



Naiscoil Íde Child Safeguarding Statement

Naiscoil Íde is a primary school providing primary education to pupils from Junior Infants to First 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 Naiscoil Íde 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: **Nora Mescal**
3. The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is: **Niamh Butler**
4. The Relevant Person is: Nora Mescal
(The relevant person is one who can provide information in respect of how the child safeguarding statement was developed and will provide the statement on request. In a school setting the relevant person shall be the designated liaison person)
5. 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


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 www.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 www.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
 - Ensures staff avail of relevant training
 - Encourages Board of Management members to avail of relevant training
 - Ensures 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.

- f) 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 in this Child Safeguarding Statement.
- g) The various procedures referred to in this Statement can be accessed via the school's website, the www.gov.ie website or will be made available on request by the school.
7. This statement has been published on the school's website and has been provided to all members of school personnel, the Parent Association and the patron. It is readily accessible to parents and guardians on the school website. 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 6th February 2018 and is reviewed every year.
 - This Child Safeguarding Statement was most recently reviewed by the Board of Management on September 25th 2023

Signed 
Chairperson, Board of Management

Date 25th September 2023

Signed 
Principal

Date 25/9/23

Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment of any potential 'harm' in Naíscóil Íde)

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 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 below to manage and reduce risk to the greatest possible extent.

Many of the procedures in place to address the risks of 'harm' can be found in the school policies. The school Management Team, on behalf of the Board of Management will ensure that all policies are adhered to.

This risk assessment has been completed by the Board of Management on 5th March 2018 and is reviewed as part of the school's annual review of its Child Safeguarding Statement.

List of School Activities	The School has identified the following Risk of Harm	The School has the following procedures in place to address risks identified in this assessment
Recruitment of school personnel including Teachers, SNAs, Caretaker, Secretary, Cleaners	Risk of pupils being harmed by a member of staff	Garda vetting will always be sought for new staff members while noting that this in itself is not a complete safeguard. Induction to include policies, procedures and practices with regard to child protection.
Training of school personnel in Child Protection matters	Risk of staff not being aware of the contents of the Child Safeguarding Statement Risk of staff not being aware of the Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools 2023 and the Children First Guidelines Risk that harm to a pupil would not be recognised or reported promptly	Child Safeguarding Statement, Children First and Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools 2023 are made available to all staff. All staff have completed the Tusla E-learning Programme for Child Protection. The DLP& DDLP have attended child protection training BOM members are encouraged to avail of relevant training.

		<p>The names of the DLP and DDLP are displayed in the main corridor</p> <p>Child protection templates from the Department of Education are used by the school when reporting child protection concerns</p> <p>A Principal's Oversight Report is given at each Board of Management meeting</p>
Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils	Risk of harm to a pupil from other pupils or unknown adults on the playground.	<p>Parents are informed at the beginning or end of each term that pupils must be supervised by parents/guardians, in the yard until 9 o'clock. Pupils are handed over to carers in the yard at 1.40 or supervised until pupils are collected (Health & Safety Policy)</p>
Classroom teaching	Risk of harm to a pupil by school personnel	<p>All teachers are expected to adhere to the Codes of Professional Conduct for Teachers as laid outlined by the Teaching Council. The core values of Respect, Care, Integrity and Trust underpin the work of the teacher in the practice of their profession.</p> <p>All staff must adhere to the Child Safeguarding Statement.</p> <p>Child Safeguarding Statement & DE procedures made available to all staff.</p> <p>Appropriate staff development and training provided.</p> <p>Visitors and volunteers in the classrooms must adhere to the school's Visitors' policy and policy on work placement.</p>
One to one teaching (Support teaching)	Risk of harm to a pupil by school personnel (teacher/teacher on placement)	<p>Every effort will be made to ensure that this teaching takes place in an open environment.</p> <p>Open doors or glass window in door will be in use.</p> <p>Parents of children who are to be involved in one-to-one teaching will be informed and their agreement sought.</p> <p>One to One Policy will be adhered to</p>

<p>One to one work by SNA with a pupil with SEN (in sensory room, water play area, staffroom, on corridors etc)</p>	<p>Risk of harm to a pupil by school personnel</p>	<p>Work being carried out by special needs assistants will be carried out under the direction of the class teacher in an open environment in so far as is possible.</p> <p>Open doors or glass window in door will be in use. Parents of children who are to be involved in one-to-one work will be informed and their agreement sought.</p>
<p>One to One work with Principal/Deputy Principal/Secretary.</p>	<p>Risk of harm to a pupil by school personnel</p>	<p>Every effort will be made to ensure that these interactions take place in an open environment, preferably with more than one child. There may be occasions when a child is on their own with a member of school personnel. The member of staff should follow the One to One policy.</p> <p>Open door or glass window in the door.</p> <p>All staff must adhere to the school's Child Safeguarding Statement.</p>
<p>Care of children with special needs, including intimate care needs</p>	<p>Risk of harm to a pupil by school personnel</p>	<p>Policy on Intimate Care.</p> <p>If a pupil has an 'accident' they will, in the first instance, be offered fresh clothing into which they can change. If the pupil 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 notified of such incidents.</p> <p>In exceptional circumstances, where a child has additional needs and may require urgent toileting, parental permission will be sought for one adult to attend to the child if other staff members are unavailable.</p>

Working with children for whom English is not their first language	Risk of a pupil not being able to make a disclosure if they were at risk	All staff must adhere to the Child Safeguarding Statement The One to One Policy will be adhered to. Parents of the pupil will be made aware that they should speak to the DLP (Principal) if any problem arises with the child.
Use of the toilets in the school	Risk of harm to a pupil by a member of school personnel or by another pupil while on the corridor en route to the toilets or while in the toilet area.	CCTV in operation on the corridors All external doors are alarmed and gates are locked during the day. Doors into the toilets in rooms 11-15 to be left open during the day. Toilet block timetable of twice a day for rooms 1-10 to be adhered to to minimise pupils going to toilet blocks unsupervised. Children with special needs will be accompanied to the toilet area. If a child needs assistance, two members of staff should be present. Parents notified of such incidents.
Pupils coming off the yard to use the toilet.	Risk of harm to a pupil by a member of school personnel (eg a teacher working in their classroom during lunch)	SNA/teacher stand at door to yard until pupil comes Doors kept closed to deter other pupils from going in. Staff adhere to the Child Safeguarding Statement and One to One policy
Curricular Provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay safe.	Risk of the non-teaching of SPHE	School and all teachers implement SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe in full (reflected in teachers' planning notes and cúntas míosúils)
Managing of challenging behaviour amongst pupils.	Risk of harm to a pupil by school personnel when a child is alone with a staff member (school refusal/ in breach of the code of behaviour/ on a movement break)	Staff will adhere to the following policies: One to One policy Behaviour of Concern Policy Appropriate use of <i>positive handling</i> . Health & Safety Policy Code of Behaviour

<p>Recreation breaks for pupils</p>	<p>Risk of harm to a pupil, while en route to the yard or while in the yard, from school personnel.</p> <p>Risk that harm to a pupil would not be recognised or properly or promptly reported</p> <p>Risk of harm to a pupil as a result of bullying</p> <p>Risk of harm to a pupil from school personnel if a child comes off the yard to use the toilet.</p>	<p>Staff will adhere to the following policies: Supervision Policy Health & Safety Policy Code of Behaviour Anti-Bullying Policy.</p> <p>During yard time, children will not be allowed to spend time in classrooms where they would not be under adult supervision. They are not to leave the yard or to engage with adults who are outside of the schoolyard. Gates are locked.</p> <p>SNA on each yard to stand at door beside toilets to ensure supervision of this area. If for any reason they need to leave this area they first inform the teacher who will stand at that door while the SNA moves away.</p> <p>If necessary, the teacher will close this door so unsupervised access to toilets is not allowed.</p> <p>Staff who come in contact with individual pupils during lunchtime will adhere to the school's Child Safeguarding Statement and One to One policy.</p>
<p>Outdoor teaching activities</p>	<p>Risk of harm to a pupil from school personnel or from non-school personnel</p>	<p>School personnel supervise children at all times. Child Safeguarding Statement & DE procedures made available to all staff. Appropriate staff development and training provided. If leaving the school grounds, the adult/child supervision ratio is adhered to and all volunteers are garda vetted.</p>
<p>Use of external personnel to supplement the curriculum</p>	<p>Risk of harm to a pupil from coaches/ music teachers/guest speakers/ priests.</p>	<p>Anyone working in the school to support the curriculum must be vetted. A teacher will properly supervise all such personnel at all times. The school has a responsibility to check out the credentials of the visitor/guest speaker and to ensure that the material in use by guests is appropriate. Guest speakers not left alone with pupils.</p>

Students participating in work experience – Student teachers/ TY students / SNAs	Risk of harm to a pupil from a student on work placement	Any work experience students must be garda vetted and must be under the supervision of a teacher at all times. They will adhere to the school's Child Safeguarding Statement.
School Photographer	Risk of harm to a pupil from school photographer	Photographer will be garda vetted and will adhere to the Visitors' policy. A member of staff will be present when the photographer is taking the school photographs
Professionals from external agencies (NEPS, NCSE, CNDT, HSE, Social workers, nurses, dentists) working with pupils	Risk of harm to a pupil from professionals from outside agencies.	All such professionals from Government Departments are garda vetted with their own Department. This will be confirmed. The One to One policy will be adhered to. A member of staff will be present when the professional is working with a pupil. If they are working with the child on an individual basis (eg in the case of an assessment), parental consent will be sought.
School tours/educational trips	Risk of harm to pupils by non-school personnel	School personnel supervise pupils at all times, in so far as is practicable. Trips undertaken only to venues with child protection in place and staff who are vetted. Transport must also be checked for adherence to safety standards – seat belts, insurance, and vehicle certification. Pupils never transported in staff cars. All volunteers/parents accompanying a class must be garda vetted. Adult/child supervision ratio adhered to.
Volunteers/Parents	Risk of harm to pupils by volunteers/parents/members of the PA	Anyone being considered to assist in a voluntary capacity in the school (who will have any contact with the pupils) must be vetted. A teacher will supervise such personnel at all times.
Visitors	Risk of child being harmed in the school by visitor	All visitors to the school are required to sign a Visitors' book. Visitors entering the school will be accompanied and supervised in the discharge of their business. Non-school personnel should not be on the corridors unaccompanied at any time as individual pupils may be on the corridors throughout the day en route to the toilet.

Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst pupils	Risk of harm to a pupil due to bullying	Children are encouraged at all times to play co-operatively and inappropriate behaviour will be addressed under our Code of Behaviour. Bullying behaviour will be addressed under our Anti-Bullying policy. If an incident occurs which we consider to be of a sexualised nature or regarded as being particularly abusive, the matter will be referred to the DLP who will respond to it appropriately.
Use of toilets by non-school personnel during the school day	Risk of harm being harmed by a member of the public.	No one permitted to use children's toilets during school time
If a Critical Incident occurs in the school	Risk of harm to a pupil from emergency personnel, NEPS, volunteers who are not vetted	Even if a critical incident occurs, only professionals and volunteers who are garda vetted will work with the children, The school will draw up a wellbeing policy this year
Administration of Medication/ First Aid	Risk of harm to pupil from school personnel when medicine or first aid treatment is being administered.	Administration of medication policy to be followed. Accidents will be recorded and will be addressed as part of Health and Safety and the school Accident/Injury Policy. All staff are trained in first aid. When a child is being treated the staff member will adhere to the school's Child Safeguarding Statement and One to One policy (if applicable).
Attendance	Risk that non-attendance is a sign of child protection concerns	Our school attendance will be monitored as per our attendance strategy. With regards to child protection, we will pay particular attention to trends in non-attendance. We will also monitor non-attendance in correlation with signs of neglect/physical-emotional abuse. Children who are absent for 20 days will be reported to the NEWB.

Use of Information and Communication Technology by pupils in school	Risk of harm to pupils from inappropriately accessing/using computers, social media, phones and other devices while at school	The following policies will be adhered to: ICT policy, Anti-Bullying Policy, Code of Behaviour Acceptable Use Policy. Children not to have mobile phones in school. Filter level not to be interfered with. No auto-play to be used. You tube blocked.
Care of pupils with specific vulnerabilities/ needs such as: -Pupils from ethnic minorities/migrants -Members of the travelling community -Lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender (LGBT) pupils -Pupils of minority religious faiths -Children in care -Children on CPNS (Child Protection Notification System) -Children with medical needs	Risk of harm to pupils with specific vulnerabilities from school personnel or other pupils (bullying)	Bullying behaviour will be addressed under the school's Anti-Bullying policy. If the behaviour involved is of a sexualised nature or regarded as being particularly abusive then the matter will be referred to the DLP.
Use of video/photography/other media to record school events.	Risk of harm to pupils if pictures/videos are posted on social media sites	Parents' permission is sought for children's photographs to be uploaded to website or taken by school photographer/newspaper. Parents are requested not to post photographs of school events on social media sites. School follows the AUP Policy. Pupils are not permitted to have smart phones or equivalent devices in school
All Activities	Risk of harm to a pupil due to inadequate supervision of pupils in school	All staff to ensure that there is a comprehensive supervision of pupils at all times. At no time will a class, group of children or a child be left unsupervised.
Use of the school for after school clubs/Summer camps	Risk of children being harmed during the club/camp	Permission to run After School Clubs granted with conditions, one of which is to adopt without modification Child Safeguarding Statement of Naíscoil Íde.

Remote online teaching	Risk of potential exposure to inappropriate content	Parents are informed of their responsibility to supervise their children while they work online
Cleaning of the school	Risk of harm to a pupil by a member of cleaning staff	Cleaning of the school will take place after all children have left the premises
Workmen (postmen, IT technicians, alarm company, ESB, Initial etc)	Risk of harm to a pupil from non-school personnel	The Visitors Policy will be adhered to. All visitors must sign in. Workmen will be encouraged to visit the school when the children are not in the building. In exceptional circumstances, if that is not possible, the visitor will be accompanied by a member of staff at all times.
Data Protection for pupils	Risk of pupil's personal data not being protected	School follows the data protection policy The school seeks permission from parents/guardians for the publication of pupils' work and photographs

Signed *John Swords*
Chairperson, Board of Management

Date *25th September 2023*

Signed *Nora Mescol*
Principal

Date *25th September '23*