Scoil an Chlochair, Kilbeggan, Co Westmeath

CSS1

Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment

For:	Scoil an Chlochair NS
At:	Dublin Road, Kilbeggan, Co. Westmeath N91FY53

This school is a: (tick appropriate) ☒primary ☐post-primary ☐ special school

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) and 2025, Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025 and Child Safeguarding: A Guide for Policy, Procedure and Practice, 2nd ed. (Tusla, 2024), the board of management has adopted the Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment set out in this document.

The board of management has adopted and will implement fully and without modification the department's Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025 as part of this overall Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment.

Name of the Designated Liaison Person (DLP):

Tadhg Eoin Desmond

Name of the Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP/DDLP):

Brenda Watts

In the absence of the DLP, the Deputy DLP shall assume responsibilities of the DLP

Name of Relevant Person

Tadhg Eoin Desmond

(In schools this person is the DLP)

Relevant Person can be contacted on:

05793 32338	*office@kilbeggannationalschool.com*

Under the Children First Act 2015 Relevant Person means a person who is appointed by a provider of a relevant service to be the first point of contact in respect of the Child Safeguarding Statement. This person is nominated by the board of management to manage and provide oversight of child protection concerns/allegations of child abuse.

Name of Chairperson of the board of management, or in an ETB school the Chief Executive or their delegate:

Geraldine Fennell

In the event that both DLP and DDLP are absent and unavailable, and where there is no staff member formally acting in their role, the chairperson of the board of management, or in an ETB school the chief executive or their delegate, assumes the role of DLP.

The board of management recognises that child protection and safeguarding permeate all aspects of school life and must be reflected in all of the school's policies, procedures, practices and activities. In all of these, 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 happening to children and protect members of school personnel from the necessity to take unnecessary risks that may leave themselves open to accusations of child abuse.

☒Develop a practice of openness with parents and encourage parental involvement in the education of their children.

☒Fully respect confidentiality requirements as set out in the Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025 in dealing with child protection matters.

☒Adhere to the above principles in relation to any vulnerable adult.

Procedures and Measures in Place

Our Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment has been developed in line with requirements under the Children First Act 2015, the *Children First: National Guidance 2017*, and *Child Safeguarding: A Guide for Policy, Procedure and Practice, 2nd ed. (Tusla, 2024),* and the *Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025.* In addition to the procedures listed in our risk assessment, the following procedures support our intention to safeguard children while they are availing of our service:

> Procedure for the Management of Allegations of Abuse or Misconduct against School Personnel Relating to a Child Availing of Our Service

~ Where any member of school personnel is the subject of any investigation in respect of any act, omission or circumstance in relation to a child attending the school, the school is required to adhere to the relevant procedures set out in Chapter 7 of *the Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025* and to the relevant agreed disciplinary procedures for school staff which are published on the gov.ie website.

> Procedure for the Safe Recruitment and Selection of School Personnel to Work With Children

~ The school is required to adhere to the requirements of the Vetting Act. The selection or recruitment of staff and their suitability to work with children, requires the school to adhere 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 Youth and available on the gov.ie website and as outlined in Chapter 10 of the procedures.

~ A written protocol is in place authorising immediate action for cases which require an employee to be immediately absented from school for child safeguarding reasons.

> Procedure for Provision of and Access to Child Safeguarding Training and Information, Including the Identification of the Occurrence of Harm

~ The school provides information and training to members of school personnel in relation to the identification of the occurrence of harm (as defined in the 2015 Act) as follows:

~ The school has provided each member of school personnel, including any new members of school personnel, (employees and volunteers, board of management members, student teachers and those on work experience) with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment.

~ The school ensures that members of school personnel have availed of relevant training and completed child protection training.

~ The school encourages board of management members to avail of any relevant training and complete child protection training.

~ The board of management ensures that records of all staff and board member child protection training are maintained.

> Procedure for the Reporting of Child Protection or Welfare Concerns to Tusla

~ All members of school personnel are required to adhere to the procedures set out in the *Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025*, in relation to reporting of child protection concerns to Tusla. Mandated reporting applies to all registered teachers and any other mandated person who may be employed by the school, for example a chaplain or nurse. A full list of those people who are mandated persons is set out in Appendix 1 procedures.

> Procedure for Maintaining a List of the Persons (if any) in the Relevant Service Who Are Mandated Persons

~ There is a procedure in place to maintain a list of mandated persons. Schools may on occasion employ additional staff who are mandated by virtue of their profession. This list will include all registered teachers and identify additional employees that are not registered teachers.

> Procedure for Appointing a Relevant Person (In schools this person is the DLP)

~ There is a procedure in place for appointing a relevant person.

The various procedures referred to in this Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment can be accessed via the school's website, the gov.ie website or will be made available on request by the school.

In accordance with the Children First Act 2015, the Addendum to Children First 2019 and 2025, and the *Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025,* the board of management 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.

Note: The procedures and measures in place outlined above, are not intended as exhaustive list. Individual boards of management shall also include in this section such other procedures and measures that are of relevance to the school.

This statement has been published on the school's website or will be made available on request by the school. It has been provided to all members of school personnel, the parents' association (if any), the patron and parents. A copy of this statement and risk assessment will be made available to Tusla and the department if requested.

This Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment will be reviewed annually or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which this statement refers.

Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment

School Activity / Situation	Risk of Harm	Policies / Procedures in Place
Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils	Risk of harm not being reported properly and promptly by members of school personnel	All school personnel are provided with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment. **This is relevant for all below.** Code of behaviour Supervision policy. Adequate Staff on yard at gates for arrival and dismissal. Early school leavers are accompanied by staff member to the gate and parent/guardian signs them out.
Recreation breaks for pupils	Risk of harm where members of school personnel have not received appropriate training	The Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025 are made available to all school personnel. Supervision policy. Yard duty rota available to all staff. Adequate staff on the yard at break times.
Classroom teaching	Risk of child being harmed in the school by a member of school personnel	School personnel are required to adhere to the Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025 and all registered teaching staff are required to adhere to the Children First Act 2015 as well as supporting the continued

		implementation of the best practice guidance set out in Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children 2017 and its addenda, including the Addendum to Children First 2019 and 2025
One-to-one teaching	Risk of child being harmed in the school by another child	School personnel are required to adhere to the Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025 and all registered teaching staff are required to adhere to the Children First Act 2015 as well as supporting the continued implementation of the best practice guidance set out in Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children 2017 and its addenda, including the Addendum to Children First 2019 and 2025. Door left open if working one on one. Classrooms with glass doors used for enhanced visibility.
One-to-one learning support	Risk of child being harmed in the school by a volunteer or visitor to the school	School personnel are required to adhere to the Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025 and all registered teaching staff are required to adhere to the Children First Act 2015 as well as supporting the continued implementation of the

		best practice guidance set out in Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children 2017 and its addenda, including the Addendum to Children First 2019 and 2025. Door left open if working one on one. Classrooms with glass doors used for enhanced visibility.
Outdoor teaching activities	Risk of harm to pupils.	Weather is taken into consideration before teaching outide. Code of behaviour enforced. Expectations remain the same as classroom teaching.
Online teaching and learning remotely	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.	Remote learning policy available to all staff. Remote learning explained to parents. Acceptable usage policy Code of behaviour
Sporting activities	Risk of harm Harm not being noticed	Adequate supervision Code of bahviour followed

School outings Walking to the library/playgroud/fire station/Centra in Kilbeggan	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children in school	The school has in place a policy and clear procedures in respect of school outings Adequate supervision Permissions sought from parents Children taught about walking on the footpaths safely and using the pedestrian crossings. Adequate school insurance
School trips involving overnight stay	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children while attending out-of-school activities	Adequate supervision Insurance is adequate Permissions sought
Use of toilet/changing/shower areas in schools	Risk of harm to pupils Risk of harm to school personal Vulberability of pupils and staff Risk of harm to child while a child is receiving intimate care	Ratio of 2 staff to one pupil at all times. Relevant staff training Intimate care policy followed.
Annual Sports Day	Harm to pupils Lack of supervision External people in the school	Adequate staffing. Code of behaviour followed. Adequate supervision and supervision policy followed. Timetabling to ensure safety of all pupils and staff.

Fundraising events involving pupils School disco	Risk of harm due to inadequate code of behaviour. Risk of harm to pupils by others.	Public Liability insurance in place for all fundraising activities. Expectations clearly set out. Adequate supervision of all activities to minimise risk. Teachers present at the school disco
School transport arrangements including use of bus escorts	Risk of harm casued to pupils Pupil vulnerability. Bus escort vulnerability in one on one situation.	Garda vetting requirements met. Bus escort always accompanised by bus driver. Policies clearly followed.
Care of children with special educational needs, including intimate care where needed	Risk of harm caused by a member of school personnel. Vulnerability of pupils and 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 followed. Ratio of 2:1 in cases of toileting.
Management of challenging behaviour amongst pupils, including appropriate use of restraint where required	Vulnerability risk Risk of harm to self, other pupils and staff. Risk of flight	The school has complied with the Understanding Behaviours of Concern and Responding to Crisis Situations developed by the Department of Education and Youth to address uncertainty for staff on how to respond when facing crisis situations where there are

		concerns regarding physical safety. School policy has been written in response to this document. Flight risk policy available to all staff. School site is secure and all gates are locked. Regular communication with parents regarding concerns. Restraint or seclusion not used unless to stop a child from hurting themselves. Last resort.
Administration of medicine	Medical vulnerabilities	Administration of Medicine Policy. Staff training yearly.
Administration of First Aid	Medical vulnerabilities	The school has in place a policy and procedures for the administration of First Aid. The school encourages personnel to avail of relevant training. Communication with parents as necessary.
Curricular provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe	Parental views, values and beliefs not in line with school policy.	Clearn and concise communication with parents regarding sensitive content that will be taught. Permission from parents sought in various instances.

Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst pupils	Harm not recognized Cyber bullying outside of school	The school has in place a policy governing the use of smartphones and tablet devices in the school by pupils as per Circular 38/2018 and the national guidelines. 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 Bí Cineálta Policy accessible to all and reviewed annually. School authorities have a code of behaviour and an anti-bullying policy in place in accordance with the department's 'Bí Cineálta' procedures to prevent and address bullying in schools and as outlined in Circular 55/2024
Training of school personnel in child protection matters	Lack of understanding of requirements for non-mandated and mandated persons.	The school encourages teachers, parents and board of management members to avail of

		relevant training. All teachers present at the in school training day. All teachers and parents consulted on the formation of the Child Safeguarding and Risk Assessment Policy. Vetting requirements met.
Use of external personnel to supplement curriculum	Lack of training Harm by visitors	The school has in place a policy and procedures for the use of external persons to supplement delivery of the curriculum All visitors provded with the school policy on "Visiting teachers and coaches". All vetting requirements are satisfied before anyone works in the school. All coaches and visitors are accompanied by teachers and SNAs when doing activities.
Use of external personnel to support sports and other extra-curricular activities	Harm by visitors	The school has in place a policy and procedures for the use of external persons to supplement delivery of the curriculum All visitors provded with the school policy on "Visiting teachers and coaches". All vetting

		requirements are satisfied before anyone works in the school. All coaches and visitors are accompanied by teachers and SNAs when doing activities
Care of pupils with specific vulnerabilities/needs	Vulnerable children risk Lack of training Flight Risks Injuries to children and staff	The school has complied with the Understanding Behaviours of Concern and Responding to Crisis Situations developed by the Department of Education and Youth to address uncertainty for staff on how to respond when facing crisis situations where there are concerns regarding physical safety. School policy has been written in response to this document. Flight risk policy available to all staff. Regular communication with parents regarding concerns.
Pupils from ethnic minorities/migrants	Discrimination Racism	Stay Safe programme implemented. International Week celebrated. Wellbeing lessons on friendship and inclusion. Code of Behaviour and Bí Cineálta Policy Available to all staff.

		Regular communication with parents.
Members of the Traveller community	Racism; Vulnerability risk	Stay Safe programme implemented. International Week celebrated. Wellbeing lessons on friendship and inclusion. Code of Behaviour and Bí Cineálta Policy available to all staff. Regular communication with parents. Home school liason officer helps with regular communication with parents (post holder duty)
Lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender (LGBT) children	Bullying in school Staff not aware of harm being caused.	Wellbeing policy Bí Cineálta Policy RSE speakers SPHE curriculum being taught. Communication with parents and children
Pupils perceived to be LGBT	Bullying in school Staff not aware of harm being caused.	Wellbeing policy Bí Cineálta Policy RSE speakers SPHE curriculum being taught. Communication with parents and children
Pupils of minority religious faiths	Discrimination Racism	Wellbeing policy Bí Cineálta Policy

		RSE speakers SPHE curriculum being taught. Communication with parents and children
Children on Tusla's Child Protection Notification System (CPNS)	Risk of harm	Regular contact with social workers and TUSLA. Use of the online portal to report any child protection concerns.
Children with medical needs	Risk of harm	Administration of medicine policy. Children colour coded on Aladdin system to identify various risks. Eg. Allergies. Staff training. Communication with parents.
Recruitment of school personnel including teachers/SNAs, caretakers/secretaries/cleaners and sport coaches	Inadequate qualifications. Risk of harm to pupils.	All vetting requirements met. School policies readily available and followed by all staff. Patron approval sought every time. Circular 0044/2019 followed. Circular 0051/2019
External Tutors/Guest Speakers	Harm by visitors	Permissions sought Class teacher remains in the room. Vertting requirements met. All visitors provded with the school policy on

		"Visiting teachers and coaches".
Volunteers/Parents in school activities	Risk of harm to pupils Risk of hram to parents	Vetting requirements met. Adequate insurance. Volunteers always accompanied by teachers/SNAs.
Visitors/contractors present in school during school hours	Harm to pupils Harm to staff	Shadowed by a member of staff while on school premises.
Visitors/contractors present during after-school activities	Harm to pupils in after school.	Shadowed by a member of staff/after school staff while on school premises.
Use of Information and Communication Technology by pupils in school, including social media	Inadequate supervision Risk of harm due to children inappropriately accessing/using computers, social media, phones and other devices while at school	School personnel are required to adhere to the Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025 and all registered teaching staff are required to adhere to the Children First Act 2015 as well as supporting the continued implementation of the best practice guidance set out in Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children 2017 and its addenda, including the Addendum to Children First 2019 and 2025 Acceptable usage policy Digital learning plan SPHE curriculum taught Webwise lessons
Application of sanctions under the school's Code of Behaviour including detention of pupils, confiscation of phones etc.	Inadequate supervision	Code of behaviour followed. Communication with parents.

		Consistency amongst all school staff.
Students participating in work experience in the school	Riak of harm to pupils	Vetting requirements met. Appendix to
Students from the school participating in work experience elsewhere	Harm to pupils	Class teacher remains in the room. Vertting requirements met. Correspondence and communication with universities and inspectors. All visitors provded with the school policy on "Visiting teachers and coaches"and Appendix signed.
Student teachers undertaking training placement in school	Harm to pupils	Class teacher remains in the room. Vertting requirements met. Correspondence and communication with universities and inspectors. All visitors provded with the school policy on "Visiting teachers and coaches".
Use of video/photography/other media to record school events	Photos circulating online without consent	Permissions sought from parents in the case of photography/videography. Aladdin Frame used in the school to store photos securely.
After-school use of school premises by other organisations	Risk of harm	Adequate insurance

		Letting agreement drawn up between the patron and the tenant.
Building Work-Reconfiguration of special classes.	Workers walking through the school Brown wooden door being left open between sites	Workders accompanied on school grounds when here. Work timetabled to be done after school hours. Brown door checked every morning to ensure it is locked.
Gas	Gas leak	Regular services by Proservice. Gas tanks serviced by Flogas. Lever accessible to all staff if there is a small of gas and it needs to be turned off. Health and Safety policy is made available to all staff.
Secondary School Pitch and Astro Turf	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision Risk of danger walking on the busy Dublin Road	Adequate supervision. Rules explained to children regarding safe cross code. Suitable footwear for field and astro.

Online Safety

The *Addendum to Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children 2017* published in January 2019 clarifies that organisations providing relevant services to children should consider the specific issue of online safety when carrying out their risk assessment and preparing their Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment.

The Guidance on Continuity of Schooling for primary and post-primary schools (April 2020) advises of the importance of teachers maintaining the safe and ethical use of the internet during distance learning and assisting parents and guardians to be aware of their role also. Schools should ensure that their Acceptable Use Policy (AUP) informs and guides remote or distance learning activity.

Risk in the context of this Child Safeguarding Statement and 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 the Children First Act 2015: 'harm' means, in relation to a child— (a) assault, ill-treatment or neglect of the child in a manner that seriously affects or is likely to seriously affect the child's health, development or welfare, or (b) sexual abuse of the child, whether caused by a single act, omission or circumstance or a series or combination of acts, omissions or circumstances, or otherwise.

In accordance with Section 11 of the Children First Act 2015 and with the requirements of Chapter 9 of the Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025, the following is the written Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment.

In undertaking this Child Safeguarding Statement and 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 Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment was reviewed by the board of management on _____ (*most recent review date)*

Signed:*		**Date**:

Chairperson of the board of management

Signed:*		**Date**:

Principal/Secretary to the board of management

This Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment is expected to be reviewed again on _____ *(expected review date)*

** Document to be printed and signed with original signatures*

Appendix - Location of copies of the Child Protection Procedures and Children First Guidance

This may be in the form of specifying the online location for the procedures (Department of Education and Youth website www.gov.ie/childprotectionschools and/or the school website), providing a link to the Children First National Guidance 2017 Children_First_National_Guidance_2017.pdf, and stating the number and location of hard copies of these procedures available in the school.

Online

- A copy of the Child Safeguarding Statement is published on the school website.
- A copy of the Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment has been sent to the patron.

Hardcopy

- A copy of the Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment is displayed at reception.
- Each staff member has been provided with a copy of the Child Safeguardoing Statement and Risk Assessment.