



**Scoil Náisiúnta Phadraig Naofa,  
Avoca,  
Co. Wicklow.  
Roll No 18198A**

## **Child Safeguarding Statement**

**Scoil Náisiúnta Phádraig Naofa, Avoca** 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 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 **Scoil Náisiúnta Phádraig Naofa** 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:  
**Mary Cahill (Principal)**
- 3 The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is:  
**Kathy Van Eesbeck- Deputy Principal**
- 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. The school will adhere to the following principles of best practice in child protection and welfare. The school will:
  - a. recognise that the protection and welfare of children is of paramount importance, regardless of all other considerations

- b. fully comply with its statutory obligations under the Children First Act 2015 and other relevant legislation relating to the protection and welfare of children
- c. fully co-operate with the relevant statutory authorities in relation to child protection and welfare matters
- d. 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
- e. develop a practice of openness with parents and encourage parental involvement in the education of their children; and
- f. 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.

5 The following procedures/measures are in place:

- a. 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 DES website
- b. 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 DES and available on the DES website
- c. 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:
  - i. Has provided each member of staff with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement
  - ii. Ensures all new staff are provided with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement
  - iii. Encourages staff to avail of relevant training
  - iv. Encourages Board of Management members to avail of relevant training
  - v. The Board of Management maintains records of all staff and Board member training.
- d. 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
- e. In this school, the Board has appointed the above named DLP as the 'relevant person' (as defined in the Children First Act 2015) to be the first point of contact in respect of the school's child safeguarding statement.

6 All registered teachers employed by the school are mandated persons under the Children First Act 2015

- 7 In accordance with the Children First Act 2015, 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 attached as an appendix to these procedures
- 8 The various procedures referred to in this Statement can be accessed via the school's website, the DES 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

- 9 This statement has been published on the school's website and has been provided to all members of school personnel, the Parents' Association (if any) 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.
- 10 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.
- 11 The Board has compiled and a Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment document which is contained in this document
- 12 The Board has completed and reviewed the 'Checklist for the review of the Child Safeguarding Statement' as prepared by the Department of Education and Skills. This can is contained in Appendix2.

This Child Safeguarding Statement was reviewed, updated, adopted and ratified at the BoM meeting on the 21st of January 2021

The next review will take place in January 2022 or before this date, should circumstances dictate.

Signed: **Marian Canavan**

Signed: *Mary Cahill*

Chairperson of BoM

Principal/Secretary to the BoM

Date of next review ; January 2021

### Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment of any potential harm

List of School Activities	The School has identified the following Risk of Harm	The School has the following Procedures in place to address risk identified in this assessment
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 have attended PDST face to face training All Staff have completed Tusla training module & any other online training offered by PDST✓  BOM records all records of staff and board training This training has been completed•✓

One to one teaching	Harm by school personnel	School has policy in place for one to one teaching Open doors Table between teacher and pupil Glass in window
Care of children with special needs, including intimate care needs	Harm by school personnel	School Policy on intimate care
Toilet areas	Inappropriate behaviour	Usage and supervision policy
Curricular Provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay safe.	Non-teaching of same	School implements SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe in full
Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils	Harm from other pupils, unknown adults on the playground Traffic on avenue	Arrival and Dismissal Policy & Procedures Supervision Policy Traffic Management Policy & Procedures Health & Safety Policy
<b>List of School Activities</b>	<b>The School has identified the following Risk of Harm</b>	<b>The School has the following Procedures in place to address risk identified in this assessment</b>
Recreation breaks for pupils	Injury to pupils/Bullying Harm not recognised or properly or promptly reported	Policy & Procedures in place Health & Safety Policy Code Of Behaviour
Classroom teaching	Harm by school personnel Harm by pupils	Policy & Procedures in place Health & Safety Policy Code of Professional Conduct

	Inappropriate behaviour	
Sporting Activities	Harm to pupils Harm by Student Inappropriate behaviour	Supervision Policy Health and Safety Policy External Visitors Policy
Choir Activities	Harm to pupils Harm by Student Inappropriate behaviour	Supervision Policy Health and Safety Policy
After School Clubs	Harm to pupils Harm by Student Inappropriate behaviour	Supervision Policy Health and Safety Policy External Visitors Policy Vetting Policy Policy and Procedures in place as per circular 31/16 and 81/2017
Sports Coaches	Harm to pupils Harm by Student Inappropriate behaviour	Supervision Policy Health and Safety Policy External Visitors Policy Vetting Policy Policy and Procedures in place as per circular 31/16 and 81/2017 Policy & Procedures in place
<b>List of School Activities</b>	<b>The School has identified the following Risk of Harm</b>	<b>The School has the following Procedures in place to address risk identified in this assessment</b>
Educational Trips/Matches	Harm to Pupils Harm by Student Inappropriate Behaviour	Supervision Policy Tour Policy Health and Safety Policy
Changing for sports activities/concerts/ dress rehearsals	Inappropriate Behaviour	Supervision policy Health and Safety Policy Vetting policy

Buddy System	Inappropriate Behaviour	Supervision Policy
Use of off-site facilities for school activities	Harm to Pupils Harm by Student	Tour Policy Code of Behaviour
<b>List of School Activities</b>	<b>The School has identified the following Risk of Harm</b>	<b>The School has the following Procedures in place to address risk identified in this assessment</b>
Volunteers/Parents	Inappropriate Behaviour Harm to pupils	Vetting Procedures Policy for Parents/Volunteers
Curricular provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe	Non-Teaching of programmes	The entire Stay Safe programme to be taught to from Junior Infant to 6 <sup>th</sup> classes every year in a block from January to March. Lessons to be signed off by Principal and Chairperson of BoM. The R.S.E programme will fill in any learning gaps not covered by Stay Safe and will be used for the rest of the year.
Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst pupils	Repeated injury or anxiety created in pupils	Use of restorative practices and policy Anti- Bullying Policy SPHE Work Code of Behaviour

Care of pupils with specific vulnerabilities/ needs such as <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pupils from ethnic minorities/migrants</li> <li>• Members of the Traveller community</li> <li>• Lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender (LGBT) children</li> <li>• Pupils perceived to be LGBT</li> <li>• Pupils of minority religious faiths</li> </ul>	Harm to pupils Verbal insults Lack of inclusion	Use of restorative practices and policy Anti- Bullying Policy SPHE Work Code of Behaviour
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Recruitment of School personnel Teachers SNA Cleaners Visiting Contractors	Harm to pupils Inappropriate behaviour	Child Safeguarding Statement & DES Procedures made available to all staff Code of Professional Conduct to be revised Vetting Policy External Visitors policy
<b>List of School Activities</b>	<b>The School has identified the following Risk of Harm</b>	<b>The School has the following Procedures in place to address risk identified in this assessment</b>
Use of Information and Communication Technology by pupils in school and teachers in relation to communications and online learning	Bullying Staff not following policies & procedures	ICT policy Anti Bullying Policy Code of Behaviour
Students participating in work experience in the school	Harm to Pupils Inappropriate Behaviour	Vetting Policy and Procedures Code of Conduct Work Experience Policy
Student teachers undertaking training placement in school	Harm to Pupils Inappropriate Behaviour	ICT Policy Acceptable Use Policy
Recruitment of School personnel Teachers SNA Cleaners Visiting Contractors	Harm to pupils Inappropriate behaviour	Child Safeguarding Statement & DES Procedures made available to all staff Code of Professional Conduct to be revised Vetting Policy External Visitors policy



<b>List of School Activities</b>	<b>The School has identified the following Risk of Harm</b>	<b>The School has the following Procedures in place to address risk identified in this assessment</b>
Use of Information and Communication Technology by pupils in school	Bullying Staff not following policies & procedures	ICT policy Anti Bullying Policy Code of Behaviour
Students participating in work experience in the school	Harm to Pupils Inappropriate Behaviour	Vetting Policy and Procedures Code of Conduct Work Experience Policy
Student teachers undertaking training placement in school	Harm to Pupils Inappropriate Behaviour	ICT Policy Acceptable Use Policy
Inappropriate videoing/photography of school events	Invasion of Privacy	ICT Policy 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.

This risk assessment has been completed by the Board of Management on *21<sup>st</sup> of January, 2021 and will be reviewed in January, 2022*. It will be reviewed as part of the school’s annual review of its Child Safeguarding Statement.

Signed: **Marian Canavan**      Signed: *Mary Cahill* Principal

## Ap Scoil Náisiúnta Phadraig



**Naofa, Avoca,  
Co. Wicklow.  
Roll No 18198A**

The *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017* require 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 and the *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017*.

	Yes/No
1. Has the Board formally adopted a Child Safeguarding Statement in accordance with the 'Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools 2017'?	√
2. Is the Board satisfied that the Child Safeguarding Statement is displayed in a prominent place near the main entrance to the school?	
3. As part of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement, has the Board formally adopted, without modification, the 'Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools 2017'?	√
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)	√
5. Has the Board reviewed and updated where necessary the written assessment of risk as part of this overall review?	√
6. Has the Risk Assessment taken account of the risk of harm relevant to online teaching and learning remotely?	√
7. Has the DLP attended available child protection training?	√
8. Has the Deputy DLP attended available child protection training?	√
9. Have any members of the Board attended child protection training?	√
10. Are there both a DLP and a Deputy DLP currently appointed?	√
11. Are the relevant contact details (Tusla and An Garda Síochána) to hand?	√
12. Has the Board arrangements in place to communicate the school's Child Safeguarding Statement to new school personnel?	√
13. Is the Board satisfied that all school personnel have been made aware of their responsibilities under the 'Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools 2017' and the Children First Act 2015?	√
14. Has the Board received a Principals Child Protection Oversight Report (CPOR) at each Board meeting held since the last review was undertaken?	√
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?	√
16. Since the Board's last review, has the Board been provided with and reviewed all documents relevant to the CPOR?	√
17. 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 report?	√
18. Have the minutes of each Board meeting appropriately recorded the CPOR report?	√
19. 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?	√
20. 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?*	None made
21. Where applicable, were unique identifiers used to record child protection matters in the Board minutes?	√
22. Is the Board satisfied that all records relating to child protection are appropriately filed and stored securely?	√
23. 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 'Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools 2017'?	no
24. In relation to any cases identified at question 21 above, has the Board ensured that any notifications required under section 5.6 of the 'Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools 2017' were subsequently issued by the DLP?	√
25. Has the Board ensured that all parents has been provided with the school's Child Safeguarding Statement?	√
26. Has the Board ensured that the patron has been provided with the school's Child Safeguarding Statement?	√
27. Has the Board ensured that the school's Child Safeguarding Statement is available to parents on request?	√
28. Has the Board ensured that the Stay Safe programme is implemented in full in the school? (applies to primary schools)	√

29. Has the Board ensured that the Wellbeing Programme for Junior Cycle students is implemented in full in the school? (applies to post- primary schools)	n/a
30. Has the Board ensured that the SPHE curriculum is implemented in full in the school?	√
31. Is the Board satisfied that the statutory requirements for Garda Vetting have been met in respect of all school personnel (employees and volunteers)? *	√
32. 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?*	√
33. 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)?*	√
34. Has the Board considered and addressed any complaints or suggestions for improvements regarding the school’s Child Safeguarding Statement?	√
35. 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 ‘Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools 2017’?	√
36. Has the Board sought the feedback of pupils in relation to the school’s child safeguarding arrangements?	√
37. Is the Board satisfied that the ‘Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools 2017’ are being fully and adequately implemented by the school?	√
38. Has the Board identified any aspects of the school’s Child Safeguarding Statement and/or its implementation that require further improvement?	This is done each year at the review
39. 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 ?	√
40. 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?	√

Signed: **Marian Canavan**

Chairperson, Board of Management

Signed: *Mary Cahill* Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management