



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

### **Child Safeguarding Statement**

Gaelscoil Faithleann 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 Gaelscoil Faithleann 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 Lisa Ní Iarlaithe
- 3 The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is Treasa Uí Scannláin
- 4 The Relevant Person is Lisa Ní Iarlaithe  
(*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.

**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.

- 7 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.
- 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 20 November 2023

This Child Safeguarding Statement will be reviewed by the Board of Management in Oct/Nov 2024.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Chairperson of Board of Management  
Management

Principal/Secretary to the Board of

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment

### Written Assessment of Risk of Gaelcoil Faithleann, Cill Airne

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 [name of school].

#### 1. List of school activities

Training of school personnel in Child Protection matters
One to one teaching



Care of Children with special needs, including intimate care needs

Toilet areas

Curricular Provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay safe.

LGBT Children/Pupils perceived to be LGBT

Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils

Managing of challenging behaviour amongst pupils, including appropriate use of restraint

Restraining pupils

Sports Coaches

Students participating in work experience

Students participating in work experience that are under 16

Recreation breaks for pupils

Classroom teaching

After school activities

Outdoor teaching activities

Sporting Activities

Homework club

School outings; Nature walks, going to church for practices, school tours

School trips involving overnight stay

Remote learning and teaching

School trips involving foreign travel

Use of changing/shower areas in school and swimming lessons

Annual Sports Day

Fundraising events involving pupils

Use of off-site facilities for school activities ; swimming

School transport arrangements including use of bus escorts

Unauthorised access to the building

Administration of Medicine

Administration of First Aid

Curricular provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe

Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst pupils

Use of external personnel to supplement curriculum

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 CPNS

Recruitment of school personnel including -



- Teachers
- SNA's
- Caretaker/Secretary/Cleaners
- Sports coaches
- External Tutors/Guest Speakers
- Volunteers/Parents in school activities
- Visitors/contractors present in school during school hours
- Visitors/contractors present during after school activities

Use of school premises by other organisation during school day

Use of Information and Communication Technology by pupils in school.

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

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

Harm not recognised or reported promptly

Harm by school personnel

Inappropriate behaviour

Younger children being changed after having accidents / being sick

Non-teaching of same

Bullying

Harm from older pupils, unknown adults on the playground

Injury to pupils and staff

Injury to pupils

Harm to pupils

Inexperience of student

Harm by student

Pebble dash on yard C

Yellow kerbing on yard C

Harmful items left on yards/ grass/ woods by uninvited visitors after school hours. Eg. Tins, bottles etc.

Injury / harm to students or staff

Toilet accidents

When children vomit or are sick

Injury / harm to students





Risk of harm or injury  
Risk of harm or injury if ball goes over fence at break time.  
Dressing rooms if away at matches  
Risk of harm and injury to pupils  
Risk of harm to child being witnessed by staff while online.  
Risk of harm of inappropriate relationship/ communications between child and adult.  
Children not engaging with remote learning.  
Risk of uninvited third parties entering online lessons  
Risk of nudity/ inappropriate dress.  
Risk of harm and injury to pupils.

Risk of harm to pupils  
Risk of harm or injury to pupils  
Crowd Control if parents and past pupils present.  
Risk of harm or injury to pupils  
Risk of harm or injury to pupils  
Risk of harm or injury to pupils and staff  
Incorrect use of medicines  
Unsupervised use of medicines  
Parents not keeping school up to date on medicines.  
Accidents.  
Not being taught  
Risk of harm or injury to pupils  
Risk of harm or injury to pupils  
Risk of bullying, isolation and prejudice.  
Harm not recognised or properly or promptly reported  
Risk of harm or injury to pupils.  
Bullying  
Risk to school students

### **3. The school has the following procedures in place to address the risks of harm identified in this assessment -**

Child Safeguarding Statement & DES procedures made available to all staff  
DLP& DDLP to attend PDST face to face training. This completed on April 12<sup>th</sup> 2018.  
All Staff to view Túsla training module & any other online training offered by PDST  
BOM records all records of staff and board training  
Open doors  
Glass in window- FULL GLASS PANELS .  
Toilets in classrooms.  
Plan for use of toilets during break times.  
Separate toilets for children and staff.



School implements SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe in full  
Anti-Bullying Policy  
Code of Behaviour  
Arrival and dismissal supervised by Teachers  
Doors are kept open for children entering and exiting the building at these times.  
Health & Safety Policy- updated April 2021.  
Code Of Behaviour  
Garda vetting of all coaches.  
Teachers present with coaches during school time  
Work experience Policy  
Child Safeguarding Statement.  
Garda vetting of students over 16 years.  
Students not left alone with children  
Students under 16 cannot be accepted as they do not have Garda Vetting.  
Teacher supervising ensures that yard area is safe each day.  
Children not allowed to use the back of the school for going out on breaks due to the risk of falling, behaviour etc December 2021.  
Adequate supervision.  
Anti bullying procedures  
Discipline code.  
Guidelines on supervision in teachers booklet followed by all teachers.  
Code of Behaviour  
Kerbing in yard C removed  
Holes on yard c fixed.  
Yard checked for glass etc regularly.  
Children not allowed on yard if glass etc not cleared up.  
Children not allowed to play on grass area if it is slippery.  
Children not allowed on yard or grass if frozen in winter.  
Yards and grass areas checked every day.  
Items picked up that are dangerous.  
Security Company hired to monitor weekend activities.  
Use of CCTV.  
New fencing and gates erected in summer 2020  
Adequate supervision.  
Guidelines on break time supervision  
Guidelines on staff going to the toilet.  
Guidelines for use of school materials, climbing etc.  
Guidelines on morning supervision.  
Guidelines on collection of children on time at breaktimes  
References received for organisers of such activities  
Garda vetting of organisers and staff.



Insurance provided by organisers separate to school insurance.  
Assess the location for possible dangers beforehand  
Staff member to collect ball after lunch break.  
Yard checked for glass etc regularly.  
Children not allowed on yard if glass etc not cleared up.  
Children not allowed to play on grass area if it is slippery.  
Basketballs not on yard at break times due to risk of injury to other pupils.  
Children not allowed on yard or grass if frozen in winter.  
Halla kept neat and tidy and returned to condition it was in when class commenced.  
Halla is not used as a storage area.  
Class teachers check halla, field and yard areas to ensure that they are safe.  
Teachers do not use damaged sporting equipment.  
If sports equipment is damaged this is reported to Sports/P.E. Co-ordinator who is in charge of organising new sports equipment.  
Rota for use of balls on green area, this is adhered to by all staff.  
No mixing of classes on green going against what is on the rota.  
Always two adults with a team.  
One adult stands outside dressing room  
Ensure there are no third parties in dressing rooms with children.  
Teachers not alone with one student.  
Students instructed to walk to halla.  
Children not allowed in the kitchen area.  
Adequate supervision in place.  
Children not left on their own with strangers.  
Busses with seat belts.  
Decision where possible not to include pupils on overnight stays.  
Staff to watch out for signs of abuse / neglect at home while online with pupils. Report any concerns to DLP immediately.  
Guidelines for staff and parents available to be updated at start of new remote learning period if applicable.  
Parents contacted in turn by class teacher/ special education teacher and principal. If there is no engagement DLP contacts TUSLA for advice.  
Microsoft Teams is applied to school pupils using school email addresses, no outside person can partake.  
Sessions at home to take place in family room with parent / guardian nearby.  
Children and adults advised to be suitably dressed for live sessions.  
Ranganna 5 agus 6 in separate changing cubicles.  
Ranganna 3 agus 4 in large changing room , single sex.  
No adults in changing area with pupil one to one.  
General public not allowed in communal changing area with children.  
N/A





Sports day deferred if unsuitable weather.  
Rules in place for different activities.  
Adequate supervision and groups of children not allowed without an adult.  
Garda vetting of parents and sports people from outside that are helping.  
Children not allowed on yard if glass etc not cleared up.  
Children not allowed to play on grass area if it is slippery.  
Halla kept neat and tidy and returned to condition it was in when class commenced.  
Halla is not used as a storage area.  
Class teachers check halla, field and yard areas to ensure that they are safe.  
Adequate supervision in place.  
No adults in changing area with pupil one to one  
Busses with seatbelts organised..  
Insisting that children wear seatbelts.  
N/A  
Security access to both front doors with fobs and buzzer entry system.  
Limit access to reception area only for visitors by appointment only .( Covid 19)  
Covid 2019- Access only by appointment or invite.  
Administration of medicines policy to be updated.  
Updating of life. threatening illnesses and allergies annually.  
Requirement on parents to keep school updated annually of child's illness.( First fortnight in September each year)  
Requirement of teachers to inform teachers taking children the following year of illness annually, First week in September.  
Requirement that substitute teachers are informed by class teacher/ Deputy and Principal of children in class with illnesses.  
Stay Safe to be taught every year  
RSE to be taught to class level every year  
Anti Bullying policy in place.  
Adequate supervision on the yard and in classrooms  
SPHE taught to all classes.  
External personnel Garda Vetted.  
SPHE taught to all classes.  
Anti bullying procedures.  
Code of discipline.  
Child Safeguarding Statement & DES procedures made available to all staff  
Staff to view Tusla training module & any other online training offered by PDST  
Vetting Procedures  
Students instructed to walk to halla.  
Staff member present with Pilates teacher at all times.  
Garda vetting of Pilates teacher.  
ICT policy



Anti-Bullying Policy  
Code of Behaviour  
Barnardos workshops for children and parents.  
Internet safety talk with Ger Brick for parents and children.  
Permanent class teacher with student teacher.  
Student teachers Garda vetted from Colleges of Education.  
Notification for staff not to upload any images on children on their social media.  
Statement at start of all concerts, please do not upload any photographs of children unless you have written permission from the childrens' parents.  
Organisations have their own insurance.  
Garda vetting of these individuals.  
Guidelines for using school premises after 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 (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.

## Examples of activities, risks and procedures

The examples listed in this document are provided to assist schools in undertaking their risk assessment under the Children First Act, 2015. Schools should note that this list of examples is not intended to be exhaustive. It is the responsibility of each school to ensure, as far as possible, that any other risks and procedures that are relevant to its own particular circumstances are identified and specified in the written risk assessment and that adequate procedures are in place to address all risks identified.

It is acknowledged that schools already have in place a range of policies, practices and procedures to mitigate the risk of harm to children while they are participating in the activities of the school and that some school activities will carry low or minimal risks of harm compared to others. In the context of the risk assessment that must be undertaken by schools, the



Children First Act, 2015 refers to risk as “any potential for harm”. Therefore, it is important that, as part of its risk assessment process, each school lists and reviews all of its various activities (which shall include identifying those that may carry low risk of harm as well as those that carry higher risks of harm). Doing so will help the school to (1) identify, as required under the Children First Act, 2015, any risks of harm that may exist in respect of the school’s activities, (2) identify and assess the adequacy of the various procedures already in place to manage those risks of harm and (3) identify and put in place any such additional procedures as are considered necessary to manage any risk identified.

The Addendum to *Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children* 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.

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.

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)*.

## Examples of School Activities

- Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils
- Recreation breaks for pupils
- Classroom teaching
- One-to-one teaching
- One-to-one learning support
- One-to-one counselling
- Outdoor teaching activities
- Online teaching and learning remotely
- Sporting activities
- School outings
- School trips involving overnight stay
- School trips involving foreign travel
- Use of toilet/changing/shower areas in schools



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- Provision of residential facilities for boarders
- Annual 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,
- Care of any vulnerable adult students, 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
- Administration of 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
  - 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
- Students from the school participating in work experience elsewhere
- 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
- Breakfast club
- Homework club/evening study

#### **Examples of Risks of Harm**

- Risk of harm not being recognised by school personnel
- 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 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
- 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 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, counselling, coaching 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

## Examples of Procedures to address risks of harm

- 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 First Act 2015* and its Addendum (2019)
- The school implements in full the Stay Safe Programme
- The school implements in full the SPHE curriculum
- The school implements in full the Wellbeing Programme at Junior Cycle
- 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*
- The school undertakes anti-racism awareness initiatives
- The school has a yard/playground supervision policy to ensure appropriate supervision of children during, assembly, dismissal and breaks and in respect of specific areas such as toilets, changing rooms etc.
- The school has in place a policy and clear procedures in respect of school outings
- The school has a health and safety policy
- The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation and relevant DE circulars in relation to recruitment and Garda vetting
- The school has a codes of conduct for school personnel (teaching and non-teaching staff)
- The school complies with the agreed disciplinary procedures for teaching staff



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- The school has a Special Educational Needs policy
- The school has an intimate care policy/plan in respect of students who require such care
- The school has in place a policy and procedures for the administration of medication to pupils
- The school –
  - Has provided each member of school 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
  - Maintains records of all staff and board member training
- The school has in place a policy and procedures for the administration of First Aid
- The school has in place a code of behaviour for pupils
- 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
- The school has in place a policy governing the use of smart phones and tablet devices in the school by pupils as per circular 38/2018
- The school has in place a Critical Incident Management Plan
- The school has in place a Home School Liaison policy and related procedures
- The school has in place a policy and procedures for the use of external persons to supplement delivery of the curriculum
- The school has in place a policy and procedures for the use of external sports coaches
- The school has in place a policy and clear procedures for one-to-one teaching activities
- The school has in place a policy and procedures for one-to-one counselling
- The school has in place a policy and procedures in respect of student teacher placements
- The school has in place a policy and procedures in respect of students undertaking work experience in the school
- The school has in place a policy and procedures in respect of pupils of the school undertaking work experience in external organisations



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