberbullying
Use of external personnel to supplement curriculum		Harm by a member of staff from another organisation.	Supervision policy is strictly adhered to. Pupils not left in care of staff from other schools/organisations
Care of pupils with specific vulnerabilities/ needs such as <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pupils from ethnic minorities/migrants 		Harm by another child/ children	Anti-bullying Policy Appropriate supervision at all times. Fun Friends & Friends for Life programmes



<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 CPNS 		<p>Fí na Folláine Programme (Weaving Wellbeing) SPHE programme</p>
<p>Visitors/contractors present in school during school hours</p>	<p>Harm to child by visitor / contractor</p>	<p>Supervision policy is strictly adhered to. Pupils not left in care of staff from other schools/organisations. Contractors hired for out of school hours where possible.</p>
<p>Use of Information and Communication Technology by pupils in school.</p>	<p>Accessing inappropriate content Bullying</p>	<p>Acceptable Usage policy Mobile Phone & Smart Devices policy Anti-Bullying Policy Code of Behaviour</p>
<p>Student teachers undertaking training placement in school</p>	<p>Harm by student teacher</p>	<p>Work experience Policy Student teachers must show proof of Garda Vetting if over 16. Child Safe-Guarding statement given to all student teachers. Pupils are not left in care of students on work experience.</p>
<p>Use of video/photography/other media to record school events Online teaching and remote learning</p>	<p>Harm to child by school personnel Risk of harm due to inappropriate use of online remote teaching and learning communication platforms</p>	<p>Acceptable Usage Policy Mobile Phone & Smart Devices Policy Code of Professional Conduct The school has an Acceptable Use Policy in place, to include provision for online teaching and learning remotely</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 2017*

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.