Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment



2024 - 2025

Principal: Tony Riley **August' 2024- June' 2025** **Roll Number: 17479D**



Scoil Mhuire Lacken Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment

Scoil Mhuire Lacken 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 Mhuire National School 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 Tony Riley, Principal.

3. The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is Lisa Lynch, Deputy Principal.

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- The various procedures referred to in this Statement can be accessed via, the gov.ie website or will be made available on request by the school.
- This statement has been published on the school's website, is displayed in the school 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.

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.

7. 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 23/9/24 **(date).**

Signed: _____ **Signed:** _____

Chairperson of Board of Management **Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management**

Date: 23/9/24

Written Assessment of Risk of Scoil Mhuire National School

In accordance with section 11 of the Children First Act 2015 and with the requirements 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 Mhuire Lacken National School.

Roll No: 17479D	**List of School Activities**	**Risk Level**	**The school has identified the following Risks of Harm**	**The school has the following procedures in place to address risks identified in this assessment**
Board of Management	Familiarisation and Training of all BOM members in up dated Child Protection Procedures	MED	*Harm not being recognised or reported in accordance with procedures.*	• Copy of DES 'Child Protection Procedures for Primary & Post Primary Schools (revised 2023) by email to each BOM Member. • Copy of Circular 0036/2023 by email to all BOM members. • New Members of the BOM to avail of online child protection training. • All BOM Members to undertake TUSLA online training module and certification. • Child Safeguarding Statement and Child Safeguarding Risk Audit & Assessment to be undertaken and ratified by BOM. • Record of Board of management members training and certification to be retained by the BOM. • CPOR to be provided at each BOM meeting.

School Staff	Familiarisation and training of all school staff in updated 2017 Child Protection Procedures Teachers, SNAs, Ancillary Staff	MED	*Harm not recognised or reported in accordance with procedures.*	• ISM Meeting to become familiar with C. 0036/2023 • School Staff made aware of their obligations under Children First 2015 and revised procedures and responsibilities. • DES 'Child Protection Procedures for Primary & Post Primary Schools (revised 2023) by email for each staff member. • Staff to undertake Túsla online training and receive certification. • Staff to participate in Oide online training and be familiar with Child Safeguarding Statement and School Safeguarding Risk Audit and procedures. • DLP & DDLP to attend PDST child protection training 2023/2024.
Recruitment of Staff/ Volunteers	Recruitment of school personnel ie Teachers, SNA's, Ancillary Staff, Sports Coaches, External Tutors/Guest Speakers etc Volunteers/Parents for school activities ie Maths for Fun and other activities.	MED	*Harm not recognised or reported in accordance with procedures.*	• Child Safeguarding Statement & DES procedures available to all staff • Vetting of school staff • Vetting of volunteers (as appropriate) • Vetting of all coaches or obtaining link to vetting and contract agreement • Vetting documentation presented in advance for outside speakers, HSE personnel etc. • Vetting of volunteers (as appropriate) • Meeting with parents, volunteers in advance of activity

				• Guidance for Parents' Association volunteers - fundraising events • Pupils under supervision of teachers – never in care of volunteers
Entry and Dismissal of Children	Morning entry and home time dismissal of pupils	MED	*Unknown adults in the school grounds before school.* *Inappropriate behaviour of students in yard.*	• School gates/ doors open @9.20am- children walk to their assigned entry point. • Parents/ Guardians do not enter school grounds; children walk to their assigned doors. • Children arriving by bus are escorted by teacher from bus to school door. • Children arriving by car remain in car until the school bell is rung at 9.20am. • Children going home at 2.00pm are collected at the front gate of the school by a parent or guardian. • Children going home at 3.00pm by car are met by parent/guardian. • Children going home by bus at 3.00pm are escorted by teacher from school door to bus. • Non-collected children are supervised by teaching staff – parents contacted as necessary.
Curricular Provision	Curricular provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe.	MED	*Non-teaching of the curriculum and relevant lessons.*	• School implements SPHE as curricular subject taught in all classes as per SPHE Plean Scoile.

	Use of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) by children and school staff during school day.	MED	*Inappropriate use of school internet - pupils exposed to inappropriate online content or messaging. Inappropriate recording of staff or pupils.*	• RSE 'sensitive' lessons taught in classes as per RSE policy. • Stay Safe programme taught in a 2 year cycle in all classes. • Acceptable Use policy for ICT for Pupils and school staff. • Data Protection Policy. • Use of Mobile phones is not permitted in school by pupils. Supervision of pupils while using computers, tablets etc.
Teaching and Learning	Classroom teaching. One to one teaching. Outdoor teaching ie PE/Sports etc.	MED	*Harm not recognised or reported in accordance with procedures. Inadequate supervision.*	• Daily recording of pupil attendance in roll books (online). • Supervision of pupils when being coached by outside coaches. • Child Safeguarding Statement and DES procedures. • Parental permission obtained for one-to-one teaching. • Mobile phone & electronic device policy.
	Care of pupils with specific vulnerabilities/needs based on race, disability, religion etc.	MED	*Harm not recognised or reported in accordance with procedures.*	• Child Safeguarding Statement and DES procedures. • Anti-bullying policy.

	Use of video/ photography/other media to record school events.	MED	*Online posting of school images and pupils and staff*	• Acceptable Use Policy. • Before school events parents will be advised that recordings etc are for personal use and not for uploading onto social media sites. • Use of school iPads to record events.
Special Education Needs (SEN)	Care of pupils with SEN including intimate care needs.	MED	*Harm by school personnel.*	• School has a Child Protection Guidance Document & policy for school staff on areas such as one to one teaching, toileting, care needs etc. • Two members of staff to always accompany children in individual toileting/dressing situations.
	Managing challenging behaviour including appropriate use of restraint.	MED	*Harm by school personnel.* *Injury to pupils and staff.*	• Minimum restraint necessary. • At least two staff members present if possible. • Parents contacted immediately. • Health & Safety Policy. • Code of Behaviour.
Medical Emergencies	Administration of First Aid Treatment by staff.	MED	*Harm by school personnel.*	• Supervision of children on yard.

and First Aid	Administration of Medication by staff.			• First Aid box accessible to each classroom. • First Aid Procedures - teacher on duty at yard looks after injured children – records injuries in appropriate notebook. • Nut Allergies -All staff have training in application of epi pen. • Nut allergy: staff informed about children and information regarding epi pen. • Administration of Medication documents re procedures in individual cases (asthma etc) to be ratified by BoM as required.
Coaches & Speakers & Visitors to the school for curricular purposes	Use of external personnel to support the delivery of the curriculum.	MED	*Harm to pupils due to inappropriate behaviour / Communication.*	• Supervision of children by staff. • Class Teacher always present • Vetting in accordance with CPSMA and DES regulations.
Behaviour & Supervision of pupils during school hours	Recreation Breaks and Lunch breaks and yard time.	MED MED	*Inappropriate behaviour / Communication with children.* *Inappropriate*	• Teacher and SNA on duty in the yard. • Staff on duty and circulating in all play areas. • Child not to remain in the classroom unsupervised. • One child never remains alone with one staff member.

	Toilet areas/other communal school areas.		*behaviour by children.*	• Classroom rules including toilet permissions. • Toilet areas specific to each classroom – teacher permission, one child at a time. • Permission granted by teacher/SNA to attend the toilet.
	Exit and entry to class for recreation time.	MED	*Inappropriate behaviour by children.*	• Teachers on duty in the yard - Class teacher supervises the exit of children to the yard area. • No children to be left unsupervised in classrooms during break times. • Sick pupils awaiting to be collected remain outside the Secretary's office.
	Prevention and dealing with bullying and misbehaviour amongst children. Sanctions under the school's Code of Behaviour.	MED	*Harm not recognised or reported in accordance with procedures.* *Inadequate provision of Supervision of pupils under sanction.*	• Anti Bullying Policy and procedures. • Stay Safe programme. • Code of Behaviour.
Teaching Practice/ Work Placement	Students/adults participating in work experience – shadowing. Trainee Teachers on teaching placement.	LOW	*Harm not recognised or reported in accordance with procedures.*	• Child Safeguarding Statement. • Vetting of student teachers and work placement students. • Statutory declarations and Statutory Agreements.

Fundraising Events	Volunteers assisting at events.	LOW	*Harm not recognised or reported in accordance with procedures.*	• Child Safeguarding Statement. • BOM approval for all school fundraising events. • Vetting of some parents.
Parents/ Guardians coming to the school	Parents/guardians seeking to collect pupils early/ home time /when child unwell etc.	MED	*Harm to children due to inappropriate behaviour /Communication. Unknown adults in the in carpark/on the school premises.*	• Parents/Guardians ring the school office. • Parents/guardians/adults remain in the reception area - not permitted to go to classroom areas unless accompanied by members of school staff.
School Trips & use of External Facilities	School trips to the Swimming Pool. School tours / outing involving one or multiple classes to external venues including Libraries etc. Hire of Transport (bus)	MED	*Harm not recognised or reported in accordance with procedures. Supervision appropriate to the activity and transport option.*	• Supervision of children - teacher and/or SNA • School will follow swimming pools procedures / guidelines for children changing. • Two members of staff attend swimming pool on each trip. • No member of staff to accompany children alone in the dressing room. • Adequate child-teacher ratio adhered to (according to the age of pupils, ie 2 members of staff with all mainstream classes over 16 pupils). • Code of Behaviour • Mobile Phone Policy for pupils • Ensure private transport providers hired by the school are licensed in accordance with regulations.

School Maintenance Contractors & non curricular visitors to the school	Visitors/contractors in school during school hours & after school hours.	LOW	Harm to pupils due to inappropriate behaviour / Communication.	• All contractors and visitors ring the school office. • Contractors work outside of school hours where possible. • Contractors/visitors provide identification where necessary.

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* (revised 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 to manage and reduce risk to the greatest possible extent.

The Addendum to Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children 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.

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.

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) Acts2012 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.
- In this school the Board has appointed the above named DLP "Tony Riley" 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, 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 Safe Guarding Statement.

4. The Relevant Person is Mr Tony Riley

(The relevant person is one who can provide information in respect of how the child safeguarding statement was developed and will be able to provide the statement on request. This person can also be the DLP)

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*

This risk assessment has been completed by the Board of Management on 23rd Sept 24. **(Date).**

It will be reviewed as part of the school's annual review of its Child Safeguarding Statement.

Signed: _____

Chairperson of Board of Management

Signed: _____

Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Date: 23/9/24.