Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment

For:	**Scoil Treasa Naomha, Tynock**
At:	**Tynock, Kiltegan, Co. Wicklow. W91 TFN5**

This school is a: (tick appropriate) ☒primary ☐post-primary ☐ special school

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) and 2025, Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025 and Child Safeguarding: A Guide for Policy, Procedure and Practice, 2nd ed. (Tusla, 2024), the board of management has adopted the Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment 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 Schools 2025 as part of this overall Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment.

Name of the Designated Liaison Person (DLP):

Aisling Grace

Name of the Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP/DDLP):

Dawn McCall

In the absence of the DLP, the Deputy DLP shall assume responsibilities of the DLP

Name of Chairperson of the board of management, or in an ETB school the Chief Executive or their delegate:

Nigel Byrne

In the event that both DLP and DDLP are absent and unavailable, and where there is no staff member formally acting in their role, the chairperson of the board of management, or in an ETB school the chief executive or their delegate, assumes the role of DLP.

The board of management recognises that child protection and safeguarding permeate all aspects of school life and must be reflected in all of the school's policies, procedures, practices and activities. In all of these, 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 happening to children and protect members of school personnel from the necessity to take unnecessary risks that may leave themselves open to accusations of child abuse.
- ☐ Develop a practice of openness with parents and encourage parental involvement in the education of their children.
- ☐ Fully respect confidentiality requirements as set out in the Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025 in dealing with child protection matters.
- ☐ Adhere to the above principles in relation to any vulnerable adult.

Procedures and Measures in Place

Our Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment has been developed in line with requirements under the Children First Act 2015, the *Children First: National Guidance 2017*, and *Child Safeguarding: A Guide for Policy, Procedure and Practice, 2nd ed. (Tusla, 2024),* and the *Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025.* In addition to the procedures listed in our risk assessment, the following procedures support our intention to safeguard children while they are availing of our service:

> Procedure for the Management of Allegations of Abuse or Misconduct against School Personnel Relating to a Child Availing of Our Service

~ Where any member of school personnel is the subject of any investigation in respect of any act, omission or circumstance in relation to a child attending the school, the school is required to adhere to the relevant procedures set out in Chapter 7 of *the Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025* and to the relevant agreed disciplinary procedures for school staff which are published on the gov.ie website.

> Procedure for the Safe Recruitment and Selection of School Personnel to Work With Children

~ The school is required to adhere to the requirements of the Vetting Act. The selection or recruitment of staff and their suitability to work with children, requires the school to adhere 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 Youth and available on the gov.ie website and as outlined in Chapter 10 of the procedures.

~ A written protocol is in place authorising immediate action for cases which require an employee to be immediately absented from school for child safeguarding reasons.

> Procedure for Provision of and Access to Child Safeguarding Training and Information, Including the Identification of the Occurrence of Harm

~ The school provides information and training to members of school personnel in relation to the identification of the occurrence of harm (as defined in the 2015 Act) as follows:

~ The school has provided each member of school personnel, including any new members of school personnel, (employees and volunteers, board of management members, student teachers and those on work experience) with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment.

~ The school ensures that members of school personnel have availed of relevant training and completed child protection training.

~ The school encourages board of management members to avail of any relevant training and complete child protection training.

~ The board of management ensures that records of all staff and board member child protection training are maintained.

> Procedure for the Reporting of Child Protection or Welfare Concerns to Tusla

~ All members of school personnel are required to adhere to the procedures set out in the *Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025*, in relation to reporting of child protection concerns to Tusla. Mandated reporting applies to all registered teachers and any other mandated person who may be employed by the school, for example a chaplain or nurse. A full list of those people who are mandated persons is set out in Appendix 1 procedures.

> Procedure for Maintaining a List of the Persons (if any) in the Relevant Service Who Are Mandated Persons

~ There is a procedure in place to maintain a list of mandated persons. Schools may on occasion employ additional staff who are mandated by virtue of their profession. This list will include all registered teachers and identify additional employees that are not registered teachers.

> Procedure for Appointing a Relevant Person (In schools this person is the DLP)

~ There is a procedure in place for appointing a relevant person.

The various procedures referred to in this Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment can be accessed via the school's website, the gov.ie website or will be made available on request by the school.

In accordance with the Children First Act 2015, the Addendum to Children First 2019 and 2025, and the *Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025,* the board of management 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.

Note: The procedures and measures in place outlined above, are not intended as exhaustive list. Individual boards of management shall also include in this section such other procedures and measures that are of relevance to the school.

This statement has been published on the school's website or will be made available on request by the school. It has been provided to all members of school personnel, the parents' association (if any), the patron and parents. A copy of this statement and risk assessment will be made available to Tusla and the department if requested.

This Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment will be reviewed annually or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which this statement refers.

Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
1.	1. Daily Arrival and dismissal of pupils.	Risk of harm from older pupils or unknown adults on the playground	• Children should not be dropped to the school before 8.50am. Teachers will circulate the front of the school from this time onwards. • Teachers must be informed in advance if children are to be collected early from school. Children must be signed out by a parent-approved adult in the book. • Teachers walk their class to the gate at home time. Parents must collect their children at the gate. • SEN teachers will also be present at home time to help substitute teachers with the dismissal of pupils. • The school has a supervision policy to ensure safe arrival and dismissal of pupils.
2.	Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst pupils.	School based bullying, verbal, physical or psychological.	• Bí Cinealta policy in place • The policy is displayed on our school website to inform parents. • Restorative practices implemented throughout the school to investigate and resolve conflict e.g. restorative circles, peer mediation. • Anti-bullying procedures available to inform parents as to the steps being followed. • Anti-bullying lessons are carried out in the second term each year to promote a culture of respect, friendship and kindness. • Promotion of a culture of openness and respect in which students can approach staff to discuss concerns and worries.

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
			• Adequate supervision is provided to ensure codes are being followed.
3.	One to one teaching/ Classroom teaching	Risk of harm in one-to-one teaching, /group teaching, counselling, coaching situation	• Glass panels are installed in the doors of all classrooms. • Parents are informed and provide written consent if children are withdrawn from class on a regular basis e.g. for learning support, resource or movement breaks.
4.	Training of school Personnel in child Protection matters.	Risk of harm not been recognised or reported promptly	• Child Safeguarding Statement & DES procedures made available to all staff • DLP& DDLP have attended face to face training on the new Child Protection Procedures. • All staff have attended training on the new Child Protection Procedures. • All Staff to view Túsla training module & any other online training offered by PDST • Encourages board of management members to avail of relevant training. • BOM records all records of staff and board training.
5.	Use of external personnel to supplement curriculum e.g. music teachers, sports coaches, guest speakers etc. to the school.	Risk of harm in one-to-one teaching, /group teaching, counselling, coaching situation	• Visitors to the school must check in at the office or with the principal. • The front entrance to the school has a coded keypad and so visitors must be provided with access by a staff member. • Regular visitors to the school e.g. external teachers, guest speakers are Garda vetted and a copy of their Garda vetting is provided to the school.

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
			• Persons administering external programmes (e.g. GAA) through another body will provide the school with a copy of their Garda vetting and any appropriate insurance. • Children are closely supervised by staff members during all school events in which visitors are invited into the school e.g. Sports Day, School Performances, Grandparent's Day. • The school has in place a policy for the use of external sports coaches and for the use of external persons to supplement the delivery of the curriculum.
6.	Care of Children with special educational needs, including intimate care where needed.	Risk of harm to children with SEN who have particular vulnerabilities. Risk of harm to a child while child is receiving intimate care. Harm by school personnel.	• The school has a Special Educational Needs Policy. • The school has an intimate care policy/plan – this will need to be reviewed should we have an enrolment of a pupil who requires such care.
7.	Use of toilet/changing area in school	Inappropriate behaviour Risk of harm to child while a child is receiving intimate care.	• The school has a supervision policy in place. • If a child needs to have clothes changed after a toilet accident they will be given oral guidance from the door. A second adult will be in view.
8.	Curricular Provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay safe.	Non-teaching of same	• The school implements in full the Stay Safe and RSE Programmes. • The school implements in full the SPHE curriculum.
9.	Managing of challenging behaviour amongst pupils including restraint	Injury to pupils and staff	• The school has a Health & Safety Policy and a Code of Behaviour in place. • Staff are familiar with the RELATE document. • Where necessary an IBP will be developed for pupils presenting with challenging behaviour.

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
10.	Students participating in work experience and teachers undertaking training placement in the school.	Risk of harm due to inappropriate relationship/communications/contact between a child and an adult.	• The school has in place a policy in respect of students undertaking work experience and student teacher placements in the school.
11.	Recreation breaks for pupils	Risk of child being harmed in the school by another child. Risk of harm to child due to inadequate supervision of children in school.	• The school have in place a yard/playground supervision procedures to ensure appropriate supervision of children during assembly, dismissal and breaks in respect of specific area such as toilets etc. • There is a Code of Behaviour in place which is reviewed annually.
12.	Afterschool Club	Risk of child being harmed in the school by a member of school personnel. Risk of child being harmed in the school by another child.	• Garda Vetting Procedures are followed • Bí Cinealta policy in place • Child Safeguarding and Child Protection training in place. • There is a Code of Behaviour in place which is reviewed annually.
13.	School events held outside the school grounds, e.g. school tours, swimming lessons, sports event's, concerts etc.	Risk of child being harmed by a member of school personnel, a member of staff of another organisation or other person while child participating in out of school activities. E.g. school trip, swimming lessons.	**Swimming:** • Children will be brought by bus to the swimming pool. • Children will be the responsibility of teaching staff and assisted by SNAs. There will be three adults in attendance at all times. • Staff will not enter dressing area alone, other than in exceptional circumstances when dealing with injury or following an accident. • Specific arrangements will be put in place in agreement with parents for managing the care needs of special needs pupils. These arrangements will be recorded as part of the care needs plan.

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
			Other events: • The school has in place a policy and clear procedures in respect of school outings. • Parental consent is provided to attend any external events. • Pupil teacher ratio is reduced for school tours to maximise the supervision of children. • Pupils are closely supervised by staff when transitioning from one area to another (e.g. going to the toilets, going to and from the bus) and when interacting with staff and/or volunteers from the establishment they are visiting.
14.	Administration of Medicine	That correct administration is not followed in terms of procedure or dosage	• The school have procedures in place for the administration of Medicine. This includes signed permission and guidance from parents/guardians. • Staff undertake certified First Aid training every two years.
15	Administration of First Aid	Risk of harm/infection to a pupil or staff member administering assistance.	• Accidents and injuries that occur on the premises shall be managed in accordance with the Health and Safety Statement • Staff undertake certified First Aid training every two years.
16.	Recruitment of school personnel including - • Teachers • SNA's • Caretaker/Secretary/Cleaners	Risk of harm due to inappropriate relationship/communications/contact between a child and an adult.	• Child Safeguarding Statement & DES procedures made available to all staff • Staff to view Tusla training module & any other online training offered by Oide • Vetting Procedures will be followed.

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17.	Volunteers/Parents in school activities	Risk of harm due to inappropriate relationship/communications/contact between a child and an adult.	• Vetting Procedures will be followed. • Training to be sourced from the NPC for the Parents Association. • No volunteers or parents will work at activities taking place during the school day without the classroom teacher present. • Child Protection procedures in place.
18.	Visitors/contractors present in school during school hours	Risk of harm due to inappropriate relationship/communications/contact between a child and an adult.	• Vetting Procedures will be followed. • No visitors will be working/demonstrating/presenting in the classroom during the school day without the class teacher present. • Child Protection procedures in place.
19.	Summer Camp	Bullying Risk of harm not been recognised or reported promptly Injury to pupils and staff	• Garda Vetting Procedures are followed • Bí Cinealta policy in place • Child Safeguarding and Child Protection training in place. • There is a Code of Behaviour in place which is reviewed annually. • Staff take part in DEIS Summer Camp training.
20.	Use of Information and Communication Technology by pupils in school	Bullying Exposure to inappropriate online content	• The school has in place a mobile phone and devices policy in respect of the usage of mobile phones and devices in school – this is covered in our Code of Behaviour. • The use of ICT and devices are guided by the Acceptable Use Policy. • The school has in place an Anti-Bullying Policy.

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
			• Use of electronic devices, e.g. tablets, laptops cameras is monitored and supervised by adults. • The school internet is provided by the Schools broadband programme which is monitored for appropriate content and unsuitable websites blocked.
21.	Application of sanctions under the school's Code of Behaviour including detention of pupils, confiscation of phones etc.	Risk of harm due to inadequate code of behaviour.	• The school has in place a code of behaviour for pupils which is reviewed annually. • Staff discuss this Code annually to make sure all are familiar with its contents.
22.	Use of video/photography/other media to record school events	Risk of harm caused by a member of school personnel accessing/circulating inappropriate material via social media, texting, digital device or another manner.	• Written parental permission to take photos of children is obtained by the school when parents are enrolling their child. • Class teachers are made aware of any children in his or her class who do not have permission to be in school photos. • Photos taken by staff are removed from personal devices at the end of each school week. Photos are stored securely by the school online storage space or a school USB key. • Children's names are not published with photos uploaded to the school website. • Children are not permitted to use electronic devices (e.g. iPad's, cameras, personal devices) unless under the supervision of an adult. • Children are not permitted to use camera phones during the school day or at school events.
23.	Fundraising events involving pupils	Risk of harm due to inappropriate relationship/communications/contact between a child and an adult.	• Vetting Procedures will be followed. • Training to be sourced from the NPC for the Parents Association.

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			• No volunteers or parents will work at activities taking place during the school day without the classroom teacher present. • Child Protection procedures in place.
24.	School Transport Arrangements	Risk of harm due to inappropriate relationship/communications/contact between a child and an adult.	• Written permission is sought from parents where transport is arranged for trips to the church, blitzes etc. • Child Protection procedures in place.
25.	Management of the provision of food and drink	Risk of harm due to incorrect preparation of food resulting in food not being the adequate temperature. Risk of harm due to contamination of food while being prepared.	• Food safety Guidelines in place • Glanmore foods regularly check probes are working • Ovens are serviced annually • School staff follow all guidelines as provided by Glanmore foods in the preparation of meals. • No children are permitted in the food preparation area.
26	Visitors within the school for school events – eg. Grandparents Day, Junior Infant Welcome Day	Risk of harm due to inappropriate relationship/communications/contact between a child and an adult.	• Vetting Procedures will be followed. • No volunteers or parents will work at activities taking place during the school day without the classroom teacher present. • Child Protection procedures in place.
27	Children in Care	Risk of harm due to collection procedures not being followed. Tension between parties regarding child collection and or care arrangements.	• There is a sign out book present in school which means all children cannot be collected without signing out. This provides opportunity to make sure all care orders or other such family law documents are adhered to. • Staff will be provided with any relevant information they need to ensure arrangements in any such documents are adhered to.

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
			• The Principal and Deputy Principal will communicate with the relevant social worker where necessary.
28	Children of different sexual orientations or perceived to be	Risk of harm due to commenting, name calling, bullying. Risk of harm due to child feeling unsupported.	• Bí Cinealta policy in place • Child Safeguarding and Child Protection training in place. • There is a Code of Behaviour in place which is reviewed annually. • Staff to teach Stay safe and RSE programmes.

Online Safety

The *Addendum to Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children 2017* published in January 2019 clarifies that organisations providing relevant services to children should consider the specific issue of online safety when carrying out their risk assessment and preparing their Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment.

The Guidance on Continuity of Schooling for primary and post-primary schools (April 2020) advises of the importance of teachers maintaining the safe and ethical use of the internet during distance learning and assisting parents and guardians to be aware of their role also. Schools should ensure that their Acceptable Use Policy (AUP) informs and guides remote or distance learning activity.

In accordance with Section 11 of the Children First Act 2015 and with the requirements of Chapter 9 of the Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025, the following is the written Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment.

Risk in the context of this Child Safeguarding Statement and 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 the Children First Act 2015: 'harm' means, in relation to a child—(a) assault, ill-treatment or neglect of the child in a manner that seriously affects or is likely to seriously affect the child's health, development or welfare, or (b) sexual abuse of the child, whether caused by a single act, omission or circumstance or a series or combination of acts, omissions or circumstances, or otherwise.

In undertaking this Child Safeguarding Statement and 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 Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment was reviewed by the board of management on _____ *(most recent review date)*

Signed:*		**Date**: 13-5-2026

Chairperson of the board of management

Signed:*		**Date**: 13.5.2026

Principal/Secretary to the board of management

This Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment is expected to be reviewed again on _____ *(expected review date)*
Document to be printed and signed with original signatures

Appendix - Location of copies of the Child Protection Procedures and Children First Guidance

This may be in the form of specifying the online location for the procedures (Department of Education and Youth website www.gov.ie/childprotectionschools and/or the school website), providing a link to the Children First National Guidance 2017 Children_First_National_Guidance_2017.pdf, and stating the number and location of hard copies of these procedures available in the school.

There are two hard copies of the Child Protection Procedures in our school

- Desk of Aisling Grace
- In a file in the staffroom marked Child Protection