

**Child Safeguarding Statement 2023/2024**

Scoil Phádraig Naofa 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](http://www.irishstatutebook.ie/eli/2015/act/36/enacted/en/pdf), [Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children 2017](https://assets.gov.ie/25844/b90aafa55804462f84d05f87f0ca2bf6.pdf), [the Addendum to Children First (2019)](https://assets.gov.ie/25819/c9744b64dfd6447985eeffa5c0d71bbb.pdf), the [Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools (revised 2023)](https://www.gov.ie/en/collection/12bee3-child-protection-procedures-in-schools/) and [Tusla Guidance on the preparation of Child Safeguarding Statements](https://www.tusla.ie/uploads/content/4214-TUSLA_Guidance_on_Developing_a_CSS_LR.PDF), the Board of Management of Scoil 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 *(revised 2023)* as part of this overall Child Safeguarding Statement
2. The Designated Liaison Person (DLP) is Méabh Hennessy
3. The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is Clare O’ Driscoll
4. The Relevant Person is Méabh Hennessy

*(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.)*

1. 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.

1. 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 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)](https://revisedacts.lawreform.ie/eli/2012/act/47/revised/en/pdf) 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 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 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.

1. 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.
2. 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 27.09.2023.

This Child Safeguarding Statement was reviewed by the Board of Management on 27.09.2023.

Signed: Michael Crowley Signed: Méabh Hennessy

Chairperson of Board of Management Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Date: 27.09.2023 Date: 27.09.2023

**Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment**

**Written Assessment of Risk of Scoil Phádraig Naofa**

In accordance with section 11 of the Children First Act 2015 and with the requirements of Chapter 8 of the *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools (revised 2023)*, the following is the Written Risk Assessment of Scoil Phádraig Naofa.

1. **List of school activities**

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| * Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils
* Breaks for pupils
* Classroom Teaching
* One to one teaching
* Outdoor teaching activities
* Sporting Activities
* School outings- library/ playground/ shop
* Use of toilet areas in school
* Sports Day
* Fundraising events
* Use of off site facilities for school activities
* School Transport arrangements incl. use of bus escorts
* Care of children with special educational needs incl. intimate care where needed
* Management of challenging behaviour amongst pupils
* Administration of Medicine
* Administration of First Aid
* Curricular provision of SPHE & 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
* Recruitment of school personnel including; teachers/SNAs, caretaker, secretary, cleaners, sports coaches, external tutors, guest speakers, volunteers, parents involved 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 school
* Use of information and communication technology by pupils in school
* Application of sanctions under the school’s Code of Behaviour
* Use of phones/ devices in school
* Students participating in work experience in the school
* Student teachers undertaking training placement in the school
* Use of video/photography/other media to record school events
* After school use of school for homework club
* Unauthorised withdrawal of a pupil after school event or school tour
* Facebook – teacher uploading photos and videos
* Traffic Management
* WOW walk
* Morning supervision
* Children who are a flight risk
* DEIS Camp
* July Provision
* Trips to Nun’s garden
* Travelling to/ from school
* Activities in pitch
* Roots of empathy
* Cycle Sense- on road
* Parent Teacher meetings
* Parent courses
* Swimming- use of dressing rooms
* Toileting
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1. **The school has identified the following risk of harm in respect of its activities –**

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| * 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 a child being harmed in the school by another child
* Risk of a child being harmed in the school by a volunteer or visitor to the school
* Risk of a child being harmed by anyone while child is participating in out of school

activities e.g swimming* Risk of harm due to bullying
* 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 behaviour
* Risk of harm in one to one teaching
* 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
* Risk of harm caused by member of school personnel accessing/circulating

inappropriate material via social media, texting, digital device or other manner.* Risk of exposure to inappropriate material
* Risk on online bullying
* Risk of harm coming/ leaving school grounds
* Risk of harm on school bus
* Risk of harm taking part in organised activity e.g cycling
* Risk of harm for a flight risk from E.Y
* Risk of harm due to injury, fall
* Risk of cars in Nuns’ garden
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1. **The school has the following procedures in place to address the risks of harm identified in this assessment –**

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| * The school will put in place appropriate supervision of child during assembly,

dismissal and breaks and school outings and in respect of specific areas such as toilets, changing rooms etc. * School has a Health and Safety 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 complies with the agreed disciplinary procedures for teaching staff
* The school has a Special Educational Needs policy as well as one for bus escorts &

intimate care * The school has in place a policy and procedures for the administration of medication to

pupils* Each member of school staff will have access to the schools Child Safeguarding Statement

(on Staff Drive & on board in Reception)* Ensures all new staff are briefed on the 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 policy in respect of ICT usage by pupils
* The school has procedures in respect of usage of mobile phones by pupils
* The school has changed its start times so that children are not waiting in the school yard

 for long* In the mornings and supervision is provided in classrooms
* Adult on duty at bus times in the evenings
* Glass panels or doors left open in resource rooms
* Adequate pupil:teacher ratio for school trips
* Liaise with appropriate bodies for children at risk
* When visitors are in, teacher to remain with class at all times
* Adult supervision for use of prefabs
* Buzzer system in place on main doors
* Garda Vetting Disclosure & Joint Agreement sought for each coach coming in to the school
* Staff are trained to recognise signs of risk of abuse
* Staff to be vigilant during activities lunch breaks etc. to ensure that visitors adhere to sign

out procedures* CPD engagement by staff
* Procedures for identifying child protection issues for children who attend our special classes or more vulnerable children eg. Students who have been diagnosed with anxiety

disorders (EBD) * Adequate adult supervision when students go swimming
* Teachers to inform pupils where to go and what to do in unfamiliar areas
* Flight risk procedures in place
* 2x2 policy for children going anywhere in the school building e.g toilet
* School devices for taking and uploading of photographs
* Internet access monitored by PDST Technology
* Staff on duty for dismissal of pupils
* Staff to teach road safety
* Adult supervision in pitch, procedure re going back up to use toilet
* Procedures in place re: phones
* Ensure adequate staffing present for organised school activities
* Staff to promote good behaviour on buses etc.
* Use of “stair gates” where necessary for E.Y.
* Children not permitted to walk at the top of the nun’s garden – guidelines in place
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| **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.

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