**Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment**

**Child Safeguarding Statement**

Scoil Mhuire Lourdes 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](http://www.irishstatutebook.ie/eli/2015/act/36/enacted/en/pdf), [Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children 2017](https://assets.gov.ie/25844/b90aafa55804462f84d05f87f0ca2bf6.pdf), [the Addendum to Children First (2019)](https://assets.gov.ie/25819/c9744b64dfd6447985eeffa5c0d71bbb.pdf), the [Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools 2017](https://www.gov.ie/pdf/?file=https://assets.gov.ie/45063/2d4b5b3d781e4ec1ab4f3e5d198717d9.pdf#page=1) and [Tusla Guidance on the preparation of Child Safeguarding Statements](https://www.tusla.ie/uploads/content/4214-TUSLA_Guidance_on_Developing_a_CSS_LR.PDF), the Board of Management of Scoil Mhuire Lourdes 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 Marie Coen
3. The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is Juliana Garahy *\*acting DLP*
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.

1. 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](https://revisedacts.lawreform.ie/eli/2012/act/47/revised/en/pdf) 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 above named 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.

1. 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.
2. 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 12.03.2018.

This Child Safeguarding Statement was reviewed by the Board of Management on 24.03.2021.

This Child Safeguarding Statement was reviewed by the Board of Management on 29.11.2021.

Signed: Gerard Connolly Signed: 

Chairperson of Board of Management Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Date29.11.2021 Date: 29.11.2021

**Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment**

**Written Assessment of Risk of Scoil Mhuire Lourdes**

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 Scoil Mhuire Lourdes.

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| 1. **List of school activities** | 1. **The school has identified the following risk of harm in respect of its activities –** | 1. **The school has the following procedures in place to address the risks of harm identified in this assessment -** |
| Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils | Risk of harm from:   * Other pupils * From school personnel or adult’s in   the playground   * Due to inadequate supervision * Adults collecting children * Due to bullying | ***School has the following in operation:***  -Health and Safety Statement  -Supervision by the principal each morning upon arrival  -Code of Behaviour  -Child Safe Guarding Statement (provided to all personnel)  -Emergency contact forms (used for collection consent from school)  -Anti-Bullying Policy  - Covid 19 Logistics plan- pupils go straight to their class  - Any pupil not collected returns to reception and an adult will ring home |
| Classroom Teaching | Risk of harm from:   * Other pupils * From school personnel/ SNA or Students on placement * Due to inadequate supervision * Others pupils/ school personnel towards children with   SEN needs   * Inadequate use of Code of Behaviour * Volunteer or visitor to the classroom | ***School has the following in operation:***  -Health and Safety Statement  -Supervision Policy  -Code of Behaviour  -Child Safe Guarding Statement (provided to all personnel)  -Emergency contact forms (used for collection consent from school)  -Anti-Bullying Policy  -Work Placement policy  -Volunteers Policy  - Teaching Council registration and Vetting  - Teaching Council Code of Professional Conduct |
| One to one teaching/ Special Educational Support with school personnel | Risk of harm from:   * From school personnel, teacher or Students on placement | ***School has the following in operation:***  - Child Safe Guarding Statement (provided to all personnel)  - One to one Policy  - Open door for 1:1 teaching in rooms  - Clear glass on all doors |
| Recreation breaks for pupils | Risk of harm from:   * Other pupils as a result of bullying * From school personnel/ SNA or Students on placement * Due to inadequate supervision while on route   to the playground or while in the playground   * Others pupils/ school personnel towards children with   SEN needs   * Inadequate use of Code of Behaviour | ***School has the following in operation:***  -Health and Safety Statement  -Supervision Policy: 2 adults supervising recreation time at all times  -Code of Behaviour  -Child Safe Guarding Statement (provided to all personnel)  - Covid 19 Logistics Plan  -Anti-Bullying Policy |
| In the event of a fire or an emergency situation | Risk of harm from:   * Pupils physically * Other pupils mentally and emotionally * School personnel/ SNA or Students on placement | ***School has the following in operation:***  -Health and Safety Statement  -Fire Evacuation Plan  - Critical Incident Policy  -Child Safe Guarding Statement (provided to all personnel) |
| Sporting Activities | Risk of harm from:   * Other pupils physically * School personnel * Sports Coaches | ***School has the following in operation:***  -Health and Safety Statement  -Supervision Policy  -Code of Behaviour  -Child Safe Guarding Statement (provided to all personnel)  - Garda Vetting for all sports coaches  - First Aid Training for all staff provided |
| Before/during/ after schools activities  e.g Jiu Jitsu, Zumba,GAA, Cycling | Risk of harm from:   * Other pupils while the activity is taking place physically * Other pupils as a result of bullying * School personnel/ * Sports Coaches and referee | ***School has the following in operation:***  -Health and Safety Statement  -Supervision Policy  -Code of Behaviour  -Child Safe Guarding Statement (provided to all personnel)  - Garda Vetting for all sports coaches/ referees |
| Music Generation | Risk of harm from:   * Music Tutor | ***School has the following in operation:***  -Health and Safety Statement  -External Agencies Policy  -Code of Behaviour  -Child Safe Guarding Statement (provided to all personnel)  - Garda Vetting for all tutors working with pupils |
| Green Schools: Gardening | Risk of harm from:   * Other pupils while the activity is taking place physically * School personnel * Bullying from other whilst the activity in the garden   is taking place   * Other users of the Green space | ***School has the following in operation:***  -Health and Safety Statement  -Supervision Policy  -Code of Behaviour  -Child Safe Guarding Statement (provided to all personnel)  -Anti-Bullying Policy  -Volunteers Policy  - Garda Vetting for all volunteers |
| Special Occasions in the school:   * Active Schools Week * Grandparents Day * Art Appreciation Day * Concerts | Risk of harm from:   * From school personnel * Other pupils * Volunteers and visitors to the school * Due to inadequate supervision while on route   to the playground or while in the playground   * Others pupils/ school personnel towards children with   SEN needs   * Inadequate use of Code of Behaviour | ***School has the following in operation:***  -Health and Safety Statement  -Supervision Policy  -Code of Behaviour  -Child Safe Guarding Statement (provided to all personnel)  -Emergency contact forms (used for collection consent from school)  -Anti-Bullying Policy  - Garda Vetting for all volunteers  -Volunteers Policy |
| School Tours/ outings including use of offsite facilities for school activities | Risk of harm from:   * From school personnel * Other pupils * Volunteers and visitors to the school * Due to inadequate supervision whilst on your * Others pupils/ school personnel towards children with   SEN needs   * Inadequate use of Code of Behaviour * Volunteers on tour | ***School has the following in operation:***  -Health and Safety Statement  -Supervision Policy  -Code of Behaviour  -Child Safe Guarding Statement (provided to all personnel)  -Anti-Bullying Policy  - Garda Vetting for all volunteers  -Volunteers Policy  - First Aid training provided to all staff |
| Critical Incident in the school | Risk of harm from:   * From school personnel * NEPS Psychologists * Volunteers and visitors to the school * Emergency Workers/ First Responders | ***School has the following in operation:***  -Health and Safety Statement  -Volunteers Policy  -Code of Behaviour  -Child Safe Guarding Statement (provided to all personnel)  - Garda Vetting for all volunteers to the school  -Sign in Book for visitors to the school and tags for identification |
| Use of toilets in the school | Risk of harm from:   * From school personnel * Other pupils; inappropriate behaviours | ***School has the following in operation:***  -Health and Safety Statement  -Supervision Policy  -Code of Behaviour  - Covid 19 Logistics Plan: designated areas for toilets for classes |
| Swimming Pool | Risk of harm from:   * From school personnel * Other pupils * Volunteers to the school * Due to inadequate supervision while in the pool * Others pupils/ school personnel towards children   with SEN needs   * Inadequate use of Code of Behaviour * Coaches in the pool | ***School has the following in operation:***  -Health and Safety Statement  -Volunteers Policy  -Code of Behaviour  -Child Safe Guarding Statement (provided to all personnel)  - Garda Vetting for all volunteers to the school  - Vetting requirements for Coaches in the pool must be available upon request  -Designated changing area for group |
| Care of children with special needs to include intimate care needs | Risk of harm from:   * From school personnel * Other pupils | ***School has the following in operation:***  -Health and Safety Statement  -Intimate Care Policy  - SEN Policy |
| Curricular Provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe | Risk of:   * Not teaching the required areas of the curriculum/ programmes | ***School has the following in operation:***  -The school implements in full the SHPE, RSE and Stay Safe Programme (reflected in teacher planning documents)  -Whole School Plan for SPHE/ RSE  - Planning documents reflect teaching of programmes and are signed by Principal |
| Data Protection for Pupils | Risk of harm from:   * Data not being protected | ***School has the following in operation:***   * Data Protection Policy * Compliance with GDPR procedures * Reminders given at staff meeting re compliance |
| Managing challenging behaviours amongst pupils | Risk of harm from:   * From school personnel * Other pupils during the incident towards staff | ***School has the following in operation:***  -Health and Safety Statement  -Code of Behaviour  -Child Safe Guarding Statement (provided to all personnel)  - Restraint Policy \*\* |
| Training of school personnel in child protection and anti-bullying matters | Risk that:   * Harm would not be recognised or reported * Staff mot aware of their role/ procedures * School personnel not aware of CPSS, Risk Assessment or Anti Bullying Policy and its contents | ***School has the following in operation:***  -All staff must complete the e-learning module on Child Protection from Túsla (copies of certificate maintained)  -Child Safe Guarding Statement (provided to all personnel) and available in staffroom, on shared drive and in folders  - Names of DLP on display  - DLP and DDLP have received Child Protection Training  - Templates from DES are used when reporting Child Protection matters  - Principals Oversight report is prepared for each BOM meeting  - Annual review of CPSS and Risk Assessment  - All BOM nominees have received Child Protection Training  - Child Protection spoken about at each staff meeting as an item on the agenda  - Garda Vetting for all volunteers to the school  - Anti Bullying Policy |
| Recruitment of teachers, SNA’s and ancillary staff | Risk of harm from:   * School personnel if staff not Garda Vetted | ***School has the following in operation:***  -All staff must complete the e-learning module on Child Protection from Túsla (copies of certificate maintained)  -Child Safe Guarding Statement (provided to all personnel) and available in staffroom, on shared drive and in folders  - Garda Vetting for school personnel |
| Visitors to the school during school hours | Risk of harm from:   * Visitors to the school | ***School has the following in operation:***   * Secure entry system (coded and monitored) * All visitors report to the office and sign in * Visitors are identified using Badges |
| Contractors present during the school day | Risk of harm from:   * Contractors working in the school * Confidentially of Pupil Data | ***School has the following in operation:***   * Secure entry system (coded and monitored) * All visitors report to the office and sign in * Visitors are identified using Badges * Where possible work is limited to after school time * Pupil files are in locked filing cabinet in all rooms ( no identifying content left on view) |
| External teachers/ guest speakers/ Music Generation/ Sports Coaches | Risk of harm from:   * External staff if not Garda Vetted e.g Music Generation, Zumba, Ji Jitsu, GAA, Cycling, Basketball, Drama. SCP and other guest speakers | ***School has the following in operation:***  - Garda Vetting for anyone working with pupils in the school is required  - Class teacher remains with class at all times  -Child Safe Guarding Statement (provided to all personnel) and available in staffroom, on shared drive and in folders |
| Students participating in TY or Work placement | Risk of harm from:   * Student teachers, student SNA’s, substitute teachers or TY students | ***School has the following in operation:***  - Work Placement policy  - Volunteers Policy  -Garda Vetting for anyone working with pupils in the school is required  -Child Safe Guarding Statement (provided to all personnel) and available in staffroom, on shared drive and in folders |
| School Involvement with local Church and Priest | Risk of harm from:   * Parish priest, or parish workers | ***School has the following in operation:***   * Secure entry system (coded and monitored) * All visitors report to the office and sign in * Visitors are identified using Badges * Class teacher present at all times for activities or speakers |
| Participation by pupils in Religious Ceremonies | Risk of harm from:   * Parish priest, or parish workers * Other users of the Church * Accident on the way to the Church( weather pending) | Child Safe Guarding Statement for Tullow Parish available upon request and on the Parish website  ***School has the following in operation:***  -Garda Vetting for anyone working with pupils in the school is required  - Code of behaviour  - Risk Assessment ( where necessary e,g during bad weather on the way to the Church ) |
| Professionals from external agencies (NCSE,NEPPS, SCP, social workers) | Risk of harm from:   * Professional from outside agencies | ***School has the following in operation:***   * Garda Vetting for anyone working with pupils in the school is required * Secure entry system (coded and monitored) * All visitors report to the office and sign in, are identified using Badges |
| School Photographer | Risk of harm from:   * Photographer * Assistant that may attend on the day | ***School has the following in operation:***  - Garda Vetting for anyone working with pupils in the school is required  - Visitors policy   * Secure entry system (coded and monitored) * All visitors report to the office and sign in * Visitors are identified using Badges * Teacher/s present at all times |
| Volunteers/ Parents | Risk of harm from:   * Volunteers | ***School has the following in operation:***  -Garda Vetting for anyone working with pupils in the school is required  - Volunteers policy  - Teacher are present at all times with volunteers |
| Cleaning Staff | Risk of harm from:   * Cleaning staff | ***School has the following in operation:***  -All staff must complete the e-learning module on Child Protection from Túsla (copies of certificate maintained)  -Child Safe Guarding Statement (provided to all personnel) and available in staffroom, on shared drive and in folders  - Garda Vetting for school personnel |
| Parents Association Members | Risk of harm from:   * Those involved with the PA/ volunteers in the school | ***School has the following in operation:***  -Garda Vetting for anyone working with pupils in the school is required  - Volunteers policy  - Meetings held after school time |
| Administration of Medication / First Aid | Risk of harm from:   * From school personnel * Other pupils during the incident or when First Aid   is being administered | ***School has the following in operation:***  -Health and Safety Statement  -Child Safe Guarding Statement (provided to all personnel)  - All staff have completed First Aid Training and Defibrillator training  - Administration of Medications Policy (written permission sought form home)  - First Aid training for all staff provided |
| Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst pupils | Risk of harm from:   * From school personnel * Other pupils | ***School has the following in operation:***  -Health and Safety Statement -Code of Behaviour  -Child Safe Guarding Statement (provided to all personnel) -Anti-Bullying Policy  - Annual review of anti-bullying procedures  - Discussed and reminders given at staff meeting  - Prevention strategies in place to promote a positive environment for all  - Grievance Procedure |
| Care of pupils with specific vulnerabilities/ neds 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 (Child Protection Notification System) | Risk of harm from:   * From school personnel * Other pupils * Bullying * May not be recognised or reported when required if concern arises | ***School has the following in operation:***  -Health and Safety Statement  -Code of Behaviour  -Child Safe Guarding Statement (provided to all personnel)  -Anti-Bullying Policy  - Inclusion Policy  - Respect for diversity modelled and celebrated throughout the school |
| Use of Information and Communication Technology by pupils in school/ accessing inappropriate materials | Risk of harm from:   * From school personnel if procedures are not followed * Other pupils * Cyber- Bullying | ***School has the following in operation:***  - ICT policy  -Anti-Bullying Policy  -Code of Behaviour  -Supervision Policy  - IT company have blocked a variety of unsuitable websites for children |
| Online Teaching and Learning remotely | Risk of harm from:   * From school personnel if procedures are not followed * Other pupils * Cyber- Bullying * Cyber Attack * ‘Zoom bombing’ | ***School has the following in operation:***  - ICT policy -Anti-Bullying Policy  -Code of Behaviour  - Remote teaching and learning policy  -Child Safe Guarding Statement (provided to all personnel)  -Paid licensed users on all School Accounts |
| Use of video /photography/other media to record school events | Risk of harm from:   * Photos of individual teachers if their identify is published | ***School has the following in operation:***   * Acceptable Usage Policy * Parental Consent sought from all children for the safe use of images |
| Pupils bringing mobile phones to school | Risk of harm from:   * Other pupils | ***School has the following in operation:***   * Acceptable Usage Policy * Mobile Phone policy |
| Postman/ Smart schools, Horizon, ESB etc | Risk of harm from:   * Workmen and workwomen | ***School has the following in operation:***  - Visitors policy |
| Use of school premises by other organisations during the day | Risk of harm from:   * Adults on the school premises * Confidentially of Data | ***School has the following in operation:***  - Visitors policy  - External Agencies Policy  - One to one policy  - Data Protection Policy |
| After school use of school premises by other organisations | Risk of harm from:   * Confidentially of Data | ***School has the following in operation:***  - Visitors policy  - External Agencies Policy  - Data Protection Policy |
| Recruitment of Teachers, SNA’s, Caretaker, secretary, cleaner, bus escorts etc | Risk of harm from:   * From school personnel if not vetted | ***School has the following in operation:***  -Garda Vetting  -Child Safe Guarding Statement (provided to all personnel) |

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| **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.

This risk assessment has been completed by the Board of Management on 29.11.2021. It will be reviewed as part of the school’s annual review of its Child Safeguarding Statement.

Signed: Gerard Connolly Signed: 

Chairperson of Board of Management Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Date: 29.11.2021 Date: 29.11.2021

*\*Policies which need to be updated/ created*