



Caherelly National School Scoil Náisiúnta Ailbhe

Grange, Kilmallock, Co. Limerick.



Child Safeguarding Statement

Scoil Ailbhe, Caherelly N.S. 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 Ailbhe, Caherelly NS 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

1. The Designated Liaison Person (DLP) is **Niamh McGuinness (Principal)**

1. The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is **Jane Conway (Acting Deputy Principal)**

1. 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 cooperate 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.



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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](#) 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.



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- 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 (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.

1. 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.



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Scoil AChild Safeguarding Risk Assessment (of any potential harm)

List of School Activities	The School has identified the following Risk of Harm	The School has the following Procedures in place to address risk identified in this assessment
Training of school personnel in Child Protection matters	Harm not recognised or reported promptly	<p>Child Safeguarding Statement & DES procedures made available to all staff.</p> <p>DLP& DDLP to attend PDST face to face training All Staff to view Túsla training module & any other online training offered by PDST</p> <p>BOM records all records of staff and Board training Child Protection oversight report to be read out and minuted at every BOM meeting. Anti-bullying oversight report to be read and minuted at every BOM meeting</p>
One to one teaching	Harm by school personnel	<p>School has policy in place for one to one teaching Open doors. Table between teacher and pupil. Glass in window or door.</p>
Toilet areas	Inappropriate behaviour	Supervision policy
Online teaching and learning remotely	<p>Inappropriate use of online remote teaching and online learning communication platform such as an uninvited person accessing the lesson link, students being left unsupervised in breakout rooms. Risk of harm due to bullying of a child</p>	<p>Anti-bullying policy The school has a code of behaviour policy in place for students and teachers The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda Vetting and relevant DE circulars in relation to recruitment and Child protection training for staff.</p>



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	Inappropriate communication between a child and another child	The school has an Acceptable use Policy The School has in place a Dignity in the Workplace Policy
Toileting accidents and intimate care	Harm to child while receiving intimate care. Risk of harm to children with SEN who have particular vulnerabilities. Bullying by other pupils	Toileting consent form signed on enrolment If children are old or able enough they look after themselves. SNA attends to younger or SEN children. Parent informed and given the option to attend to their child. Attended to in classroom toilet. Anti-bullying policy
Curricular Provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay safe.	Non-teaching of same	School implements SPHE, RSE, and Stay Safe in full.
LGBT Children/Pupils perceived to be LGBT	Bullying	Anti-Bullying Policy Code of Behaviour SPHE Programmes.
List of School Activities	The School has identified the following Risk of Harm	The School has the following Procedures in place to address risk identified in this assessment
Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils- Collection arrangements of pupils	Harm from older pupils, unknown adults on the playground. Change in collection arrangement of child without notice.	Arrival and dismissal supervised by Teachers. Parents must notify the office by phone or in writing that a change has been made to the collection arrangement.
Collection and returning of pupils by parent for appointments during school hours	Change in collection arrangement of child without notice. Unauthorised collection of child. Harm by unknown adults	Parents must notify the office prior to collection and permission given if an adult other than parent is collecting the child. Visitors in School Policy Sign-in/sign-out book at collection and return.
Managing of challenging behaviour amongst pupils, including appropriate use of restraint	Injury to pupils and staff	Restraint Policy Health & Safety Policy Code Of Behaviour



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Sports Coaches	Harm to pupils	Policy & Procedures in place. Garda Vetting. Joint Vetting Agreement with outside organisations. Statement of Undertaking & Statutory Declaration. Class teacher always stays during training by outside coaches. First Aid policy. Code of Behaviour.
Recreation breaks for pupils	Inappropriate behaviour. Injury	Supervision Policy. Code of Behaviour. Anti-bullying policy.
Classroom teaching	Harm by school personnel	Child Safeguarding Statement and DES procedures made available to all staff. Staff Garda Vetted. Staff completed Child Protection Training. Supervision policy.
Movement breaks for SEN pupils	Harm by school personnel	Two or more children to be taken together for movement breaks. Door to be kept open for indoor movement break. SNA and pupil to remain in view of Class windows if outdoor break. Child Safeguarding Policy.
Outdoor teaching activities	Harm by school personnel. Risk of harm by another child	Child Safeguarding Policy. Code of Behaviour. Supervision policy and Anti-bullying Policy.
Sporting Activities(including Swimming)	Harm by unknown adults, other pupils, Injury School personnel and inappropriate behaviour. Harm to children with SEN who have particular vulnerabilities, including medical vulnerabilities	Code of Behaviour. Supervision Policy. Two or more Garda vetted adults, including teacher, always to accompany pupils. First Aid Policy Swimming Policy Health and Safety Policy Special Educational Needs Policy



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List of School Activities	The School has identified the following Risk of Harm	The School has the following Procedures in place to address risk identified in this assessment
Use of off-site facilities for school activities	Harm by unknown adults Harm by other pupils Harm by school personnel. Inappropriate behaviour. Injury	Two or more Garda vetted adults, including teacher, always to accompany pupils. Child Safeguarding Statement Supervision Policy. Swimming Policy. Acceptable Usage Policy. Code Of Behaviour. Anti -Bullying Policy. SPHE programmes
School outings	Harm by unknown adults or older pupils. Inappropriate behaviour Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children	Supervision Policy. Acceptable usage policy. Anti- bullying Policy School Tour Policy
School Events – Christmas Concert, Infant Parent Open Day, Grandparent Day, School Masses Fundraising Events involving pupils	Harm by unknown adults	Supervision Policy – class groups remain with class teacher. Prior to such occasions, parents will indicate, in writing their intention to take their child home with them before school finishing time. Child must be collected from class, teacher informed and child signed out by parent/guardian in attendance book. In the case of events held by the Parent Association out of school hours children will be under the supervision of their parents. This will be made clear in advance of events.
After school use of school premises by other organisation/coach etc	Risk of child being harmed by an adult Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision while attending activity	Garda vetting requirements fulfilled by outside teacher Clear policy and procedures in place in regard to after school classes School Health and Safety Policy



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	Risk of harm due to inadequate code of behaviour	The school has a hometime supervision policy (as part of Yard/Playground supervision policy) Special Educational Needs Policy School Code of Behaviour
School Transport Arrangements	Harm by adult outside the organisation inadequate supervision with regard to road safety	School Health and Safety Policy The school has a hometime supervision policy (as part of Yard/Playground supervision policy) Special Educational Needs Policy School Code of Behaviour
Administration of First Aid	Harm to pupils	First Aid to be administered a common area – i.e. reception. Health and Safety Policy. Child Safeguarding policy. Incidents and injuries to be recorded and parents to be informed, in writing, of same and what First Aid was administered. Copy to be kept on file. If injury is deemed to be serious, parents will be contacted and appropriate procedures to be followed. If injury is in a more private area i.e. thigh, hip, etc., older or able children will be asked to check it themselves, parents of younger or SEN children will be contacted and given the option of coming in and tending to their child or giving permission for First Aid to be administered by staff.
Administration of Medicine	Harm to pupils	Administration of Medicine policy. Written consent from parents of children in receipt of medication to be



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		kept on file, in accordance with Administration of Medicine Policy. Recording of all medicines administered to pupils by staff.
Allergies or chronic health issues (Provision of food and drink to pupils)	Harm to pupils	Children with allergies or health conditions to be identified in enrolment policy. Parents supply all relevant information on enrolment. All staff to be made aware of conditions. Such children will have their photograph and details of condition displayed in staffroom to inform staff of same and in the child's classroom. Substitute teachers to be informed of same.
Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst pupils	Bullying by pupils from this school, pupils from other schools	Anti-Bullying Policy Code of Behaviour SPHE Programmes Supervision Policy Acceptable usage policy.
Use of external personnel to supplement curriculum	Harm to pupils	Policy & Procedures in place. Garda Vetting. Joint Vetting Agreement with outside organisations. Statement of Undertaking & statutory declaration. Class teacher always stays during training by outside teachers, facilitators, etc. Visitor Policy.
Outside professionals e.g. psychologists, speech therapists, OT, Priest, etc.	Harm to pupils	If it is an outside professional not employed by NEPS the SEN teacher/SNA will remain in the room during the assessment. Written consent by parents in case of assessment. Table between adult and pupil, glass in window or door. Visitor Policy.



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<p>Care of pupils with specific vulnerabilities/ needs such as</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 	<p>Bullying, discrimination</p>	<p>Anti-Bullying Policy Code of Behaviour SPHE Programmes. Supervision Policy</p>
<p>Recruitment of school personnel including -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teachers • Substitute/temporary 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 • 	<p>Harm not recognised or properly or promptly reported Harm from outside personnel</p>	<p>Child Safeguarding Statement & DES procedures made available to all staff</p> <p>Staff to view Tusla training module & any other online training offered by PDST</p> <p>Vetting Procedures</p> <p>Policy of Parents / Volunteers</p> <p>Visitor Policy.</p>
<p>Use of Information and Communication Technology by pupils in school</p>	<p>Cyber-bullying Exposure to sexually explicit material Inappropriate use of images Risk of harm due to inappropriate relationships/communications between child and another child or adult. Risk of harm due to inappropriately</p>	<p>Acceptable Usage Policy. Anti-Bullying Policy Code of Behaviour</p> <p>Appropriate filters set by NCSE (Schools Broadband Network filters inappropriate and harmful web content) Supervision Policy</p>



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	accessing/using computers, social media, phones and other devices while in school.	
Second-level Students participating in work experience in the school	Harm by work experience student	Work Experience Guidelines. Child Safeguarding Statement. Never alone with individual pupils If over 16, Garda vetting required Form of undertaking and Statutory declaration.
Third-level students participating in work experience and teacher placement.	Harm by student	Work Experience Guidelines. Child Safeguarding Statement. Never alone with individual pupils Garda Vetted-Joint agreement with College of Ed. Form of Undertaking and Statutory Declaration. Class teacher to stay in class at all times.
Use of video/photography/other (e.g. website, CCTV footage) media to record school events	Cyber-bullying Inappropriate use of images Risk of harm due to inappropriate relationships/communications between child and another child or adult. Risk of harm due to inappropriately accessing/using computers, social media, phones and other devices while in school.	Written consent granted by parents on enrolment. Individual pupils not to be named. Group photographs only to be uploaded. Facility to block users on Twitter account. School Twitter account is protected and users must seek permission to follow. At school events e.g. graduation, Christmas concerts, etc., parents are reminded not to upload videos, photographs to social media platforms. Signs reminding parents of the above displayed prominently. CCTV footage only to be viewed by data protection officer. Gardaí must seek permission in writing from B.O.M. to view CCTV footage.



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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 policy was adopted by the Board of Management on December 6th 2021

This risk assessment & Child Safeguarding Statement will be reviewed by the Board of Management in November 2022, as part of the school's annual review of its Child Safeguarding Statement.

Signed: Brigid Teefy

Chairperson of Board of Management

Signed: Niamh McGuinness

Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Date: 6/12/2021