



# Gaelscoil Choráin

## EochailL

### Ráiteas Um Chumhdach Leanaí/

## Child Safeguarding Statement

Gaelscoil Choráin is a primary school providing primary education through the medium of the Irish language 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 Gaelscoil Choráin 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: Príomhoide Caitríona Ní Riada
- 3 The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is: Príomhoide Táinisteach Carmel Uí Chiardha-Bhriain.
- 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



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- 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



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- 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 and the



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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

This Child Safeguarding Statement was adopted by the Board of Management on 09.03.2021

Sínte:

Antóin Ó Laoire

Cathaoirleach an Bhoird Bhainistíochta

Dáta: 09.03.2021

Sínte:

Caitríona Ní Riada

Príomhoide

Dáta: 09.03.2021



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### Seicliosta d'Athbhreithniú Ar An Ráiteas Maidir Le Cumhdach Leanai/ Checklist for Review of the Child Safeguarding Statement

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.

	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'?	Yes
2. 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'?	Yes
3. Does the school's Child Safeguarding Statement include a written assessment of risk as required under the Children First Act 2015?	Yes
4. Has the Board reviewed and updated where necessary the written assessment of risk as part of this overall review?	Yes
5. Has the DLP attended available child protection training?	Yes
6. Has the Deputy DLP attended available child protection training?	Yes
7. Have any members of the Board attended child protection training?	Yes
8. Are there both a DLP and a Deputy DLP currently appointed?	Yes
9. Are the relevant contact details (Tusla and An Garda Síochána) to hand?	Yes
10. Has the Board arrangements in place to communicate the school's Child Safeguarding Statement to new school personnel?	Yes



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	Yes/No
11. 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?	Yes
12. Has the Board received a Principal's Child Protection Oversight Report at each Board meeting held since the last review was undertaken?	Yes
13. Since the Board's last review, was the Board informed of any child protection reports made to Tusla/An Garda Síochána by the DLP?	Yes
14. Since the Board's last review, was the Board informed of any cases where the DLP sought advice from Tusla/and as a result of this advice, no report to the HSE was made?	Yes
15. Since the Board's last review, was the Board informed of any cases where an allegation of abuse or neglect was made against any member of school personnel?	No
16. Has the Board been provided with and reviewed all documents relevant to the Principal's Child Protection Oversight Report?	Yes
17. 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
18. 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?*	N/A
19. Were child protection matters reported to the Board appropriately recorded in the Board minutes?	Yes
20. Is the Board satisfied that all records relating to child protection are appropriately filed and stored securely?	Yes
21. 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
22. In relation to any cases identified at question 21 above, has the Board ensured that any notifications required section 5.6 of the 'Child	N/A



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	Yes/No
Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools 2017' were subsequently issued by the DLP?	
23.Has the Board ensured that the Parents' Association (if any), has been provided with the school's Child Safeguarding Statement?	Yes
24.Has the Board ensured that the patron has been provided with the school's Child Safeguarding Statement?	Yes
25.Has the Board ensured that the school's Child Safeguarding Statement is available to parents on request?	Yes
26.Has the Board ensured that the Stay Safe programme is implemented in full in the school? (applies to primary schools)	Yes
27.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
28.Has the Board ensured that the SPHE curriculum is implemented in full in the school?	Yes
29.Is the Board satisfied that the statutory requirements for Garda Vetting have been met in respect of all school personnel (employees and volunteers)? *	Yes
30.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
31.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
32.Has the Board considered and addressed any complaints or suggestions for improvements regarding the school's Child Safeguarding Statement?	N/A
33.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'	Yes
34.Has the Board sought the feedback of pupils in relation to the school's child safeguarding arrangements?	Yes



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	Yes/No
35. 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?	Yes
36. Has the Board identified any aspects of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement and/or its implementation that require further improvement?	Yes
37. 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 ?	Yes
38. Has the Board ensured that any areas for improvement that that were identified in any previous review of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement have been adequately addressed?	N/A

This Checklist was completed by the Board of Management on the 09.03.2021 as part of a review of our Child Safeguarding Statement.

Sínte:

Antóin Ó Laoire

Cathaoirleach an Bhoird Bhainistíochta

Dáta: 09.03.2021

Sínte:

Caitríona Ní Riada

Príomhoide

Dáta: 09.03.2021





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### Fógra maidir le hAthbhreithniú an Bhoird Bhainistíochta ar an Ráiteas um Chumhdach Leanaí/ Notification regarding the Board of Management's review of the Child Safeguarding Statement

An Patrún, An tEaspag Liam Ó Croidheáin,

The Board of Management of Gaelscoil Choráin 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 09.03.21.
- 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)

Síithe:

Antóin Ó Laoire

Cathaoirleach an Bhoird Bhainistíochta

Dáta: 09.03.2021

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### Teimpléad 1: Teimpléad Measúnachta Riosca maidir le Cumhdach Leanai / Template 1: Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment Template

#### Written Risk Assessment of Gaelscoil Choráin

In accordance with section 11 of the Children First Act 2015 and with the requirement of Section 8.8 of the Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017, the following is the Written Risk Assessment of Gaelscoil Choráin.

#### 1. Liosta de Ghníomhaíochtaí Scoile/List of school activities

- Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils
- Recreation breaks for pupils
- Classroom teaching
- One-to-one Teaching
- Outdoor teaching activities
- Sporting Activities
- Swimming lessons in The Quality Hotel, Youghal (3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Class)
- School outings
- Use of toilet areas in school
- Annual Sports Day
- Fundraising events involving pupils (e.g. Bag packing in SuperValu)
- Use of off-site facilities for school activities (e.g. Beach, Green Park, Church)
- School transport arrangements (to matches, swimming, gaeltacht, tours etc.)
- Care of children with special educational needs, including intimate care where needed
- Management of challenging behaviour amongst pupils, including appropriate use of restraint where required
- Administration of Medicine



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- Administration of First Aid
- Curricular provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe
- Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst pupils
- Training of school personnel in child protection matters
- Use of external personnel to supplement curriculum
- Grandparent's Day, First Holy Communion Gathering in school hall, school nurse, members of the clergy visiting the school, parents and visitors visiting the school for school celebrations and events.
- Use of external personnel to support sports and other extra-curricular activities
- Recruitment of school personnel including -
  - Teachers/SNA's
  - Caretaker/Secretary/Cleaners
  - Sports coaches
  - External Tutors/Guest Speakers
  - Volunteers/Parents in school activities
  - Visitors/contractors present in school during school hours
  - Visitors/contractors present during after school activities
- Use of Information and Communication Technology by pupils in school
- Remote learning using zoom as a platform for wellbeing meetings.
- Application of sanctions under the school's Code of Behaviour including detention of pupils, confiscation of phones etc.
- Students participating in work experience in the school
- 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
- Green School Committee Meetings / Other meetings involving students, staff and other visiting adults / parents
- Movement of pupils around the school E.g. Pupils walking to the office, pupils walking to SEN rooms, pupils walking to another classroom / yard etc.
- Students walking to and from local events



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### 2. Tá na rioscaí díobhála seo a leanas sonraithe ag an scoil i leith a cuid gníomhaíochtaí /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, gaeltacht
- 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 to child while a child is receiving intimate care
- Risk of harm due to inadequate Code of Behaviour
- Risk of harm in one-to-one teaching / coaching/ meeting situation
- Risk of harm to students being dropped off at the school prior to 8.30 a.m. and thus standing outside school gate.
- Risk of harm due to students of different age groups being present at the same time when using the toilets.



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3. Tá na nósanna imeachta seo a leanas ar bun ag an scoil chun aghaidh a thabhairt ar na rioscaí díobhála atá sonraithe sa mheasúnacht seo / 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*. This is displayed in all rooms in the school, on the parent and staff noticeboard of the school and on the school website.
- The *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017* are made available to all school personnel
- 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
- The school implements in full the *Stay Safe Programme*
- The school implements in full the *SPHE curriculum*
- The school implements in full the *R.S.E.* programme
- The school has a Care Programme which is implemented in full
- The school has a Care Team. Students can speak to any member of the care team should they need to.
- 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
- The school has a *Supervision Policy* to ensure appropriate supervision of children during, assembly, dismissal and breaks and in respect of specific areas such as toilets etc.
- The school has a *Health and Safety Statement & Policy*
- The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation and relevant DES circulars in relation to recruitment and Garda vetting
- The school has a codes of conduct for school personnel (teaching and non-teaching staff)
- The school complies with the agreed disciplinary procedures for teaching staff



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- The school has in place a policy and procedures for the *Administration of Medication* to pupils (To be reviewed in Term 1 of academic year 2020/21)
- The school has a policy on *Substance Abuse*
- 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 a *Code of Behaviour* for pupils
- The school has in place an *ICT/Acceptable Usage Policy* in respect of usage of ICT by pupils.
- For remote learning purposes all zoom meetings will be co-hosted with another member of the teaching or ancillary staff for Child Protection reasons.
- The school has in place a *Critical Incident Management Plan*.
- In one-to-one teaching activities, meetings with the Principal, errands to the secretary's office etc the glass panel of the door is to be free of any obstructions.
- An internal fob system is in place in the school

**Nóta Tábhachtach/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 of Gaelscoil Choráin 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



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identified. While it is not possible to foresee and remove all risks 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 of Gaelscoil Choráin on 09.03.2021. It shall be reviewed as part of the school's annual review of its Child Safeguarding Statement.

Sínithe:

Antóin Ó Laoire

Cathaoirleach an Bhoird Bhainistíochta

Dáta: 09.03.2021

Sínithe:

Caitríona Ní Riada

Príomhoide

Dáta: 09.03.2021