

Scoil an Spioraid Naoimh, Tara Road, Bettystown, Co Meath A92XK64

Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment

Child Safeguarding Statement

Scoil an Spioraid Naoimh (SSN) is a primary school providing primary education to pupils from Third 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 2017](#) and [Tusla Guidance on the preparation of Child Safeguarding Statements](#), the Board of Management of Scoil an Spioraid Naoimh 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 Bláithín Maguire
- 3 The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is Ciara Winters.
- 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. 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.

- 5 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 2017 and to the relevant agreed disciplinary procedures for school staff which are published on the DE 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 DE 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 School 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 2017, including in the case of registered teachers, those in relation to mandated reporting under the Children First Act 2015.
 - In this school the Board has appointed the abovenamed DLP as the “relevant person” (as defined in the Children First Act 2015) to be the first point of contact in respect of the schools child safeguarding statement.
 - 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 DE website or will be made available on request by the school.
- 6 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.
- 7 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 the 4th of November 2021.

This Child Safeguarding Statement was reviewed by the Board of Management on the 8th of November 2021.

Signed: *Noel Quinn*

Chairperson of Board of Management

Signed: **Bláithin Maguire**

Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Date: 19/10/2022

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Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment

Written Assessment of Risk of Scoil an Spioraid Naoimh

In accordance with section 11 of the Children First Act 2015 and with the requirements of Chapter 8 of the *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017*, the following is the Written Risk Assessment of Scoil an Spioraid Naoimh.

1. List of school activities

- Provision of primary onsite education
- Field trips to beach
- Religious activities in the Church
- Sporting activities in the local horse racing field
- Life skill trips for the special classes
- GAA Coaching on site
- Cycle safety on site
- Potential educational trips
- Swimming in AURA club Drogheda (COVID dependant)
- Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils
- Recreation breaks for pupils
- Classroom teaching
- One-to-one learning support
- Online teaching and learning remotely
- Use of toilet/changing/shower areas in schools
- Annual Sports Day
- Fundraising events involving pupils
- Care of children with special educational needs, including intimate care where needed,
- Management of challenging behaviour amongst pupils
- Curricular provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe
- Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst pupils
- Training of school personnel in child protection matters
- Use of external personnel to supplement curriculum
- Care of pupils with specific vulnerabilities/ needs such as
 - Pupils from ethnic minorities/migrants
 - 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
 - Children with medical needs
- Recruitment of school personnel including -
 - Teachers/SNA's
 - Caretaker/Secretary/Cleaners
 - Sports coaches
 - External Tutors/Guest Speakers

- Volunteers/Parents in school activities
- Visitors/contractors present in school during school hours
- Visitors/contractors present during after school activities
- Use of Information and Communication Technology by pupils in school, including social media
- Application of sanctions under the school's Code of Behaviour including detention of pupils, confiscation of phones etc.
- Students participating in work experience in the school
- Student teachers undertaking training placement in school
- Use of video/photography/other media to record school events
- After school use of school premises by other organisations

2. The school has identified the following risk of harm in respect of its activities -

- COVID-19 pandemic
- Risk of harm not being recognised by school personnel
- Risk of harm not being reported properly and promptly by school personnel
- 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
- Risk of child being harmed in the school by volunteer or visitor to the school
- 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 , Altar serving
- 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 bullying of child
- Risk of harm due to racism and /or other vulnerabilities
- Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children in school
- Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children while attending school activities away from the school site
- Risk of harm due to inappropriate relationship/communications between child and another child or adult
- Risk of harm due to children inappropriately accessing/using computers, social media, phones and other devices while at school
- Risk of harm to children with SEN who have particular vulnerabilities, including medical vulnerabilities
- Risk of harm to child while a child is receiving intimate care
- Risk of harm due to inadequate code of behaviour
- Risk of harm in one-to-one teaching, counselling, coaching situation
- Risk of harm caused by member of school personnel communicating with pupils in an inappropriate manner via social media, texting, digital device or other manner
- Risk of harm caused by member of school personnel accessing/circulating inappropriate material via social media, texting, digital device or other manner.

3. The school has the following procedures in place to address the risks of harm identified in this assessment -

- Robust COVID prevention procedures
- COVID signage
- Isolation room protocols
- Communication with the LWR to identify and address COVID related hazards
- All Staff are Garda vetted to include all temporary and substitute Staff
- External coaches who visit school site for the provision of sporting activities & other activities are Garda vetted
- Garda vetting for Parental involvement with the school
- Pupil Teacher ratio considerations for all activities off the school site
- Coach hire by the school must include seat belts in the coaches
- School Caretaker carries out regular checks of physical risks within the school boundaries
- Communication with Parents regarding COVID Child Welfare and Well being
- Regular audits for the provision of PPE for all Staff (COVID)
- Provision of the necessary equipment to deal with spillages and routine maintenance within the School site.
- Church and School collaborating on protocols for Altar serving to include collection and delivery of children(Sign in /Sign out protocols)
- Knowledge of the Tides in advance of use of the beach
- Administration of medication policy
- Robust Health Care plans to include written advice from Parents re recommendations and authority to administer medication if necessary
- Timely checks of Defibrillator and firefighting equipment on the school premises
- Provision of pre wrapped in date food supplements to children at risk
- Suitable storage for relevant medicines & food supplements
- Training completed for some Staff as First Aid Responders
- No children permitted to visit the Staffroom
- Repair of kitchen equipment/replacement
- Outsource cleaning on site of Kitchen, toilets, high touch points
- Visits by Gardaí for road safety talks
- Staff promote road safety awareness talks in the classrooms
- Staff promote the use of high vis jackets
- Identification by Staff of physical risks off site
- Reminder to Parents to regularly update their contact details for the school administration system
- Timely communication with Parents regarding off site activities
- Having sufficient Staff to supervise all off site activities.
- Parental involvement linked to appropriately vetted people
- Robust Road Safety and off site safety
- Health & Safety risk checks
- Sign in / sign out protocols for Altar serving in the local Church during school day
- Communication with Parents for offsite trips to include emergencies
- All Garda vetting for Personnel involvement with school to be submitted in advance (for example GAA coaches, Cycle safety coach)
- Regular check for and correction of Health & Safety risks on site (the yard space, classroom and corridors, green areas)
- Remove spillages on floors and on the yard
- COVID pandemic protocols
- No access for pupil to Staffroom

- Staffroom cleaned daily
- All school personnel are provided with a copy of the school's *Child Safeguarding Statement*
- The *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017* are made available to all school personnel
- School Personnel are required to adhere to the *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017* and all registered teaching staff are required to adhere to the *Children First Act 2015* and it's Addendum (2019)
- The school implements in full the Stay Safe Programme
- The school implements in full the SPHE curriculum
- 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 School*
- The school undertakes anti-racism awareness initiatives
- The school has a yard/playground supervision policy to ensure appropriate supervision of children during, assembly, dismissal and breaks and in respect of specific areas such as toilets, changing rooms etc.
- The school has in place a policy and clear procedures in respect of school outings
- The school has a Health and safety policy (Updated in September 2020 to reflect COVID)
- The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation and relevant DE circulars in relation to recruitment and Garda vetting
- The school has a codes of conduct for school personnel (teaching and non-teaching staff)
- The school complies with the agreed disciplinary procedures for teaching staff
- The school has a Special Educational Needs policy
- The school has an intimate care policy/plan in respect of students who require such care
- The school –
 - o Has provided each member of school staff with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement
 - o Ensures all new staff are provided with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement
 - o Encourages staff to avail of relevant training
 - o Encourages board of management members to avail of relevant training
 - o Maintains records of all staff and board member training
- The school has in place a policy and procedures for the administration of First Aid
- 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, and has communicated this policy to parents
- The school has in place a policy governing the use of smart phones and tablet devices in the school by pupils as per circular 38/2018
- The school has in place a Critical Incident Management Plan
- The school in collaboration with the Parents operates a policy of inclusion of every child recognising the vulnerabilities of some pupils
- The school has in place a policy and procedures for the use of external persons to supplement delivery of the curriculum
- The school has in place a policy and procedures for the use of external sports coaches
- The school has in place a policy and clear procedures for one-to-one teaching activities
- The school has in place a policy and procedures in respect of student teacher placements
- The school has in place a policy and procedures in respect of students undertaking work experience

