



SCOIL NAOMH IÓSAF

167128

CHILD SAFE GUARDING

STATEMENT & RISK ASSESSMENT

**Commencement of all sections of  
Children First Act 2015  
11 December 2017**

**What are the implications for schools?**

**Mandated Persons**

All teachers are now 'mandated persons'. There are two areas of responsibility which will apply to mandated persons in a primary school:

- Where a mandated person knows, believes or has reasonable grounds to suspect, on the basis of information that he or she has received, acquired or becomes aware of that a child:
  - has been harmed
  - is being harmed
  - is at risk of being harmed

He or she must report that knowledge, belief or suspicion, to the Child and Family Agency (Tusla) as soon as practicable.

- Where a child believes that he or she:
  - has been harmed
  - is being harmed
  - is at risk of being harmed

and discloses that belief to a mandated person, the mandated person must report that disclosure to Tusla as soon as practicable.

**Child Safeguarding Statement**

The Board of Management (BoM) of each school must produce a Child Safeguarding Statement on or before 11 March 2018.

**Risk Assessment of potential harm to children**

The BoM of each school must produce a *Risk Assessment of all potential harm to children* on or before 11<sup>th</sup> March 2018, in conjunction with the *Child Safeguarding Statement*.

**Child Protection Oversight Report**

A new child Protection Oversight Report must be provided to the BoM as part of the Principal's Report at every meeting - to ensure oversight by the BoM of the school's compliance with child safeguarding requirements.

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

### **Child Safeguarding Statement**

Scoil Naomh Iósaf 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 2017](#) and [Tusla Guidance on the preparation of Child Safeguarding Statements](#), the Board of Management of Scoil Naomh Iósaf 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 **Stephen Lavin**
- 3 The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is **Sadie Neville**
- 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.

5 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](#) 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 abovenamed DLP as the "relevant person" (as defined in the Children First Act 2015) to be the first point of contact in respect of the school's 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.

- 6 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.
- 7 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 \_\_\_\_\_ [date].

This Child Safeguarding Statement was reviewed by the Board of Management on \_\_\_\_\_ [most recent review date].

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

Chairperson of Board of Management

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

Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

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

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

## Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment

### Written Assessment of Risk of Scoil Naomh Iósaf

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 Naomh Iósaf

#### **Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment (of any potential harm)**

<b>List of School Activities</b>	<b>Risk Level</b>	<b>The School has identified the following Risk of Harm</b>	<b>The School has the following Procedures in place to address risk identified in this assessment</b>
Training of school personnel in Child Protection matters	High	Harm not recognised or reported promptly	Child Safeguarding Statement & DES procedures made available to all staff  DLP& DDLP to attend PDST face to face training All Staff to view Tusla training module & any other online training offered by PDST  BOM records all records of staff and board training
One to one teaching	Med	Harm by school personnel	School has Procedure in place for one to one teaching Open doors Table between teacher and pupil Glass in window
Care of children with special needs, including intimate care needs	High	Harm by school personnel	Policy on intimate care
Toilet areas	High	Inappropriate behaviour	Usage, Procedures and supervision policy

Curricular Provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay safe.	Med	Non-teaching of same	School implements SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe in full
Managing of challenging behaviour amongst pupils, including appropriate use of restraint	Med	Injury to pupils and staff	Health & Safety Policy Code Of Behaviour Class & Yard Supervision
Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils	Med	Harm from other pupils, unknown adults on the playground Traffic on avenue	Arrival and Dismissal Procedures Supervision Policy Health & Safety Policy
Recreation breaks for pupils	High	Injury to pupils/Bullying Harm not recognised or properly or promptly reported	Policy & Procedures in place Health & Safety Policy Code Of Behaviour
Classroom teaching	Med	Bullying	Supervision & Procedures Code Of Behaviour Anti- Bullying Policy
Sporting Activities	Med	Unknown Adults Injury to Pupils	Supervision Procedures School Activities Policy
Sports Coaches	Med	Harm to pupils	Policy & Procedures in place Vetting Procedures
Students participating in work experience	Low	Harm by student	Work experience Policy Child Safeguarding Statement. Vetting Procedures
Educational Trips/Matches	Med	Unknown Adults Bullying Child Missing	Supervision Procedures School Actives Policy SPHE Curriculum taught in full
Changing for sport activities	Med	Inappropriate Behaviour Bullying	Supervision Procedures
Annual Sports Week	Med	Bullying	Supervision Policy Code of Behaviour/Anti Bullying

School transport arrangements including use of bus escorts	Med	Harm to pupils Harm not recognised or properly or promptly reported	Supervision Procedures
Volunteers/Parents	Med	Harm to pupils	Vetting Procedures Policy for Parents/Volunteers
Administration of First Aid	Med	Harm to Pupil	Administration of Meds Policy Staff Training First Aid Procedures
Administration of Medicine	Med	Harm To Pupil	Administration of Meds Policy Staff Training First Aid Procedures
Use of external personnel to supplement curriculum	High	Harm To Pupil	Vetting Procedures Supervision Procedures Child Safe Guarding Statement
Use of Information and Communication Technology by pupils in school	High	Bullying Staff not following policies & procedures	Acceptable Internet Usage Policy Anti-Bullying Policy Code of Behaviour
Use of video/photography/other media to record school events	High	Digital Alteration	Policies and Procedures Parental Permission
Recruitment of School Personnel	High	Harm to Pupils	Vetting Procedures Child Safe Guarding Statement
COVID 19	High	Harm to pupils Spread of the disease	COVID 19 Risk Assessment COVID 19 Policy and Procedures
Remote Learning	Low	Bullying Inappropriate Content	Remote Learning Policy



**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.