**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 Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools 2017 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 primary and post-primary Schools 2017 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 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. The school will adhere to the following principles of best practice in child protection and welfare. The school will:
   1. recognise that the protection and welfare of children is of paramount importance, regardless of all other considerations
   2. fully comply with its statutory obligations under the Children First Act 2015 and other relevant legislation relating to the protection and welfare of children
   3. fully co-operate with the relevant statutory authorities in relation to child protection and welfare matters
   4. 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
   5. develop a practice of openness with parents and encourage parental involvement in the education of their children; and
   6. fully respect confidentiality requirements in dealing with child protection matters
5. The following procedures/measures are in place:
   1. 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 2017 and to the relevant agreed disciplinary procedures for school staff which are published on the DES website
   2. 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 DES and available on the DES website
   3. 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:
      1. Has provided each member of staff with a copy of the school’s Child Safeguarding Statement
      2. Ensures all new staff are provided with a copy of the school’s Child Safeguarding Statement
      3. Encourages staff to avail of relevant training
      4. Encourages Board of Management members to avail of relevant training
      5. The Board of Management maintains records of all staff and Board member training.
   4. 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 2017, including in the case of registered teachers, those in relation to mandated reporting under the Children First Act 2015
   5. In this school, the Board has appointed the above named DLP as the ‘relevant person’ (as defined in the Children First Act 2015) to be the first point of contact in respect of the school’s child safeguarding statement.
6. All registered teachers employed by the school are mandated persons under the Children First Act 2015
7. In accordance with the Children First Act 2015, 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 attached as an appendix to these procedures
8. The various procedures referred to in this Statement can be accessed via the school’s website, the DES website or will be made available on request by the school

1. 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.
2. 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 27/2/18

Reviewed and updated 29/3/2019

**Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment**

**(of any potential harm)**

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **List of School Activities** | **The School has identified the following Risk of Harm** | **The School has the following Procedures in place to address risk identified in this assessment** |
| Training of school personnel in Child Protection matters | Harm not recognised or reported promptly | Child Safeguarding Statement & DES procedures made available to all staff  DLP& DDLP to attend PDST face to face training  All Staff to view Túsla training module & any other online training offered by PDST  BOM records all records of staff and board training |
| One to one teaching | Harm by school personnel | Supervision policy |
| Care of Children with special needs, including intimate care needs | Harm by school personnel | Toileting policy |
| Toilet areas | Inappropriate behaviour | Supervision policy |
| Curricular Provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay safe. | Non-teaching of same | School implements SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe in full |
| Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst pupils including LGBT Children/Pupils perceived to be LGBT | Bullying | Anti-Bullying Policy  Code of Behaviour |
| **List of School Activities** | **The School has identified the following Risk of Harm** | **The School has the following Procedures in place to address risk identified in this assessment** |
| Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils | Left unsupervised before/after school or collected by unauthorised person | Supervision policy |
| Managing of challenging behaviour amongst pupils, including appropriate use of restraint | Harm to a pupil/staff | Health & Safety statement  Code Of Behaviour |
| Visiting tutors/coaches/students/TP/parents etc. | Harm to pupils | Supervision policy, CSS and vetting |
| Recreation breaks for pupils | Harm by student/adult | Supervision policy |
| Classroom teaching | Harm by staff | CSS, Health & safety policy, Supervision policy |
| Sporting Activities, School tours and excursions | Harm by staff, pupils/outside adults | Policy on school trips/excursions and Supervision policy |
| Homework club/Afterschool | Harm by staff | Supervision policy, CSS, Health & safety statement |
| **List of School Activities** | **The School has identified the following Risk of Harm** | **The School has the following Procedures in place to address risk identified in this assessment** |
| Management of challenging behaviour amongst pupils, including appropriate use of restraint where required | Harm to a pupil/staff member | Code of behaviour  Health & Safety statement  Use of physical intervention policy |
| Administration of Medicine  Administration of First Aid | Harm to a pupil/staff | Administration of medicine policy  Health & Safety statement  First Aid procedures |
| Recruitment of school personnel including -   * Teachers * SNA’s * Caretaker/Secretary/Cleaners * Sports coaches | Harm not recognised or properly or promptly reported | Child Safeguarding Statement & DES procedures made available to all staff  Staff to view Tusla training module & any other online training offered by PDST  Vetting Procedures  Supervision Policy |
| Use of Information and Communication Technology by pupils in school | Bullying or harm | ICT policy  Anti-Bullying Policy  Code of Behaviour |
| Use of video/photography/other media to record school events | Harm to pupils/staff | Policy on phones and electronic devices  Policy on display/publishing of photos/DVD |
| After school use of school premises by other organisations | Harm to pupils/staff | Health & Safety statement  Use of school contract  Vetting |

**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.

This risk assessment has been completed by the Board of Management on \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*.* It will be reviewed as part of the school’s annual review of its Child Safeguarding Statement.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date 27/2/2018

Chairperson, Board of Management

Signed \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date 27/2/2018

Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Reviewed and Updated at Board meeting 26/03/2019

Reviewed and updated at Board meeting 22/10/2019

To be reviewed and updated at next meeting of the Board 2/12/2020