



Leenane NS

Child Safeguarding Statement

Leenane NS 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 Revised 2023 and Tusla Guidance on the preparation of Child Safeguarding Statements, the Board of Management of Leenane 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.
- 2 The Designated Liaison Person (DLP) is: **Garry Kane**
- 3 The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is: **Alice Freeley**
- 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. The school will adhere to the following principles of best practice in child protection and welfare. The school will:
 - a. recognise that the protection and welfare of children is of paramount importance, regardless of all other considerations
 - b. fully comply with its statutory obligations under the Children First Act 2015 and other relevant legislation relating to the protection and welfare of children
 - c. fully co-operate with the relevant statutory authorities in relation to child protection and welfare matters
 - d. 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
 - e. develop a practice of openness with parents and encourage parental involvement in the education of their children; and
 - f. 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:
- a. 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
 - b. 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
 - c. 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:
 - i. Has provided each member of staff with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement
 - ii. Ensures all new staff are provided with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement
 - iii. Encourages staff to avail of relevant training
 - iv. Encourages Board of Management members to avail of relevant training
 - v. The Board of Management maintains records of all staff and Board member training.
 - d. 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
 - e. 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 school's child safeguarding statement.
- 6 All registered teachers employed by the school are mandated persons under the Children First Act 2015
- 7 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
- 8 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

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.

9 This statement has been published on the school's website and has been provided to all members of school personnel 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.

10 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 11th March 2018

Signed: _____

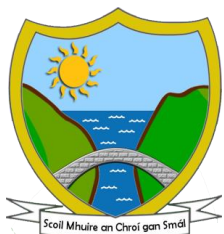
Chairperson of Board of Management

Signed: _____

Principal/Secretary to Board of Management

Date: _____

Date: _____



Scoil Mhuire an Chroí gan Smál, Leenane, Roll No.: 18490T

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

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 an Chroí gan Smál, Leenane, Co. Galway.

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 All Staff to view Túsla 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	Teaching Council Code of Conduct Glass in doors Child Safeguarding Statement
Toilet areas	High	Inappropriate behaviour	Procedures in place, one child at a time in toilets
Curricular Provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay safe.	Med	Non-teaching of same	School implements SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe in full as part of the school curriculum Staff training in same

All pupils	Low	Bullying	Anti-Bullying Policy Code of Behaviour (all parents receive a copy on enrolment and confirm this in writing).
Swimming	High	Harm by school personnel, pool staff or others	Procedures in place; Only Garda vetted school personnel and Garda Vetted pool staff in dressing rooms unless reason for so. At least 2 vetted persons in dressing rooms at all times, never with just 1 child. Child Safeguarding Statement
Sales Representatives	Low	Harm to pupils	All visitors must press doorbell to gain admittance All visitors must sign visitors book
Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils	Med	Harm from older pupils, unknown adults on the playground	Arrival and dismissal supervised by Teachers Children remain in yellow rectangle until collected by appropriate designated adult
Managing of challenging behaviour amongst pupils, including appropriate use of restraint	High	Injury to pupils and staff	Health & Safety Policy Code Of Behaviour
Sports Coaches	Med	Harm to pupils	Procedures in place; Coach not on own with children Garda Vetting
Students participating in work experience	Low	Harm by student	Procedures in place; Work experience policy; Students not on own with pupils Garda Vetting Child Safeguarding Statement.
Recreation breaks for pupils	High	Harm by pupils and school personnel	Supervision Policy Child safeguarding statement
Classroom teaching	Low	Harm by pupils and school personnel	Glass in doors Anti-Bullying Policy/ Code of Conduct Child Safeguarding Statement
Outdoor teaching activities	Med	Harm by pupils and school personnel	Child Safeguarding Statement Anti-Bullying policy/ code of conduct/code of behaviour
Sporting Activities	High	Harm by pupils, school personnel and unknown adults	Child Safeguarding Statement Tours and outings policy Procedures in place; Children supervised adequately

School outings	High	Harm by pupils, school personnel and unknown adults	Child Safeguarding Statement Tours and outings policy Procedures in place; Children supervised adequately
Fundraising events involving pupils	High	Harm by pupils, school personnel and unknown adults	Supervision Policy Child safeguarding statement
Use of off-site facilities for school activities	High	Harm by pupils, school personnel and unknown adults	Child Safeguarding Statement Procedures in place; More than one staff member present
Sacraments in school	Med	Harm to pupils	Garda Vetting Confessions to take place in office Glass in door
Administration of Medicine Administration of First Aid	High	Harm by school personnel	Administration of medicine policy Child Safeguarding policy Procedures in place; First aid administered in office in presence of another person
Children serving at Funerals/Weddings during school day	High	Harm to pupils	Garda Vetting Parental permission Escorting of servers from school to church and back by vetted person, ideally parent Two servers always for funerals/weddings Vetted person supervises in sacristy
Use of external personnel to supplement curriculum	Med	Harm by unknown adults	Code of conduct for external agencies – Sport and Art Procedures in place; External personnel never left on own with pupils Garda vetting

Recruitment of school personnel including - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teachers • SNA's • Caretaker/Secretary/Cleaners • Sports coaches • External Tutors/Guest Speakers • Volunteers/Parents in school activities 	med	Harm not recognised or properly or promptly report	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
Use of Information and Communication Technology by pupils in school	Med	Bullying	ICT policy Anti-Bullying Policy Code of Behaviour Supervision Policy
Application of sanctions under the school's Code of Behaviour including detention of pupils, confiscation of phones etc.	Med	Harm by school personnel	Supervision Policy Garda Vetting Code of Conduct/ Fitness to Teach
Student teachers undertaking training placement in school	Low	Harm by Students	Procedures in place; Garda vetted Student teacher never left on their own with class Child Safeguarding Statement
Use of video/photography/other media to record school events	Med	Harm by School personnel and others	Procedures in place; Pictures and names never appear together Parental permission obtained for photographs and displaying of children's work
Pupils completing jobs in school e.g. passing resources to different room, taking notes to office etc	Low	Harm by school personnel	Procedures in place; Pupils sent in pairs where necessary Child Safeguarding Statement
Pupil requiring assistance with toileting	Low	Harm by school personnel	Intimate care needs recorded in log positioned in disabled toilet area, noting time in/out, class teacher informed when intimate care needs being attended to by sna Child safeguarding statement

Extra Personal Vacation (EPV) days	Med	Harm by school personnel and students	Policy by BOM to pay for substitute cover for absent teacher
Absence of Special Needs Assistant (SNA)	High	Harm by school personnel and others	Substitute SNA to be employed, if no substitute available, child remains at home
Distance Learning while school is closed for exceptional reasons (Covid 19 Virus) and online/remote contact with children.	Med	Harm to Pupils Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children on I.E.Ds (Internet Enabled Devices) for accessing school work. Risk of harm in one-to-one teaching, phone call, counselling or coaching situation	GDPR protection of contacts of the school community-Official Staff Emails to be used to convey school information, planning and resources between teachers. Email Etiquette Policy between staff Website and Textaparent used to communicate with parents and pupils. Teachers will endeavour to check and use reputable websites for assigned work. DES Guidance on Distance Learning HSE Guidelines on Social Distancing Acceptable Use Policy-As per policy. Staff are not permitted to give own phone numbers or personal contact details to parents or pupils. Decision made at staff meeting on when to make contact with pupils via phone call.
Emailing the teacher	Med	Harm to Pupils Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children on I.E.Ds (Internet Enabled Devices) for accessing school work. Risk of harm in one-to-one teaching, phone call, counselling or coaching situation	During Covid 19, pupils will use their parents email account to contact their class teacher or learning support teacher. Initially, pupils will email one piece of work to the class teacher per week. They may also use this email address to contact the teacher with a question relating to work. Two teachers will monitor email account.

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 9th March 2018. It will be reviewed as part of the school’s annual review of its Child Safeguarding Statement.

Signed _____ Date _____
Chairperson of Board of Management

Signed _____ Date _____
School Principal / Secretary to Board of Management