Scoil Lios Teilic

Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment

Child Safeguarding Statement

Scoil Lios Teilic 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 (revised 2023) and Tusla Guidance on the preparation of Child Safeguarding Statements, the Board of Management of Scoil Lios Teilic 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 **Rosemarie Lawlor**

3. The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is **Karan O'Driscoll**

4. The Relevant Person is **Rosemarie Lawlor.**

5. 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.

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 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 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
    - 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 (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
- 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 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 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.

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 September 2024

This Child Safeguarding Statement was reviewed by the Board of Management on September 2024

Signed: Frances Day **Signed:** Rosemarie Lawlor **Date**

Chairperson Principal/Secretary to the Board

Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment

Written Assesment of Risk in Scoil Lios Teilic

In accordance with section11 of the Children First Act 2015 and with the requirement of Chapter 8 of the Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools (revised 2023), the following is the Written Risk Assessment of Scoil Lios Teilic

1. List of School Activities	2. The School has identified the following risk of harm in respect of its activities -	3. The School has the following procedures in place to address risk identified in this assessment -
School Staff		
Training of school personnel in Child Protection matters	Harm not recognised or reported promptly	Child Safeguarding Statement & DES procedures made available to all staff DLP& DDLP to attend OIDE face to face training All Staff to view Túsla training module & any other online training offered by OIDE BOM records all records of staff and board training
Classroom teaching	Harm by school personnel	Child Safeguarding Statement All teachers Garda Vetted Teachers are advised not to speak to a pupil alone
One to one teaching	Harm by school personnel	Table between teacher and pupil Glass in door and or window through which teacher and pupils are visible Another member of staff knows where the pupil is at all times
Substitute/Temporary Teachers covering for teachers on sick leave, maternity leave, parental leave or other type of leave	Harm to pupils	Child Safeguarding Statement made available to the substitute teacher All substitute teachers Garda Vetted and have a statutory declaration. References are checked if appropriate. Substitute teachers are advised not to speak to a pupil alone

Pupils in the office with an adult	Harm to pupils	Desk between adult and pupil Glass in window and door through which adult and pupil are visible
Transitions year and IT Students participating in work experience in school	Harm to pupils	Child Safeguarding Statement All students over 16 years are Garda Vetted by their organisation and there is a joint vetting agreement in place between the organisation and the school.
Student teachers participating in teaching practice in school	Harm to pupils	Child Safeguarding Statement All students are Garda Vetted by their organisation and there is a joint vetting agreement in place between the organisation and the school Class Teacher remains with the student teacher at all times
School nurse	Harm to pupils	Garda vetted by HSE Two nurses come to examine pupils usually Nurse takes two or more pupils at a time. Glass in window and door through which nurse and pupils can be seen
Educational Psychologist assessing a pupil	Harm to pupils	Garda vetted by NEPS Table between psychologist and pupil Glass in door and window through which psychologist and pupil are visible
School Photographer	Harm to pupils	Garda vetted by diocese for school Two female assistants accompany him and one stays with him at all times Glass in windows and door through which photographer and pupils can be seen
Sport coaches coming in to teach rugby, football, hurling,	Harm to pupils	Child Safeguarding Statement All coaches are Garda Vetted by their organisation and there is a joint vetting agreement in place between the organisation and the school Class Teacher remains with the sports coach at all times
Use of external personnel to supplement the curriculum e.g. drumming teacher, dancing teacher, Zumba teacher,	Harm to pupils	Child Safeguarding Statement All personnel are Garda Vetted Class Teacher remains with the person at all times
Care of Children with special needs, including intimate care needs	Harm by school personnel	Regular review of pupil needs Pupil personal plans for pupils with intimate care needs Advice sought from special needs support service

Curricular Provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay safe.	Non-teaching of same	School implements SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe in full All teachers are reminded when Stay Safe is to be taught – 2nd term each year.
Pupils outside of the Classroom		
Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils	Harm from older pupils, adults in the playground	Arrival and dismissal supervised by Teacher . SNA on yard as well.. Parents are asked to drop their children in the mornings to the basketball court where pupils are supervised by a teacher from 08.30am. Teacher rota in place. All teachers furnished with a copy of the rota. .
Sos and lunch times	Adults entering the playground, harm by other pupils	Supervision at all break times by 1 teacher on each yard. Access to yards is limited to adults due to fencing and gates. Yard rules Teacher on duty escorts children to their classroom.
Toilet areas	Inappropriate behaviour, adult entering the toilet	Atmosphere of reporting inappropriateness is encouraged. Jun & Sen infants are called and supervised before break time going to the toilet. Toilets are in all classrooms. Senior classes go to the toilet during eating. There are specific toilets assigned to staff and visiting adults.
Pupils walking around the school on messages/with medals/going to the office when sick	Harm to pupil by unknown adult	Front door is locked magnetically Pupils are always in twos Sent to the office etc close to break time only with adequate time to return class before the break
School Tours	Harm to pupil Venues /destinations are checked for appropriateness	Two teacher travel accompanied by SNA where applicable with each class on school tour. Only parents who are Garda vetted for Scoil Lios Tellic are allowed to accompany classes on tour.
Practices in the Church for Confession, Confirmation & First Communion St Brendan's day & Holy day masses	Harm to pupils	Two teachers and a SNA where applicable travel to the church with the class. The class are supervised at all times. Choir supervised by a teacher.
Management of Pupils in School		

LGBT Children/Pupils perceived to be LGBT	Bullying	Anti-Bullying Policy Code of Behaviour
Managing of challenging behaviour amongst pupils	Injury to pupils and staff	Health & Safety Policy Code Of Behaviour Anti Bullying Policy NEPS and other outside agencies behavioural intervention recommendations. Working with parents and all stakeholders.
Administration of Medicine Administration of First Aid	Harm to pupil	Administration of medicine policy Teacher, SNA, secretary not to administer First aid or medicine alone. Check with doctor if in doubt.
Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst pupils	Harm to pupil	Anti-bullying policy Bí Cinnealta Guidelines. Code of Behaviour CPD for all staff. Education of pupils, , parents and all stakeholders to heighten awareness
	Bullying	AUP policy Anti-Bullying Policy Anti-bullying policy Bí Cinnealta Guidelines. Code of Behaviour CPD for all staff. Education of pupils, parents and all stakeholders to heighten awareness.
Use of technology for online teaching and remote learning, e.g. Zoom	Bullying, Harm to pupil	AUP policy – this policy includes a remote teaching and learning plan with clearly outlined protocols for parents, pupils and staff. Code of Behaviour and Anti-bullying policy CPD for all staff. Education of pupils to heighten awareness CPD for all staff. Education of pupils, parents and all stakeholders to heighten awareness. Bí Cinnealta Guidelines.

Use of video/photography/other media to record school events	Bullying, harm to pupils	Data protection policy Permission from parents to take and use photographs of their child on POD enrolment form Parents are asked at concerts/events not to share those photos on social media but to use for their own personal family.

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*