

CSS1

Student Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment

For:	Scoil Uí Mhuirí	(School Name)
At:	Barn Road, Dunleer, Co Louth, A92 FY96	(School Address)

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

In accordance with the requirements of the Students First Act 2015, Students First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Students 2017, the Addendum to Students First (2019) and 2025, Student Protection Procedures for Schools 2025 and Student Safeguarding: A Guide for Policy, Procedure and Practice, 2nd ed. (Tusla, 2024), the board of management has adopted the Student 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 Student Protection Procedures for Schools 2025 as part of this overall Student Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment.

Name of the Designated Liaison Person (DLP):

Úna Kirk

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

Daniel Dennehy

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

Name of Relevant Person

Úna Kirk

(In schools this person is the DLP)

Relevant Person can be contacted on:

041 6851344

Ukirk.sum@lmetb.ie

Under the Students First Act 2015 Relevant Person means a person who is appointed by a provider of a relevant service to be the first point of contact in respect of the Student Safeguarding Statement. This person is nominated by the board of management to manage and provide oversight of student protection concerns/allegations of student abuse.

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

Mr Martin O'Brien

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 student 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 student protection and welfare. The school will:

- ☒ Recognise that the protection and welfare of students is of paramount importance, regardless of all other considerations.
- ☒ Fully comply with its statutory obligations under the Students First Act 2015 and other relevant legislation relating to the protection and welfare of students.
- ☒ Fully co-operate with the relevant statutory authorities in relation to student protection and welfare matters.
- ☒ Adopt safe practices to minimise the possibility of harm happening to students and protect members of school personnel from the necessity to take unnecessary risks that may leave themselves open to accusations of student abuse.
- ☒ Develop a practice of openness with parents and encourage parental involvement in the education of their students.
- ☒ Fully respect confidentiality requirements as set out in the Student Protection Procedures for Schools 2025 in dealing with student protection matters.
- ☒ Adhere to the above principles in relation to any vulnerable adult.

Procedures and Measures in Place

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

> Procedure for the Management of Allegations of Abuse or Misconduct against School Personnel Relating to a Student 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 student attending the school, the school is required to adhere to the relevant procedures set out in Chapter 7 of the *Student 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 Students

~ 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 students, requires the school to adhere to the statutory vetting requirements of the National Vetting Bureau (Students 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 student safeguarding reasons.

> Procedure for Provision of and Access to Student 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, teachers and those on work experience) with a copy of the school's Student Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment.

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

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

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

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

~ All members of school personnel are required to adhere to the procedures set out in the *Student Protection Procedures for Schools 2025*, in relation to reporting of student 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 Student 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 Students First Act 2015, the Addendum to Students First 2019 and 2025, and the *Student Protection Procedures for Schools 2025*, the board of management carried out an assessment of any potential for harm to a student 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 Student 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 Student 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.	Daily arrival and dismissal of students	• Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of students • Risk of harm by another student during arrival and dismissal times • Risk of harm by a visitor or volunteer on school premises • Risk of harm not being recognised or reported promptly	Appropriate supervision is provided during arrival and dismissal in line with the Health and Safety Policy and agreed supervision arrangements. Staff are vigilant to safeguarding concerns and implement the Code of Behaviour , Bí Cinéalta , and Inclusion Policy to prevent bullying, discrimination or exclusion. Any child protection concerns are reported without delay to the Designated Liaison Person (DLP) in accordance with the Child Protection Policy and statutory reporting procedures.
2.	Recreation breaks for students	• Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision during break times • Risk of harm due to bullying or racist behaviour by other students • Risk of harm not being recognised or reported	Recreation breaks are supervised in line with agreed supervision arrangements and the Health and Safety Policy . Staff actively promote positive behaviour and inclusion in accordance with the Wellbeing Policy , SPHE Programme , Bí Cinéalta , and Inclusion Policy . Incidents are recorded and managed in line with the Code of Behaviour and communicated to parents where appropriate.
3.	Classroom teaching	• Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision	All classroom teaching is delivered by staff who adhere to the Code of

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
		• Risk of inappropriate interaction between student and school personnel • Risk of harm due to inappropriate access to digital devices • Risk of harm not being recognised or reported	Professional Conduct for Teachers. Staff remain alert to indicators of abuse or neglect and follow the school's Child Protection Policy and statutory reporting procedures. The school implements in full the SPHE curriculum, Stay Safe Programme, RSE Policy, and Junior Cycle Wellbeing Programme, supporting students' understanding of personal safety, respectful relationships and help-seeking.
4.	One-to-one teaching	• Risk of harm in one-to-one teaching situations • Risk of inappropriate relationship or communication between student and adult • Risk of harm not being recognised or reported	One-to-one teaching, learning support and counselling are conducted in accordance with the school's policies and clear procedures for one-to-one teaching and counselling, ensuring transparency, appropriate visibility and professional boundaries at all times. Staff adhere to the Code of Professional Conduct for Teachers and Codes of Conduct for school personnel. Any safeguarding concern arising is reported without delay to the DLP in line with the Child Protection Procedures (revised 2023).
5.	One-to-one learning support	• Risk of harm in one-to-one support situations	Learning support is provided in line with the Special Educational Needs Policy and

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
		• Risk of harm to students with SEN due to particular vulnerabilities • Risk of inappropriate interaction or communication	Inclusion Policy. One-to-one arrangements follow agreed school procedures to ensure student safety and dignity. Any concerns are reported to the DLP in accordance with the Child Protection Policy .
6.	One-to-one counselling	• Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision • Risk of harm by another student • Risk of harm not being recognised or reported	One-to-one teaching, learning support and counselling are conducted in accordance with the school's policies and clear procedures for one-to-one teaching and counselling , ensuring transparency, appropriate visibility and professional boundaries at all times. Staff adhere to the Code of Professional Conduct for Teachers and Codes of Conduct for school personnel . Any safeguarding concern arising is reported without delay to the DLP in line with the Child Protection Procedures (revised 2023) .
7.	Outdoor teaching activities	• Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision • Risk of harm by another student • Risk of harm not being recognised or reported	Outdoor and sporting activities are planned and supervised in accordance with the Health and Safety Policy . Behaviour expectations are governed by the Code of Behaviour and Bí Cinéalta . Where external sports coaches are engaged, the school applies its policy and procedures for the use of external

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
			sports coaches , including compliance with Garda vetting legislation and relevant Department of Education circulars.
8.	Online teaching and learning remotely	• Risk of harm due to inappropriate use of online teaching platforms • Risk of unauthorised access to online lessons • Risk of inappropriate communication or behaviour online • Risk of harm not being recognised or reported	Online teaching and learning is conducted in accordance with the school's Acceptable Use Policy, Digital Learning Strategy, and policy governing the use of smartphones and tablet devices (Circular 38/2018). The Acceptable Use Policy, including arrangements for remote learning, is communicated to parents. All online communication is conducted via approved platforms, with appropriate supervision and access controls, and personal data is managed in line with the Data Protection Policy.
9.	Sporting Activities	• Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision while attending out-of-school activities • Risk of harm by school personnel, external staff or other persons • Risk of harm not being recognised or reported	Sporting activities are supervised in accordance with the Health and Safety Policy. Behaviour standards are governed by the Code of Behaviour and Bí Cinéalta. External coaches are engaged in line with the school's policy and procedures for the use of external sports coaches, including compliance with Garda vetting legislation.

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
10.	School trips	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision while attending out-of-school activities	School trips are organised in accordance with the school's policy and clear procedures for school outings and the LMETB Educational Tours and Field Trips Policy . Risk assessments, supervision ratios and parental communication are clearly established.

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
11.	School trips involving overnight stay	- Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision out of school - Risk of harm in one-to-one situations - Risk of harm while receiving intimate care - Risk of inappropriate relationship/communications	Trips planned in line with LMETB Educational Tours and Field Trips Policy, with detailed risk assessment, supervision planning, and emergency procedures guided by the Critical Incident Management Plan. Staff adhere to Codes of Conduct and Child Protection Policy. Intimate care, where required, is delivered in line with Intimate Care Policy/Plan, ensuring dignity and safeguarding. Any safeguarding concern is reported immediately to the DLP.

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
12.	School trips involving foreign travel	• Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision • Risk of harm by personnel from other organisations • Risk of harm not being reported promptly	Managed according to LMETB Educational Tours and Field Trips Policy with enhanced planning, safeguarding oversight, parental consent, and emergency procedures. All staff comply with Codes of Conduct and Child Protection Procedures (2023). Safeguarding concerns are reported without delay to the DLP.
13.	Annual Sports Day	• Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision • Risk of harm by visitors or volunteers • Risk of harm not being recognised or reported	Supervised in line with Health and Safety Policy. External personnel engaged according to school procedures and Garda vetting requirements. Behaviour expectations managed via Code of Behaviour and Bí Cinéalta.
14.	Fundraising events involving students	• Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision • Risk of harm by volunteers or visitors • Risk of harm outside school premises	Planned and supervised according to Health and Safety Policy and Code of Behaviour.

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
			Safeguarding responsibilities communicated and adhered to. Child protection concerns reported to DLP in line with Child Protection Policy.
15.	Use of off-site facilities for school activities	• Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision out of school • Risk of harm by staff of another organisation • Risk of harm not being reported	Off-site facilities are used in accordance with the LMETB Educational Tours and Field Trips Policy and the school's supervision and risk assessment procedures.
16.	School transport arrangements including use of bus escorts	• Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision • Risk of harm by another student • Risk of harm not being recognised or reported	Transport arrangements are supervised in line with agreed school procedures. Behaviour expectations are governed by the Code of Behaviour, and safeguarding concerns are reported in line with the Child Protection Policy.
17.	Care of students with special educational needs, including intimate care where needed	• Risk of harm to students with SEN with particular vulnerabilities • Risk of harm while student is receiving intimate care • Risk of harm not being recognised or reported	Supports are provided in accordance with the Special Educational Needs Policy, Inclusion Policy, and Intimate Care Policy. Staff remain mindful of increased vulnerability and report concerns promptly.

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
18.	Intimate care where needed	• Risk of harm while receiving intimate care • Risk of harm due to inappropriate relationship/communications	Where applicable, care is provided in line with the Child Protection Policy , Intimate Care Policy , and Health and Safety Policy , ensuring dignity and safeguarding.
19.	Management of challenging behaviour amongst students, including appropriate use of restraint where required	• Risk of harm due to inadequate code of behaviour • Risk of student being harmed by school personnel • Risk of harm not being reported	Challenging behaviour, including the appropriate use of restraint where required, is managed in accordance with the Code of Behaviour , Suspension and Expulsion Policy , Bí Cinéalta , Understanding Behaviours of Concern and Responding to Crisis Situations and agreed disciplinary procedures.
20.	Management of provision of food and drink	• Risk of harm to students with medical vulnerabilities • Risk of harm not being recognised	Food and drink provision is managed in line with the Health and Safety Policy , with due regard to medical needs and safeguarding considerations.
21.	Administration of Medicine	• Risk of harm to students with medical vulnerabilities • Risk of harm not being recognised or reported	Medication is administered strictly in accordance with the Administration of Medications in Schools Policy . Records are maintained and staff

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
			adhere to agreed procedures.
22.	Administration of First Aid	• Risk of harm while student is receiving intimate care • Risk of harm not being recognised or reported	First Aid is administered in line with the school's policy and procedures for the administration of First Aid and the Health and Safety Policy . Safeguarding concerns are reported to the DLP.
23.	Curricular provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe	• Risk of harm not being recognised or reported • Risk of harm due to inadequate code of behaviour	The school implements in full the SPHE curriculum, RSE Policy, Stay Safe Programme, and Wellbeing Programme , supporting student awareness of safety, relationships and wellbeing.
24.	Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst students	• Risk of harm due to bullying • Risk of harm due to racism • Risk of harm not being reported promptly	Bullying is addressed through the Anti-Bullying Policy, Bí Cinéalta, Code of Behaviour , and anti-racism initiatives, in line with Department of Education procedures.
25.	Training of school personnel in student protection matters	• Risk of harm not being recognised • Risk of harm not being reported properly	All staff are provided with the Child Safeguarding Statement and have access to the Child Protection Procedures (revised 2023) . Staff and Board members

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
			are advised of training, and records are maintained.
26.	Use of external personnel to supplement curriculum	• Risk of harm by visitors or volunteers • Risk of inappropriate communications • Risk of harm not being reported	External personnel operate under the school's policy and procedures for the use of external persons , including Garda vetting and safeguarding requirements.
27.	Use of external personnel to support sports and other extra-curricular activities	• Risk of harm in one-to-one coaching situations • Risk of harm by personnel from other organisations	Operate in line with school policies and Garda vetting. Staff maintain supervision and professional boundaries; concerns reported to DLP.
28.	Care of students with specific vulnerabilities/ needs such as: • Students from ethnic minorities/ migrants • Members of the Traveller community • Lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender (LGBT) students • Students perceived to be LGBT • Students of minority religious faiths • Students in care	• Risk of harm due to bullying • Risk of harm due to racism • Risk of harm not being recognised • Risk of harm to students with particular vulnerabilities	Supported through Inclusion Policy, Bí Cinéalta, Anti-Bullying Policy, SPHE, Wellbeing Policy, and Home School Liaison Policy. Staff alert to risks and report concerns immediately to DLP.

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
	- Students on CPNS - Students with medical needs		
29.	Recruitment of school personnel	- Risk of student being harmed by a member of school personnel - Risk of harm not being recognised or prevented	Recruitment procedures comply with Garda vetting legislation , relevant Department of Education circulars, and the Child Protection Policy . All staff receive the Child Safeguarding Statement on appointment.
30.	Check and Connect	- Risk of student being harmed by a member of school personnel - Risk of harm not being recognised or prevented	Check and Connect support is provided on a one-to-one basis by designated staff in accordance with the school's Child Safeguarding Statement, Child Protection Policy, and policy and clear procedures for one-to-one teaching and support. Staff delivering Check and Connect are alert to indicators of abuse, neglect or other safeguarding concerns and are required to report any concerns without delay to the Designated Liaison Person (DLP) in line with the Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools (revised 2023) and

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
			the Children First Act 2015 .
31.	Use of toilet/changing/shower areas	• Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision • Risk of harm while student is receiving intimate care • Risk of inappropriate behaviour between students	Supervision arrangements are in place for sensitive areas in accordance with the yard/playground supervision policy and Health and Safety Policy. Where intimate care is required, it is delivered in line with the Intimate Care Policy/plan, respecting dignity and safeguarding requirements.
32.	Student teachers on training placement	• Inappropriate conduct • Unsupervised teaching	Garda Vetting required. Placement monitored by supervising teacher. Clear safeguarding induction.
33.	Evening Study	• Risk of bullying or harm	Staff present at all times. Attendance register maintained. Clear behaviour policy enforced.

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
34.	Application of consequences, (positive reflection sessions)	• Risk of isolation without supervision • Conflict escalation	Positive Reflection Sessions to be supervised. Consequences applied per Code of Behaviour.
35.	Visitors/Contractors during school hours	• Access to restricted areas • Unmonitored contact with students	Mandatory sign-in at reception. Escort by staff when in student areas. Visitor Badge.

Additional pages may be added as required

Online Safety

The *Addendum to Students First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Students 2017* published in January 2019 clarifies that organisations providing relevant services to students should consider the specific issue of online safety when carrying out their risk assessment and preparing their Student 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.

Risk in the context of this Student Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment is the risk of 'harm' as defined in the Studenten First Act 2015 and not general health and safety risk. The definition of harm is set out in the Studenten First Act 2015: 'harm' means, in relation to a student— (a) assault, ill-treatment or neglect of the student in a manner that seriously affects or is likely to seriously affect the student's health, development or welfare, or (b) sexual abuse of the student, whether caused by a single act, omission or circumstance or a series or combination of acts, omissions or circumstances, or otherwise.

Child Protection Statement and Risk Assessment

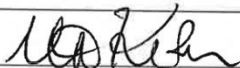
Child Protection Statement and Risk Assessment

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

In undertaking this Student 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 Student Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment was reviewed by the board of management on 01 SEPTEMBER 2026 (most recent review date).

Signed:*		Date: <u>01 Sept 2026</u>
Chairperson of the board of management		

Signed:*		Date: <u>01/Sept/2026</u>
Principal/Secretary to the board of management		

This Student Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment is expected to be reviewed again on SEPTEMBER 2027 (expected review date)

* Document to be printed and signed with original signatures