

# **Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment**

## **Child Safeguarding Statement**

Scoil Mhuire Junior is a primary school providing primary education to pupils from Junior Infants to Second 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 Mhuire Junior 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 Caitlin O'Connor
3. The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is Bairbre Elwood
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.

The school will also adhere to the above principles in relation to any adult pupil with a special vulnerability.

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 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 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.

**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.

6. This statement has been published on the school's website and has been provided to all members of school personnel, the Parents' Association (if any) 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 March 2018

This Child Safeguarding Statement was reviewed by the Board of Management on 25/10/2022

Signed: 

Chairperson of Board of Management

Date: 25/10/22

Signed: 

Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Date: 25/10/22

## Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment

### Written Assessment of Risk of Scoil Mhuire Junior

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 [name of school].

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 have attended PDST face to face training  All Staff have viewed Túsla training module.  BOM records all records of staff and board training  School adheres to Garda Vetting legislation  Adherence to Teaching Council Code of Conduct for all school personnel

[illegible]

		<p>In- School Play Therapy programme (when applicable)</p> <p>Strong links with external agencies such as NEPs/ Sensational Kids, Children and family Services etc.</p> <p>School Rules which are reinforced regularly at class and whole school level, based on the principles of Jenny Mosley Model of Positive Behaviour and part of our policy on Behaviour management to also include IY</p>
Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils	Harm from older pupils, unknown adults on the playground	<p>Policy on Arrival and Dismissal of students (children under care of parents until 8.45am for 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> classes and until 8.55am for infant classes)</p> <p>Principal?Deputy Principal and ISM team supervise yards from 8.45am</p> <p>Principal/DP supervise senior yard at dismissal time.</p> <p>Class teachers in 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> classes wait to see all children are collected.</p> <p>Teachers in infant classes hand the individual child to agreed personnel</p>
Sports Coaches and outside tutors	Harm to pupils	All are Garda vetted and accompanied by teacher and (if applicable) SNA
Students participating in work experience	Harm by student	<p>Child Safeguarding Statement.</p> <p>All are Garda vetted and accompanied by teacher and (if applicable) SNA. Policy and procedures in place.</p>



Recreation breaks for pupils	Harm to pupils	Teachers are on a supervision rota and SNA's supervise on yard also.
Outdoor teaching activities	Harm to pupils	Teacher and SNA (where appropriate) supervise  Swimming policy
Sporting Activities	Harm to pupils	Teacher and SNA (where appropriate) supervise
Homework club	Harm to pupils	School Completion Officer and volunteers/Garda Clearance in place
School outings/tours	Harm to pupils	Teacher and SNA (where appropriate) supervise. Policy on school tours. Ratio of 1 adult to 12 children min. Volunteers are Garda vetted.
Annual Sports Day	Harm to pupils	Teacher and SNA (where appropriate) supervise
Fundraising events involving pupils	Harm to pupils	Teacher and SNA (where appropriate) supervise
Use of off-site facilities for school activities	Harm to pupils	Teacher and SNA (where appropriate) supervise
School transport arrangements including use of bus escorts	Harm to child by others on bus	Bus escort Garda vetted  Bus escort contract
When class teacher is absent/late	Harm to pupils	Scoil Mhuire has an emergency yard duty roster in the event that a teacher is out sick with no substitute cover

		Scoil Mhuire has a rota posted in staffroom for SET team to admit class and supervise until class is split or until sub arrives.
Management of challenging behaviour amongst pupils, including appropriate use of restraint where required	Harm to pupils	School rules (Model of positive behaviour). Behaviour management policy, including Incredible Years (I.Y.)
Application of sanctions under the school's Code of Behaviour including detention of pupils, confiscation of phones etc.	Harm to pupils	See Behaviour management policy I.Y. procedures  Glass panels in doors/Doors remain open when possible
Administration of Medicine Administration of First Aid	Risk to pupils	The school has in place a policy and procedures for the administration of medication to pupils  Refrigerated Medicines are stored in DPs room  First Aid Training for specific school personnel
Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst pupils	Risk of harm due to bullying of child	Behaviour management policy to include section on bullying.  Stay safe programme  Staff trained in <b>Incredible Years</b>  <b>Welcome to Wellbeing</b> is being trialled in SCMJ for the current year   Regular opportunities for <b>Circle Time</b> which deals with issues such as communication, decision making and problem solving skills.



<p>Care of pupils with specific vulnerabilities/needs such as</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pupils from ethnic minorities/migrants</li> <li>• Members of the Traveller community</li> <li>• Lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender (LGBT) children</li> <li>• Pupils perceived to be LGBT</li> <li>• Pupils of minority religious faiths</li> <li>• Children in care</li> <li>• Children on CPNS</li> </ul>	<p>Risk of harm due to bullying</p>	<p>Behaviour management policy</p> <p>HSCL coordinator liaising with parents.</p> <p>SPHE programmes are included in the curriculum to address issues such as grief and loss, communication skills, stress and anger management, conflict management, problem solving, help-seeking.</p>
<p>Recruitment of school personnel including -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Teachers</li> <li>• SNA's</li> <li>• Caretaker/Secretary/Cleaners</li> <li>• Sports coaches</li> <li>• External Tutors/Guest Speakers</li> <li>• Volunteers/Parents in school activities</li> <li>• Visitors/contractors present in school during school hours</li> <li>• Visitors/contractors present during after school activities</li> </ul>	<p>Harm not recognised or properly or promptly reported</p>	<p>Child Safeguarding Statement &amp; DES procedures made available to all staff</p> <p>Staff to view Tusla training module &amp; any other online training offered by PDST</p> <p>Vetting Procedures</p> <p>Policy on Volunteers</p>
<p>Use of Information and Communication Technology by pupils in school</p>	<p>Harm to pupils</p>	<p>Acceptable User Policy in place and posted on <a href="http://www.scmj.ie">www.scmj.ie</a>. AUP is read by staff annually and easily accessible in shared online folder.</p> <p>ICT policy</p> <p>Anti-Bullying Policy</p>

		Code of Behaviour
Use of video/photography/other media to record school events	Harm to pupils	Policy for Use of Photography and Videos in place and posted on <a href="http://www.scmj.ie">www.scmj.ie</a> . Policy is read by staff annually and easily accessible in shared online folder.
After school use of school premises by other organisations	Harm to pupils	Safeguarding statement to be provided to school

**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.