Child Safeguarding Statement

Scoil Naoimh Pio Primary School 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 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 Naoimh Pio Primary School has agreed the Child Safeguarding Statement set out in this document.

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

The Designated Liaison Person (DLP) is Marie Taaffe

The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is Paula O Brien

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 DES 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 DES and available on the DES 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; and
* 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 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, 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 attached as an appendix to these procedures.
* The various procedures referred to in this Statement can be accessed via the school’s website, the DES website or will be made available on request by the school.

1. This statement has been published on the school’s website [www.scoilnaoimhpio.com](http://www.scoilnaoimhpio.com) 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 May 29th 2019 and will be reviewed on an annual basis.

**Signed:** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**Chairperson of Board of Management**

**Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Signed \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Principal**

**Date**

**Date of next review**: **May 2020**

**Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment**

**(of any potential harm)**

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| **List of School Activities** | **Risk Level** | **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 | 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  DLP & Chairperson to receive CPSMA 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 policy 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 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 | High | Injury to pupils and staff | Health & Safety Policy  Code Of Behaviour |
| Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils | Med | Harm from other pupils, unknown adults on the playground  Traffic on avenue | Arrival and Dismissal Policy & Procedures  Supervision Policy  Traffic Management Policy & Procedures  Health & Safety Policy |
| **List of School Activities** | **Risk Level** | **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 | Med | Harm from other pupils, unknown adults on the playground  Traffic on avenue  Inappropriate behaviour | Arrival and dismissal Policy & Procedures  Supervision Policy Teachers/SNAs  Traffic Management Procedures in place  Health & Safety Policy |
| Recreation breaks for pupils | High | Injury to pupils/Bullying  Harm not recognised or properly or promptly reported | Policy & Procedures in place  Anti-bullying Policy  Health & Safety Policy  Code Of Behaviour |
| Classroom teaching | Low | Bullying  Harm not recognised or properly or promptly reported | Policy & Procedures in place |
| Outdoor teaching activities | Med | Harm to pupils | Policy & Procedures in place |
| Sporting Activities | Med | Injury to pupils | Physical Education Policy  Health & Safety Policy |
| Choir | Low | Trips with choir to events | Trips and Excursions policy in place |
| Sports Coaches | Med | Harm to pupils | Policy & Procedures in place |
| Students participating in work experience | Low | Harm by student | Work experience Policy  Child Safeguarding Statement. |
| **List of School Activities** | **Risk Level** | **The School has identified the following Risk of Harm** | **The School has the following Procedures in place to address risk identified in this assessment** |
| Educational Trips/Matches | High | Harm to pupils | Trips and Excursions Policy  Health & Safety Policy  Certified First Aid training in staff |
| Use of toilet | High | Inappropriate Behaviour | Usage and supervision policy  Intimate care policy |
| Annual Sports Day | Med | Injury to pupil | Physical Education Policy  First Aid Certified staff |
| Annual Science Exhibition | Med | Harm from other pupils, unknown adults visiting | Policy & Procedures in place |
| Use of off-site facilities for school activities | Med | Harm to pupils | Educational Trips Policy |
| School transport arrangements | Med | Harm to pupils  Harm not recognised or properly or promptly reported | Trips and Excursions policy |
| Volunteers/Parents | Med | Harm to pupils | Vetting Procedures  Policy for Parents/Volunteers |
| **List of School Activities** | **Risk Level** | **The School has identified the following Risk of Harm** | **The School has the following Procedures in place to address risk identified in this assessment** |
| Management of challenging behaviour amongst pupils, including appropriate use of restraint where required | High | Harm to pupil  Harm to school personnel | Restraint policy |
| Administration of First Aid | High | Harm to pupil | Policy and Procedures in place  Staff are certified in First Aid training |
| Administration of Medicine | High | Harm to pupil | Adminstration of Medicine Policy |
| Curricular provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe | Low | Inappropriate behaviour  Harm to pupil | SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe programmes implemented using whole school plan |
| Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst pupils | Med | Harm to pupils  Harm to school personnel | Anti-Bullying policy  SPHE, and Stay Safe programmes implemented using whole school plan |
| 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  DLP & Chairperson to receive CPSMA training  All Staff to view Tusla training module & any other online training offered by PDST  BOM records all records of staff and board training |
| Use of external personnel to supplement curriculum | High | Harm to pupils | Vetting Procedures |
| **List of School Activities** | **Risk Level** | **The School has identified the following Risk of Harm** | **The School has the following Procedures in place to address risk identified in this assessment** |
| 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 | High | Harm to pupils  Bullying  Inappropriate behaviour | Inclusion policy  Special Education Needs policy  SPHE programme implemented using whole school plan |
| **List of School Activities** | **Risk Level** | **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 Information and Communication Technology by pupils in school | High | Bullying  Staff not following policies & procedures | ICT policy  Anti-Bullying Policy  Code of Behaviour |
| Application of sanctions under the school’s Code of Behaviour including detention of pupils, confiscation of phones etc. | Med | Harm to pupils  Inappropriate behaviour | Code of Behaviour |
| Students participating in work experience in the school | Low | Harm to pupils | Work Experience policy |
| Student teachers undertaking training placement in school | Low | Harm by student teacher | Vetting Procedures  Child Safeguarding Statement  Policy and Procedures in place |
| Use of video/photography/other media to record school events | Med | Harm to pupil | ICT policy |

**One to one teaching**

At times in this school one to one teaching may be deemed necessary. In cases where it is deemed to be the most appropriate for the child every effort will be made to ensure that this teaching takes place in an open environment. Where one to one teaching is taking place it will happen in a room with a vision panel in the door and where possible the door will remain open. A desk will remain between the teacher and student during one to one teaching. Parents of children who are to be involved in one to one teaching will be informed and their agreement sought. Work being carried out by special needs assistants will be carried out under the direction of the class teacher in an open environment.

**Health and Safety** **for withdrawal of students**

Pupils who are withdrawn from their classes for learning support/resource are collected and left back to their classroom by the learning support/resource teacher. The school’s Health and Safety and Child Protection policies apply to all activities involving special education and supplementary teaching

Usage and Supervision

***Playground***

Teachers will ensure that children are visible in the school playground. Children will not be allowed to spend time in classrooms where they are not under adult supervision. Every effort will be made for children to use the toilet before going out to the yard but this is not always possible. Where children need to use the toilet during yard times, the children will be sent to the classroom closest to the yard during break times for use of the toilet and to the hallway in the large building if they need any medical attention. They are not to leave the school playground without permission from staff on yard. Children are not to engage with adults who are outside the school playground.

Yard Duty is organised with two members of staff on the yard both for early break and big lunch.

**Within the classroom**

Within the classroom situation, children are assured of privacy when going to the toilet. As far as is possible, children are facilitated to go to the toilet when the need arises. Where toilets are situated in the classroom, children will be allowed to use the toilet on request on a one boy and one girl at a time basis. Where the toilets are situated outside of the classroom students will be allowed to use the bathroom one student at a time.

If it is noticed that a child is going to the toilet too frequently, his/her parents will be informed, in order that they can have the child checked out medically, so that the teacher will know whether it is reasonable to limit the number of times such a child goes out. Toilet practices may be outlined in the schools’ code of behaviour.

**Children with specific toileting/intimate care needs**

Normally a child who has specific toileting needs will have a special needs assistant assigned to him/her. Before a child is enrolled in the school, a meeting is held at which all school personnel involved with the child along with the child’s parents/guardians. At that meeting the needs of the child will be addressed and agreement reached as to how the school can meet those needs. Those involved with the intimate care of the child will agree practices which are acceptable to the staff, the child and the parents. Practices agreed will be sufficiently flexible to cover unforeseen situations, e.g. if personnel involved in assisting the child are absent. The Board of Management will be made aware of practices agreed.

**Toileting Accidents**

Clean underwear and suitable clothing will be kept in the school so that if a pupil has an accident of this nature they will in the first instance be offered fresh clothing into which they can change. If the pupil for whatever reason cannot clean or change themselves and the parents/guardians cannot be contacted the child will be assisted by members of staff familiar to the child. In all such situations two members of staff should be present. Parents will be notified of all such incidents.

**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 reviewed by the Board of Management on *May 29th 2019.* It will be reviewed as part of the school’s annual review of its Child Safeguarding Statement.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Chairperson, Board of Management

Signed \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Principal/Secretary Board of Management