

Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment

S.N. Cill Conla



Mandatory Template 1: Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment Template

Child Safeguarding Statement

S.N. Cill Conla is a primary school providing primary/post-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 2017](#) and [Tusla Guidance on the preparation of Child Safeguarding Statements](#), the Board of Management of S.N. Cill Conla 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 2017 as part of this overall Child Safeguarding Statement

2 **The Designated Liaison Person (DLP) is Aoife McMahan**

3 **The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is Laura Horgan**

4 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.

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The school will also adhere to the above principles in relation to any adult pupil with a special vulnerability.

5 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 2017 and to the relevant agreed disciplinary procedures for school staff which are published on the DE 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 DE 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 2017, 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 abovenamed DLP as the “relevant person” (as defined in the Children First Act 2015) to be the first point of contact in respect of the schools child safeguarding statement.
- All registered teachers employed by the school are mandated persons under the Children First Act 2015.

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- 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 DE website or will be made available on request by the school.

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.

- 6 This statement 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.
- 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 _____

This Child Safeguarding Statement was reviewed by the Board of Management on 10/24

Signed: John Dalton
15/10/24

Chairperson of Board of Management

Signed: Aoife McMahon

Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Date: 15/10/24

Date: _____

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Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment

Written Assessment of Risk of S.N. Cill Conla

In accordance with section 11 of the Children First Act 2015 and with the requirement of Chapter 8 of the *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017*, the following is the Written Risk Assessment of S.N. Cill Conla.

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 the risks of harm identified in this assessment
Classroom teaching	Risk of child being harmed in the school by a member of school personnel / another child	All school personnel are provided with a copy of the school's <i>Child Safeguarding Statement</i> The <i>Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017</i> are made available to all school personnel School Personnel are required to adhere to the <i>Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017</i> and all registered teaching staff are required to adhere to the <i>Children First Act 2015</i> and it's Addendum (2019)
Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children in school	The school has a yard/playground supervision policy to ensure appropriate supervision of children during, assembly, dismissal and breaks and in respect of specific areas such as toilets, changing rooms etc.
Recreation breaks for pupils	Risk of child being harmed in the school by another child Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children in school	The school has a yard/playground supervision policy to ensure appropriate supervision of children during, assembly, dismissal and breaks and in respect of specific areas such as toilets, changing rooms etc
One-to-one teaching	Risk of child being harmed in the school by a member of school personnel Risk of harm to children with SEN who have particular vulnerabilities, including medical vulnerabilities Risk of harm to child while a child is receiving intimate care	The school has in place, procedures for one-to-one teaching All school personnel are provided with a copy of the school's <i>Child Safeguarding Statement</i> The <i>Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017</i> are made available to all school personnel School Personnel are required to adhere to the <i>Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017</i> and all registered teaching staff are required to adhere to the <i>Children First Act 2015</i> and it's Addendum (2019)

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<p>One-to-one counselling</p>	<p>Risk of child being harmed in the school by a member of school personnel</p>	<p>The school has in place, procedures for one-to-one counselling All school personnel are provided with a copy of the school's <i>Child Safeguarding Statement</i> The <i>Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017</i> are made available to all school personnel School Personnel are required to adhere to the <i>Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017</i> and all registered teaching staff are required to adhere to the <i>Children First Act 2015</i> and its Addendum (2019)</p>
<p>Outdoor teaching activities</p>	<p>Risk of child being harmed in the school by a member of school personnel Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children in school</p>	<p>The school has a yard/playground supervision policy to ensure appropriate supervision of children during, assembly, dismissal and breaks and in respect of specific areas such as toilets, changing rooms etc.</p>
<p>Sporting Activities</p>	<p>Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children in school</p>	<p>The school has a yard/playground supervision policy to ensure appropriate supervision of children during, assembly, dismissal and breaks and in respect of specific areas such as toilets, changing rooms etc.</p>
<p>School outings</p>	<p>Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children while attending out of school activities</p>	<p>The school has in place, clear procedures in respect of school outings, including additional supervision arrangements.</p>
<p>Use of toilet/changing areas in schools</p>	<p>Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children in school</p>	<p>The school has a yard/playground supervision policy to ensure appropriate supervision of children during, assembly, dismissal and breaks and in respect of specific areas such as toilets, changing rooms etc.</p>
<p>Annual Sports Day</p>	<p>Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children in school</p>	<p>The school has a yard/playground supervision policy to ensure appropriate supervision of children during, assembly, dismissal and breaks and in respect of specific areas such as toilets, changing rooms etc.</p>
<p>Fundraising events involving pupils</p>	<p>Risk of harm due to inappropriate relationship/communications between child and another child or adult</p>	<p>The school has a yard/playground supervision policy to ensure appropriate supervision of children during, assembly, dismissal and breaks and in respect of specific areas such as toilets, changing rooms etc.</p>

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Use of off-site facilities for school activities	Risk of harm due to inappropriate relationship/communications between child and another child or adult	The school has in place , clear procedures in respect of school outings, including addition supervision arrangements where necessary .
School transport arrangements	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children in school Risk of harm due to inappropriate relationship/communications between child and another child or adult	The school has in place , clear procedures in respect of school transport arrangements.
Care of children with special educational needs, including intimate care where needed,	Risk of harm to children with SEN who have particular vulnerabilities, including medical vulnerabilities Risk of harm to child while a child is receiving intimate care	The school has a Special Educational Needs policy The school has an intimate care policy/plan in respect of students who require such care
Care of any vulnerable students, including intimate care where needed	Risk of harm to children with SEN who have particular vulnerabilities, including medical vulnerabilities Risk of harm to child while a child is receiving intimate care	The school has a Special Educational Needs policy All school personnel are provided with a copy of the school's <i>Child Safeguarding Statement</i>
Management of challenging behaviour amongst pupils, including appropriate use of restraint where required	Risk of harm due to inadequate code of behaviour	The school has an Anti-Bullying Policy which fully adheres to the requirements of the Department's <i>Anti-Bullying Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools</i>
Management of provision of food and drink	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children in school	The school has a Health and Safety policy in place. The school has a yard/playground supervision policy to ensure appropriate supervision of children during, assembly, dismissal and breaks and in respect of specific areas such as toilets, changing rooms etc
Administration of Medicine	Risk of harm due to inappropriate relationship/communications between child and another child or adult	The school adheres to the administration of medicine policy of the school.
Administration of First Aid	Risk of harm due to inappropriate relationship/communications between child and another child or adult	The school has procedures in place for First Aid administration.

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Curricular provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe	Risk of harm due to inadequate provision of the curriculum	The school implements in full the Stay Safe Programme The school implements in full the SPHE curriculum
Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst pupils	Risk of harm due to inadequate code of behaviour	The school has a Code of Behaviour Policy The school has an Anti-Bullying Policy which fully adheres to the requirements of the Department's <i>Anti-Bullying Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools</i>
Training of school personnel in child protection matters	Risk of harm not being recognised by school personnel Risk of harm due to inadequate child protection training	The school – Has provided each member of school 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 Maintains records of all staff and board member training
Use of external personnel to supplement curriculum	Risk of harm due to inappropriate relationship/communications between child and another child or adult	The school has in place, procedures for the use of external personnel to supplement the curriculum.
Use of external personnel to support sports and other extra-curricular activities	Risk of harm due to inappropriate relationship/communications between child and another child or adult	The school has in place, procedures for the use of external sports coaches
Care of pupils with specific vulnerabilities/needs such as; Pupils from ethnic minorities/migrants Members of the Traveller community Lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender (LGBT) children Pupils perceived to be LGBT Pupils of minority religious faiths	Risk of harm due to bullying of a child Risk of harm due to racism Risk of harm to children who have particular vulnerabilities, including medical vulnerabilities	The school has a Code of Behaviour Policy The school has an Anti-Bullying Policy which fully adheres to the requirements of the Department's <i>Anti-Bullying Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools</i> The school has a Special Educational Needs policy All school personnel are provided with a copy of the school's <i>Child Safeguarding Statement</i>

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<p>Children in care Children on CPNS Children with medical needs</p>		
<p>Recruitment of school personnel including -Teachers/SNA's -Caretaker/Secretary/Cleaners -Sports coaches -External Tutors/Guest Speakers</p>	<p>Risk of harm due to harm not recognised or properly or promptly reported Risk of harm due to inadequate Garda vetting Risk of harm due to inadequate child protection training</p>	<p>All school personnel are provided with a copy of the school's <i>Child Safeguarding Statement</i> The school – Has provided each member of school 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 school adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation and relevant DE circulars in relation to recruitment and Garda vetting</p>
<p>Volunteers/Parents in school activities</p>	<p>Risk of harm due to inappropriate relationship/communications between child and another child or adult</p>	<p>The school has in place, procedures for volunteers/ visitors involved in school activities</p>
<p>Visitors/contractors present in school during school hours</p>	<p>Risk of harm due to inappropriate relationship/communications between child and another child or adult</p>	<p>The school has in place a policy and procedures for the use of external persons to supplement delivery of the curriculum</p>
<p>Visitors/contractors present during after school activities</p>	<p>Risk of harm due to inappropriate relationship/communications between child and another child or adult Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children while attending out of school activities</p>	<p>All school personnel are provided with a copy of the school's <i>Child Safeguarding Statement</i></p>
<p>Participation by pupils in religious ceremonies/religious instruction external to the school</p>	<p>Risk of child being harmed by a member of school personnel, a member of staff of another organisation or</p>	<p>The school has in place, clear procedures in respect of school outings, including addition supervision arrangements where necessary.</p>

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	other person while child participating in out of school activities	
Use of Information and Communication Technology by pupils in school, including social media	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children while attending out of school activities	The school has in place a policy governing the use of smart phones and tablet devices in the school by pupils as per circular 38/2018
Application of sanctions under the school's Code of Behaviour including confiscation of phones etc.	Risk of harm caused by member of school personnel communicating with pupils in an inappropriate manner via social media, texting, digital device or other manner	The school has an Anti-Bullying Policy which fully adheres to the requirements of the Department's <i>Anti-Bullying Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools</i>
Students participating in work experience in the school	Risk of harm due to inadequate code of behaviour	All school personnel are provided with a copy of the school's <i>Child Safeguarding Statement</i> The school has in place, procedures in respect of students undertaking work experience in the school
Student teachers undertaking training placement in school	Risk of child being harmed in the school by volunteer or visitor to the school	All school personnel are provided with a copy of the school's <i>Child Safeguarding Statement</i> The school has in place, procedures in respect of students undertaking placement in the school
Use of video/photography/other media to record school events	Risk of harm due to inappropriate use of content, sharing on social media identifying child	The school has a strict photography policy in place.
Attending swimming lessons	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 Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children while attending out of school activities	The school has in place, clear procedures in respect of school outings, including addition supervision arrangements 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*

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Schools 2017

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.

Signed: John Dalton
Chairperson of Board of Management
Date: 15-10-24

Signed: Aibe McNahon
Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management
Date: 15/10/24