



## **Child Safeguarding Statement**

**Scoil Lachtaín** is a primary school providing primary education to pupils from Junior Infants to Sixth Class, and also incorporates an Early Intervention ASD Preschool with three special classes.

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 [insert school name] 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 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
- 3 The Designated Liaison Person (DLP) is **Brendan Tynan**
- 4 The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is **Róisín Bolger**
- 5 The Relevant Person is **Brendan Tynan**

(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. In a school setting the relevant person shall be the designated liaison person.)

- 6 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.

- 7 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 (revised 2023)* and to the relevant agreed disciplinary procedures for school staff which are published on the [gov.ie](http://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 \(Children and Vulnerable Persons\) 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 [gov.ie](http://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.
  
- 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 Safeguarding Statement.
  
- The various procedures referred to in this Statement can be accessed via the school's website, the [gov.ie](http://gov.ie) 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.

- 8 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.
  
- 9 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 15<sup>th</sup> May 2017.

This Child Safeguarding Statement was reviewed by the Board of Management on **18<sup>th</sup> April 2024**.

Signed:

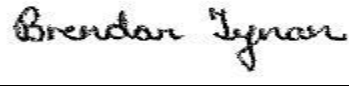


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Chairperson of Board of Management

Date: 18<sup>th</sup> April 2024

Signed:



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Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Date: 18<sup>th</sup> April 2024

## Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment

### Written Assessment of Risk of Scoil Lachtaín

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 PostPrimary Schools (revised 2023)*, the following is the Written Risk Assessment of Scoil Lachtaín.

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 -
Training of school personnel in Child Protection matters	Harm not recognised or reported promptly	<p>Child Safeguarding Statement &amp; DES procedures made available to all staff</p> <p>DLP&amp; DDLP to attend PDST face to face training All Staff to view Túsla training module &amp; any other online training offered by PDST</p> <p>BOM records all records of staff and board training</p>
<p>One to one teaching SNA support (Preschool and Mainstream)</p> <p>Pupils going on messages around school / travelling to another room / pupil leaving early</p> <p>Pupils in classroom during break times</p>	<p>Harm by school personnel</p> <p>Harm from other pupils</p> <p>Harm from other pupils IT exposure to harmful / inappropriate content</p>	<p>Table between teacher and pupil where possible Glass in window/door where possible</p> <p>Age-appropriate measures are in place: Pupils are sent in pairs (three pupils if one is going home); SEN pupils for 1-1 sessions are collected by SEN teachers; SEN pupils for groups sessions will travel together.</p> <p>Pupils remain in their seats; Toilet visits are only made with permission from supervising adult Code of Behaviour policy Anti-Bullying policy IT equipment only to be used with content chosen and set up by class teacher</p>

<p>Care of Children with special needs, including intimate care needs/use of shower facilities</p> <p>One-on-one assessment/meeting (NEPS, HSE, Túsla, Other agencies)</p>	<p>Harm by school personnel Flight Risk Turning on the shower</p> <p>Harm from adults</p>	<p>Policy on intimate care Direct hand-over from one key member of staff to another. Power cord for shower inaccessible to children. Closure of possible escape routes, security doors closed. Access by code only in Preschool Lachtaín.</p> <p>All visitors to the school sign-in and sign-out at the office Obligated to adhere to Scoil Lachtaín Child Safeguarding Statement Glass panels in doors of assessment / meeting room Pupil withdrawn from class in consultation with class teacher Garda vetting of personnel dealing with pupils</p>
<p>Curricular Provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay safe.</p>	<p>Non-teaching of same</p>	<p>School implements SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe in full</p>
<p>Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils including arrival of bus children and Pre-schoolers in taxis</p>	<p>Harm from older pupils Unknown adults on the playground</p> <p>Pupil collected by unknown adult</p>	<p>Arrival and dismissal supervised by Duty Staff All visitors report to school office. Sign in / out policy for visitors. Parents/Guardians to inform office/ if any alternative arrangements for collection are necessary. Supervising staff to challenge/question collecting adult if unsure or unknown, check with teacher/office/Principal to see if alternative arrangements made, and if still unsure, contact parents/guardians by phone, before allowing child to depart.</p> <p>Supervising teacher/Deputy Principal or Principal to remain with any remaining child (ensuring second adult present where possible) on yard until collection made.</p>

<p>Managing challenging behaviour in classroom/ on school grounds/ out-of-school activity</p> <p>Investigating an incident in one-to-one context</p> <p>Application of sanctions for misbehaviour</p>	<p>Traffic danger</p> <p>Injury to pupils / staff</p> <p>Harm from school personnel</p> <p>Harm from school personnel</p>	<p>Parents sign out 'early leavers'</p> <p>Use of high vis. vests by bus children and accompanied by member of staff</p> <p>Good practice re. dropping and collecting by car reinforced in School Newsletters/Bulletins at intervals during school year.</p> <p>Safety message to pupils re. car park dangers reinforced in class/assembly and by duty teachers</p> <p>Teacher Code of Professional Conduct</p> <p>Own classroom door and neighbouring classroom door left open and neighbouring teacher informed</p> <p>Code of Behaviour</p> <p>Anti-Bullying policy</p> <p>Incident Report</p> <p>Teacher Code of Professional Conduct Code of Behaviour policy</p>
<p>School transport arrangements including use of bus escorts</p>	<p>Risk of harm to children with SEN who have particular vulnerabilities</p>	<p>Orientation meeting with Principal/Deputy Principal</p> <p>Garda Vetting</p> <p>Compliance with all relevant school policies</p> <p>Obligated to adhere to Scoil Lachtaín Child Safeguarding Statement</p>





<p>Splitting of class (e.g. EPV day / Teacher illness)</p>	<p>Harm from other pupils</p>	<p>Class division arrangements are drawn up in Sept. indicating allocation of pupils for EPV/Teacher illness. EPV / Illness: Principal/Deputy or nominated teacher splits class</p>
<p>Outdoor teaching activities, including use of Sensory Garden School outings</p> <p>Fundraising events involving pupils and outsiders e.g. Christmas Fair / Book Fair</p>	<p>Access to pupils by strangers. Inappropriate activity by pupils. Dangers posed by unfamiliar environment Crossing roads Dangers associated with certain plants</p> <p>Harm from other pupils / adults</p>	<p>Adequate supervision provided as per Supervision Policy Adequate planning and preparation by staff. School Tour policy followed Plants chosen with the assistance/advice of a horticulturist to limit harmful exposure.</p> <p>Access only to designated areas Organisation and supervision of all activities by teachers / nominated adults Supervision Policy Code of Behaviour Anti-Bullying policy</p>
<p>Sporting Activities</p>	<p>Potential for unsupervised times in changing areas. Access to pupils by strangers or other adults.</p>	<p>Adequate supervision provided as per Supervision Policy Trained lifeguards in pool Garda Vetting</p>
<p>Student teachers / SNAs undertaking training placement in school</p>	<p>Unfamiliar with policies/children with special needs and/or medical issues</p>	<p>Orientation meeting with Principal/Deputy Principal Mentoring Garda Vetting Compliance with all relevant school policies Obligated to adhere to Scoil Lachtaín Child Safeguarding Statement</p>

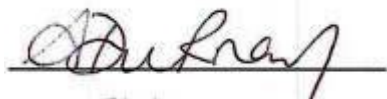
<p>Recruitment of school personnel including –</p> <p>Teachers</p> <p>SNAs</p> <p>Caretaker</p> <p>Secretary</p> <p>Bus Escorts</p>	<p>Harm from adults</p>	<p>Child Safeguarding Statement &amp; DES procedures made available to all recruited;</p> <p>Staff training (Túsla training module &amp; online training)</p> <p>Garda Vetting References where applicable</p> <p>Code of Professional Conduct</p>
<p>Use of video/photography/other media to record school events</p> <p>Social Media</p> <p>Use of Information and Communication Technology by pupils in school</p>	<p>Potential for bullying.</p> <p>Potential for grooming of pupils</p> <p>Risk of harm due to inappropriate relationship/communications between child and another child or adult</p> <p>Risk of harm due to children inappropriately accessing/using computers, social media, phones and other devices while at school</p>	<p>Pupil phones not permitted in school. If need arises, pupils' mobile phones are handed to class teacher in the morning and returned at end of school day.</p> <p>Anti-Bullying Policy.</p> <p>Information sessions/workshops for pupils, parents and staff on Internet Safety</p> <p>Code of Professional Conduct for Teachers 2016 / Code of conduct for school personnel (non-teaching staff)</p> <p>The school has in place an ICT policy in respect of usage of ICT by pupils</p> <p>The school has in place a mobile phone policy in respect of usage of mobile phones by pupils</p>
<p>Care of pupils with specific vulnerabilities/needs such as</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Pupils from ethnic minorities/migrants</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Members of the Traveller community</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> SEN pupils</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender (LGBT) children</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Pupils perceived to be LGBT</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Pupils of minority religious faiths</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Children in care</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Children on CPNS</li> </ul>	<p>Harm from other pupils / adults</p>	<p>Supervision Policy</p> <p>Code of Behaviour</p> <p>Anti-Bullying Policy</p> <p>School implements SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe in full</p>

**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.

This risk assessment has been completed by the Board of Management on **18<sup>th</sup> April 2024**. It will be reviewed as part of the school’s annual review of its Child Safeguarding Statement.

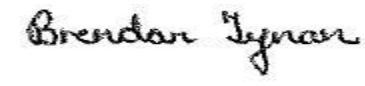
Signed:



Chairperson, Board of Management

Date: 18/4/2024

Signed:



Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Date: 18/4/2024


### Mandatory Template 3: Notification regarding the Board of Management's review of the Child Safeguarding Statement

To the Patron, Parent Association, Staff and all in our school community

The Board of Management of **Scoil Lachtaín** wishes to inform you that:

- The Board of Management's annual review of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement was completed at the Board meeting of *18<sup>th</sup> April 2024*.
- This review was conducted in accordance with the "Checklist for Review of the Child Safeguarding Statement" published on the Department's website [www.education.ie](http://www.education.ie)

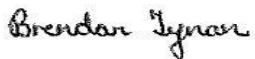
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Chairperson, Board of Management

Date 18/4/2024

Signed:



Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Date 18/4/2024