

<b>Version</b>	<b>Date Ratified by Single Manager</b>	<b>Date Reviewed By BOM</b>
V 1	Sep 2024	11th Nov 2025

**Scoil Íosa Primary School,  
Oranmore,  
Co Galway.  
20584R**

**Child Safeguarding Statement  
And  
Risk Assessment**

## **Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment**

Scoil Iósa is a primary school providing primary education to pupils from Junior Infants to Sixth Class, including 5 special classes.

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 Iósa 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

**Maeve Meenaghan**

3. The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is

4. The Relevant Person is **Maeve Meenaghan** (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.

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.

**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.

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.

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.

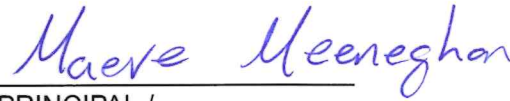
**This Child Safeguarding Statement was adopted by the Single Manager on**

Date: 10<sup>th</sup> of September 2025

**This Child Safeguarding Statement was reviewed by the Board of Management on**

Date: 11<sup>th</sup> of November 2025

Signed:   
CHAIRPERSON

Signed:   
PRINCIPAL /  
SECRETARY TO THE BoM

Date: 11/11/2025

Date: 11/11/25

## Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment

### Written Assessment of Risk of Scoil Íosa

**This risk assessment addresses child safeguarding across two campuses: Campus 1 and Campus 2. Each site has its own unique environment, which has been considered in this assessment.**

**The assessment will inform the development and implementation of policies and procedures to mitigate these risks.**

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 Íosa.

#### **1. List of school activities incorporating Campus 1 and Campus 2**

- Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils
- Movement between campuses eg shared activities
- Shared facilities or resources between campuses
- Recreation breaks for pupils
- Classroom teaching
- One-to-one teaching
- Early collection of a child from school
- Outdoor teaching activities
- Online teaching and learning remotely
- Sporting activities
- School outings
- Walks to Blue bell woods- and other local history walks.
- Use of toilet/changing/shower areas in schools
- Sports Day
- Fundraising events involving pupils
- Use of off-site facilities for school activities
- School transport arrangements including use of bus escorts
- Care of children with special educational needs, including intimate care where needed,
- Management of challenging behaviour amongst pupils, including appropriate use of restraint where required
- Management of provision of food and drink
- Administration of Medicine & first aid
- 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
- Use of external personnel to support sports and other extra-curricular activities
- 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 Tusla's Child Protection Notification System (CPNS)
- Children with medical needs
- Recruitment of school personnel including;
  - Teachers/SNAs
  - Caretaker/Secretary/Cleaners
  - Sports coaches
  - Swimming Lessons – Kilcornan
  - External Tutors/Guest Speakers
  - Volunteers/Parents in school activities
  - Visitors/contractors present in school during school hours
  - Visitors/contractors present during after school activities
- Participation by pupils in religious ceremonies/religious instruction external to the school
- 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
- Use of school premises by other organisation during school day- Kool Kids
- Pupils moving between campus 1 and 2.

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

- Risk of harm not being recognised by school personnel
- Potential for harm during transit between campuses
- Risk of overcrowding or inadequate supervision
- 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
- Risk of exposure to inappropriate content or cyber bullying
- Risk of unauthorised access to school premises.
- Risk of harm due to bullying of child
- Risk of harm due to racism
- Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children in school
- Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children while attending out of school activities
- Risk of injury during physical activities or school events.
- 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 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
- Risk of harm from unvetted /unscreened individuals interacting with children

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

- 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 (Revised 2023) are made available to all school personnel.
- School Personnel are required to adhere to the Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools (Revised 2023) and all registered teaching staff are required to adhere to the Children's First Act 2015
- Supervision by staff during arrival and dismissal.
- Supervision schedules will be scheduled.
- Secure access points at both campuses.
- Supervised movement of pupils between campuses where necessary.
- Use of designated safe routes.
- Garda vetting for all staff and volunteers
- Ongoing staff training in child protection
- Open door policy during classes where possible
- Active supervision by staff at all times
- Regular risk assessments for all physical activities and events. First aid training for staff and access to medical kits.
- Anti-Bullying policies consistently enforced across both campuses
- Secure entry systems and visitor logbooks, Staff trained to challenge unknown individuals on school grounds.
- Regular monitoring of student behaviour and fostering a positive school culture.
- Pre Trip risk assessments
- High staff to student ratios
- Parental consent and clear guidelines for trips
- Implementation of an acceptable use policy (AUP) across both campuses
- Internet filtering and monitoring
- Education on safe online behaviour for pupils
- Open door policy for one-to-one sessions
- Regular review and monitoring by senior staff
- Supervision and clear guidelines on usage of toilets and changing rooms where relevant
- Staff awareness of potential risks with regular checks during high-risk times (Swimming- matches etc)
- Visitor management protocols at both campuses
- Escorting of all visitors by school staff
- Specific supervision policies for extracurricular activities across both campuses
- Restricted access to children during school hours-
- Clear identification and supervision of non-teaching staff

## **Specific Risks at Each Campus**

### **Campus 1:**

**Risk:** Close proximity to secondary school students

**Control Measure:** Regular patrols by staff during break times.

**Risk:** Separate entry points for different year groups may lead to confusion or unsupervised entry.

**Control Measure:** Clear signage and staff posted at each entry point.

### **Campus 2:**

**Risk:** Smaller campus with more condensed facilities may lead to overcrowding during peak times.

**Control Measure:** Supervision - Clear timetabling of facilities.  
Additional supervision during peak times.

## **Action Plan- September 2025 – December 2025**

### **Coordination Between Campuses:**

Establish a regular communication protocol between Campus 1 and Campus 2 to manage shared activities, movement of students, and resource allocation.

### **Training and Awareness:**

Ensure all staff at both campuses receive consistent child protection training. Regular updates and reviews of policies to reflect the specific contexts of each campus.

### **Supervision Policies:**

Implement detailed supervision schedules that account for the different physical layouts and student populations of each campus.

**Code of behaviour:**

A code of behaviour for students will be established as a matter of priority to promote positive behaviour and outline consequences for bullying or harassment.

**Health and Safety Policy:**

A comprehensive health and safety policy will be put in place to address potential physical risks within the school environment. The current individual policies for each campus will be adopted in the interim period.

**Policy Development:**

Finalize and document specific child safeguarding policies that address the unique risks at each campus. Ensure these policies are communicated clearly to all staff, parents, and students.

**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.

