

COLÁISTE MUIRE
SECONDARY SCHOOL

Child Safeguarding
Risk Assessment
Appendix 1 and 2



2024/25

Appendix 1: Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment

Written Assessment of Risk of Coláiste Mhuire Secondary School, Mullingar

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 (revised 2023)*, the following is the Written Risk Assessment of Coláiste Mhuire.

1. List of school activities

- Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils
- Recreation breaks for pupils
- Classroom teaching
- One-to-one counselling
- Outdoor teaching activities
- Sporting Activities
- School outings
- School trips involving overnight stay
- School trips involving foreign travel
- Use of toilet/changing/shower areas in schools
- Sports Day
- Fundraising events involving pupils
- Use of off-site facilities for school activities
- School transport arrangements including use of bus escorts
- Care of children with special educational needs
- Administration of Medicine
- Administration of First Aid
- Curricular provision in respect of SPHE and RSE
- Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst pupils
- Training of school personnel in child protection matters
- Use of external personnel to supplement curriculum
- Use of external personnel to support sports and other extra-curricular activities
- 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
- Children in care
- Recruitment of school personnel including -
 - Teachers/SNA's
 - Caretaker/Secretary/Cleaners
 - Sports coaches
 - External Tutors/Guest Speakers or Volunteers/Parents in school activities
 - Visitors/contractors present in school during school hours
 - Visitors/contractors present during after school activities
- Participation by pupils in religious ceremonies/religious instruction external to the school
- Use of Information and Communication Technology by pupils in school
- Application of sanctions under the school's Code of Behaviour
- Students participating in work experience in the school
- Students from the school participating in work experience elsewhere
- Student teachers undertaking training placement in school
- Use of video/photography/other media to record school events
- After school use of school premises by other organisations
- Evening study

2. The school has identified the following risk of harm in respect of its activities

- Risk of harm not being recognised by school personnel
- Risk of harm not being reported properly and promptly by school personnel
- 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
- Risk of child being harmed in the school by volunteer or visitor to the school
- 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
- Risk of harm due to bullying of child
- Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children in school
- Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children while attending out of school activities

- Risk of harm due to inappropriate relationship/communications between child and another child or adult
- Risk of harm due to children inappropriately accessing/using computers, social media, phones and other devices while at school
- Risk of harm to children with SEN who have particular vulnerabilities
- Risk of harm due to inadequate code of behaviour
- Risk of harm in one-to-one teaching, counselling, coaching situation
- Risk of harm caused by member of school personnel communicating with pupils in appropriate manner via social media, texting, digital device or other manner
- Risk of harm caused by member of school personnel accessing/circulating inappropriate material via social media, texting, digital device or other manner

3. The school has the following procedures in place to address the risks of harm identified in this assessment

- All school personnel are provided with a copy of the school's *Child Safeguarding Statement*¹
- School Personnel are made aware of The *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017* (revised 2023) at induction and the document is available to all school personnel²
- School Personnel are required to adhere to the *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017* and all registered teaching staff are required to adhere to the *Children First Act 2015*³ and its *Addendum (2019)*
- The school implements in full the SPHE curriculum
- The school implements in full the Wellbeing Programme at Junior Cycle
- The school has an Anti-Bullying Policy which fully adheres to the requirements of the Department's *Anti-Bullying Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools*⁴
- The school has an Anti-Bullying Team.
- The school has supervision procedures in place to ensure appropriate supervision of children during, assembly, dismissal and breaks and in respect of specific areas such as toilets, changing rooms etc.^{5,1}

¹ Available in Staff Induction Pack

² https://www.education.ie/en/Schools-Colleges/Information/Child-Protection/child_protection_guidelines.pdf

³ <http://www.irishstatutebook.ie/eli/2015/act/36/enacted/en/pdf>

⁴ <https://www.education.ie/en/Publications/Policy-Reports/Anti-Bullying-Procedures-for-Primary-and-Post-Primary-Schools.pdf>

⁵ Available in Staffroom and School Office

- The school has in place procedures in respect of school outings⁵
- The school has a Health and safety policy⁵
- The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation and relevant DES circulars in relation to recruitment and Garda vetting
- The school complies with the Teaching Council code of professional conduct for school personnel (teaching staff)⁶
- The school complies with the agreed disciplinary procedures for teaching staff
- The school has a Special Educational Needs policy
- The school has procedures in place for the administration of medication to pupils
- 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
- The school has in place procedures for the administration of First Aid^{1,5}
- The school has in place a code of behaviour for pupils⁵
- The school has in place an ICT policy in respect of usage of ICT by pupils⁵
- The school has in place rules in respect of usage of mobile phones by pupils which is included in the code of behaviour for pupils⁵
- The school has in place a Critical Incident Management Plan⁵
- The school has in place procedures for the use of external persons to supplement delivery of the curriculum⁵
- The school has in place procedures for one-to-one counselling which are included in the Guidance Policy⁵
- The school has in place procedures in respect of student teacher placements⁷
- The school has in place procedures in respect of pupils of the school undertaking work experience in external organisations which are outlined in the Transition Year Programme⁸

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<https://www.teachingcouncil.ie/en/Publications/Fitness-to-Teach/Code-of-Professional-Conduct-for-Teachers1.pdf>

⁷ Available from Deputy Principal responsible for student teacher placements

⁸ Available from Transition Year Programme Coordinator

- The school has in place procedures in respect of pupils of the school undertaking Distance Learning; please refer to the Acceptable Use Policy

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 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.

Mandatory Template 2: Checklist for Review of the Child Safeguarding Statement

The [Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools \(revised 2023\)](#) require that the Board of Management must undertake a review of its Child Safeguarding Statement and that the following checklist shall be used for this purpose. **The review must be completed every year or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which the Child Safeguarding Statement refers.** Undertaking an annual review will also ensure that a school also meets its statutory obligation under section 11(8) of the Children First Act 2015, to review its Child Safeguarding Statement every two years.

The checklist is designed as an aid to conducting this review and is not intended as an exhaustive list of the issues to be considered. Individual Boards of Management shall include other items in the checklist that are of relevance to the school in question.

As part of the overall review process, Boards of Management should also assess relevant school policies, procedures, practices and activities vis a vis their adherence to the principles of best practice in child protection and welfare as set out in the school's Child Safeguarding Statement, the Children First Act 2015, the Addendum to Children First (2019) and the *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools (revised 2023)*.

	Yes/No
1. Has the Board formally adopted a Child Safeguarding Statement in accordance with the <i>Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools (revised 2023)</i> ?	YES
2. Is the Board satisfied that the Child Safeguarding Statement is displayed in a prominent place near the main entrance to the school?	YES
3. As part of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement, has the Board formally adopted, without modification, the <i>Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools (revised 2023)</i> ?	YES
4. Does the school's Child Safeguarding Statement include a written assessment of risk as required under the Children First Act 2015? (This includes considering the specific issue of online safety as required by the Addendum to Children First)	YES
5. Has the Board reviewed and updated where necessary the written assessment of risk as part of this overall review?	YES
6. Has the Risk Assessment taken account of the risk of harm relevant to online teaching and learning remotely?	YES
7. Has the DLP attended available child protection training?	YES
8. Has the Deputy DLP attended available child protection training?	YES
9. Have any members of the Board attended child protection training?	YES
10. Has the school appointed a DLP and a Deputy DLP?	YES
11. Are the relevant contact details (Tusla and An Garda Síochána) to hand?	YES
12. Has the Board arrangements in place to communicate the school's Child Safeguarding Statement to new school personnel?	YES
13. Is the Board satisfied that all school personnel have been made aware of their responsibilities under the <i>Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools (revised 2023)</i> and the Children First Act 2015?	YES
14. Has the Board received a Principal's Child Protection Oversight Report (CPOR) at each Board meeting held since the last review was undertaken?	YES
15. Since the Board's last review, did each CPOR contain all of the information required under each of the 4 headings set out in sections 9.5 to 9.8 inclusive of the procedures?	YES
16. Since the Board's last review, has the Board been provided with and reviewed all records relevant to the CPOR?	YES
17. Is the Board satisfied that the records provided are anonymised and redacted as necessary to ensure that the identities of children and any other parties, including school personnel, to whom the concern or report relates are not disclosed?	YES

18. Since the Board's last review, have the minutes of each Board meeting appropriately recorded the records provided to the Board as part of CPOR?	YES
19. Have the minutes of each Board meeting appropriately recorded the CPOR?	YES
20. Is the Board satisfied that the child protection procedures in relation to the making of reports to Tusla/An Garda Síochána were appropriately followed in each case reviewed?	YES
21. Is the Board satisfied that, since the last review, all appropriate actions are being or have been taken in respect of any member of school personnel against whom an allegation of abuse or neglect has been made?*	YES
22. Where applicable, were unique identifiers used to record child protection matters in the Board minutes?	YES
23. Is the Board satisfied that all records relating to child protection are appropriately filed and stored securely?	YES
24. Has the Board been notified by any parent in relation to that parent not receiving the standard notification required under section 5.6 of the <i>Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools (revised 2023)</i> ?	NO
25. In relation to any cases identified at question 20 above, has the Board ensured that any notifications required under section 5.6 of the <i>Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools (revised 2023)</i> were subsequently issued by the DLP?	N/A
26. Has the Board ensured that the Parents' Association (if any), has been provided with the school's Child Safeguarding Statement?	YES
27. Has the Board ensured that the patron has been provided with the school's Child Safeguarding Statement?	YES
28. Has the Board ensured that the school's Child Safeguarding Statement is available to parents on request?	YES
29. Has the Board ensured that the Stay Safe programme is implemented in full in the school? (applies to primary schools)	N/A
30. Has the Board ensured that the Wellbeing Programme for Junior Cycle students is implemented in full in the school? (applies to post-primary schools)	YES
31. Has the Board ensured that the SPHE curriculum is implemented in full in the school?	YES
32. Is the Board satisfied that the statutory requirements for Garda Vetting have been met in respect of all school personnel (employees and volunteers)? *	YES
33. Is the Board satisfied that the Department's requirements in relation to the provision of a child protection related statutory declaration and associated form of undertaking have been met in respect of persons appointed to teaching and non-teaching positions?*	YES
34. Is the Board satisfied that, from a child protection perspective, thorough recruitment and selection procedures are applied by the school in relation to all school personnel (employees and volunteers)?*	YES
35. Has the Board considered and addressed any complaints or suggestions for improvements regarding the school's Child Safeguarding Statement?	YES
36. Has the Board sought the feedback of parents in relation to the school's compliance with the requirements of the child safeguarding requirements of the <i>Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools (revised 2023)</i> ?	YES
37. Has the Board sought the feedback of pupils in relation to the school's child safeguarding arrangements?	YES
38. Is the Board satisfied that the ' <i>Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools Post-Primary Schools (revised 2023)</i> ' are being fully and adequately implemented by the school?	YES
39. Has the Board identified any aspects of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement and/or its implementation that require further improvement?	NO
40. Has the Board put in place an action plan containing appropriate timelines to address those aspects of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement and/or its implementation that have been identified as requiring further improvement?	N/A

41. Has the Board ensured that any areas for improvement that were identified in any previous review of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement have been adequately addressed?	YES
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Coláiste Mhuire An Muileann gCearr



Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment

This policy was reviewed in September 2024 and the Board of Management adopted it on September 12th 2024.

It will be reviewed again at the beginning of the academic year 2025/26.

Signed: Moira Mahon

Ms. Moira Mahon
Chairperson of the Board of Management

Date: 9/12/2024



Iontaobhas Scoileanna Éamainn Rís
Edmund Rice Schools Trust