

**Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment: Scoil Mhuire Naofa,
Rathfeigh Roll No: 17964K
Child Safeguarding Statement**

Scoil Mhuire Naofa, Rathfeigh 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 Scoil Mhuire Naofa, Rathfeigh 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 Seamus Tansley (Principal)
- 3 The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is Jackie Vaughan
- 4 The Relevant Person is Seamus Tansley (Principal)
(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 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.
- 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 September 19th 2024.

This Child Safeguarding Statement was reviewed by the Board of Management on September 19th 2024.

Signed: _____
Chairperson Board of Management
Date: _____

Signed: _____
Principal
Date: _____

Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment

Written Assessment of Risk of Scoil Mhuire Naofa, Rathfeigh

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 (revised 2023)*; the following is the Written Risk Assessment of [Scoil Mhuire Naofa Rathfeigh].

List of Activities

1. One to one teaching
2. Use of toilets in school at break times
3. Care of children with intimate care needs
4. Daily arrival of pupils
5. Dismissal of pupils
6. Homework Club
7. After- School Activities in school hall
8. Outdoor teaching activities
9. School Tours/Swimming
10. Sports Day
11. Training of school personnel in Child Protection Matters
12. Curricular Provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe
13. LGBT Children/Pupils perceived to be LGBT
14. Recruitment of new staff
15. Managing of challenging behaviour amongst pupils
16. Sports Coaches
17. Students participating in work experience (e.g. transition year pupils)
18. Volunteers/Parents/Guardians
19. Use of Information Technology and Communication Technology
20. Administration of Medicine
21. Coming to school by bus
22. Online teaching/learning remotely

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

1. Harm by school personnel
2. Harm by school personnel. Harm by pupils.

3. Harm by school personnel
4. Harm by school personnel
5. Harm by school personnel
6. Harm by school personnel
7. Harm by school personnel
8. Harm by school personnel
9. Harm by school personnel, a member of staff of another organisation or other person while participating in out of school activities
10. Harm by school personnel/Harm by pupils
11. Harm not recognised or reported promptly
12. Non-teaching of same
13. Bullying
14. Harm not recognised or properly or promptly reported
15. Injury to pupils and staff
16. Harm to pupils
17. Harm by student
18. Harm to pupils by volunteers etc.
19. Bullying – Risk of harm due to children inappropriately accessing/using computers/devices while at school
20. Harm by school personnel
21. Harm to pupils by bus driver
22. Inappropriate content

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

1. The school has procedures in place for one to one teaching – doors open, glass in window, teacher and pupil facing the door.
2. The school ensures appropriate supervision of children at break times in respect of specific areas such as toilets.
3. The school has a policy in Intimate Care and Toileting.
4. Parents/guardians are informed regularly in newsletters not to leave the school until the door to the school is opened by the Principal. The doors are opened when two or more children are present.
5. Parents/guardians collect children promptly at home time.
6. Homework Club will be cancelled on any day when only one child will be attending.
7. The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda Vetting legislation and relevant DES circulars in relation to Garda Vetting.
8. The school ensures appropriate supervision of children during outdoor activities.
9. The school has clear procedures in respect of school outings.
10. The school ensures appropriate supervision of children during Sports Day.
11. All school personnel are provided with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement and the Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools 2017 are made available to all school personnel.
12. The school implements SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe programmes in full.
13. 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 Schools.

14. The school ensures all new staff is provided with a copy of the schools Child Safeguarding Statement.
15. The school has a Health and Safety Policy and Code of Behaviour Policy.
16. The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation and relevant DES circulars in relation to Garda Vetting of coaches.
17. A policy on Student Work Experience to be drafted. Students on work experience to be garda vetted.
18. A policy will be drafted on Volunteers helping our in school activities.
19. The school has an Anti-Bullying, Code of Behaviour, Internet Acceptable Use and Mobile Phone policies.
20. The school has a policy on the Administration of medication to pupils.
21. Parents/guardians will be informed of the potential dangers of being on the bus alone.
22. Parents/guardians will be informed of the importance of appropriate behaviour while being online

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 (revised 2023)*

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 19th September 2024. It shall be reviewed as part of the school’s annual review of its Child Safeguarding Statement.

Signed: _____
Derrick Monahan
Chairperson, Board of Management

Date: _____

Signed: _____
Seamus Tansley
Principal

Date: _____