



Scoil Dara

CHILD SAFEGUARDING STATEMENT

September 2024

Scoil Dara is a post primary school providing post primary education to pupils from First Year to Leaving Certificate Year.

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 2017 and Tusla Guidance on the preparation of Child Safeguarding Statements, the Board of Management of Scoil Dara 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 the overall Child Safeguarding Statement.
2. **The Designated Liaison Person (DLP) is:** **Mr. Michael McDonagh**
3. **The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is:** **Ms. Glenda Dowling**
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. In its policies, procedures 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.


5. 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 2017 and to the relevant agreed disciplinary procedures for school staff which are published on the DES 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 DES and available on the DES 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 2017, including in the case of registered teachers, those in relation to mandated reporting under the Children First Act 2015.
- 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 s child safeguarding statement.
- All registered teachers employed by the school are mandated persons under the Children First Act 2015.
- 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.
- 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.


6. 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.

7. 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 _____

Signed:  _____
Chairperson, Board of Management

Date: 12/09/24

Signed:  _____
Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Date: 12/09/24

Child Safeguarding

Written Risk Assessment of Scoil Dara

In accordance with Section 11 of the Children First Act 2015 and with the requirements of Chapter 8 of the Child Protection Procedures for Post Primary schools, (revised 2023) the following is the written Risk Assessment of Scoil Dara.

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 12/09/24.

It shall be reviewed as part of the school’s annual review of its Child Safeguarding Statement.

1. List of School Activities

- Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils (Single pedestrian entry and double gate entry for cars)
- Bus transport: collection and drop off.
- Students arriving late/leaving early/ entering via other door (throughout school building)
- Speed limits within school grounds
- Site visitors and (external) service providers/Sign in procedures
- Arrival to and dismissal from class
- Recreation breaks for pupils –break & lunch
- Classroom teaching
- Removing students from class
- One-to-one teaching / Learning Support
- One-to-one counselling / Discussion
- Outdoor teaching activities
- Sporting Activities - in school and extra-curricular
- School outings
- First Year Social Night
- Open Evening
- Parent and Teacher meetings
- Information talks
- School Concerts
- Student Development Initiatives: Gaisce, JPIL, Meitheal/Prefect training
- School trips involving overnight stay
- HSE Visits – Vaccination programmes
- School trips involving foreign travel
- Use of toilet/changing/shower areas in schools
- Annual 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, including intimate care where needed.
- Management of challenging behaviour amongst pupils, including appropriate use of restraint where required
- Fire/Lock-down drills
- Administration of Medicine
- 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
- 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
- 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 including detention of pupils, confiscation of phones etc
- 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
- Student access to recording devices/ mobile phones/video
- After school use of school premises by other organisations
- Use of school premises by other organisation during school day
- Homework club/ Evening study/Student Council meetings/ Meitheal meetings
- Students being transported in staff vehicles (emergency medical incidents etc.)

2. The School has identified the following risk(s) of harm in respect of its activities –

- Risk of 'harm' where a student is not recognised by school personnel
- Risk of 'harm' where incident involving a student is not 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 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 the child is participating in out of school activities e.g. school trip, swimming lessons, school tour
- Risk of 'harm' due to bullying of child

- Risk of 'harm' due to inadequate supervision of children in school- in class and at dispersal times/ break times
- Risk of 'harm' due to physical assault of a child by another child, school personnel, visitor or guest speaker
- Risk of 'harm' due to inadequate supervision of children while attending out of school activities/ school trips
- Risk of 'harm' due to inappropriate relationship/communications between child and another child or adult
- Risk of 'harm' due to children accessing inappropriate content through school computers
- Risk of 'harm' to children with AEN 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, counselling, coaching situation(s)
- Risk of 'harm' caused by member of school personnel communicating with pupils in an inappropriate manner via social media, texting, digital device or any other manner
- Risk of 'harm' caused by member of school personnel accessing/circulating inappropriate material via social media, texting, digital device or any other manner
- Risk of 'harm' to child due to faulty or damaged school equipment/property

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*
- The *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017* are made available to all school personnel via email/ available as hard copy in the staffroom & main school office
- 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* and it's Addendum (2019)
- The school implements relevant aspects of the Stay Safe Programme
- 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*
- The school has a break/lunchtime supervision rota to ensure appropriate supervision of children during, daily break and lunch times, as students arrive and at the end of the day. Students must request teacher permission to access bathrooms during class with record taken of this access Changing facilities are monitored by PE teachers
- The school has in place procedures in respect of school outings as part of the Teacher Handbook- Policy Pending
- The school has a Health and Safety certificate of compliance & Safety Statement document signed by all staff
- The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation and relevant DES circulars in relation to recruitment and Garda vetting - All staff of Scoil Dara are Garda Vetted – According to the DES Circular 0031/2016

- The school adheres to the Teaching Council's Code of Professional Conduct for Teachers (Updated 2016) - <http://www.teachingcouncil.ie/en/Publications/Fitness-to-Teach/Code-of-Professional-Conduct-for-Teachers1.pdf>
- The school complies with the agreed disciplinary procedures for teaching staff as set out by the Teaching Council. <http://www.teachingcouncil.ie/en/Fitness-to-Teach/Complaints-about-Registered-Teachers/Information-for-Teachers/>
- The school has a Special/Additional Educational Need Policy - **Pending**
- The school has an intimate care policy/plan in respect of students who require such care – **Pending**
- The school has in place protocols and procedures for the administration of medication to pupils – Pending
- 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 policy and procedures for the administration of First Aid
- The school has in place a Code of Behaviour for pupils
- The school has in place an ICT policy and an AUP in respect of usage of ICT by pupils
- The school has in place a mobile phone policy in respect of usage of mobile phones by pupils
- The school has in place a Critical Incident Management Plan
- The school has a policy regarding the communication between school and home and the procedures regarding same are clearly identified – **Pending**
- The school has in place a policy and procedures for the use of external persons to supplement delivery of the curriculum - **Pending**
- The school has in place a policy and procedures for the use of external sports coaches - **Pending**
- The school has in place a policy and clear procedures for one-to-one teaching activities - **Pending**
- The school has in place a policy and procedures for one-to-one counselling/teaching/coaching/interview - **Pending**
- The school has in place a policy and procedures in respect of student teacher placements in line with the Guidelines of the Teaching Council and the co-operating universities
- The school has in place a policy and procedures in respect of students undertaking work experience in the school
- The school has in place a policy and procedures in respect of pupils of the school undertaking work experience in external organisations in line with the 2016 legislation – **Pending**
- The School has in place a policy regarding school trips and excursions - **Pending**

Checklist for Review of the Child Safeguarding Statement

The Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017 require that the Board of Management of Scoil Dara 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, the Board of Management of Scoil Dara will 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 '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
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?	No

	Yes/No
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?*	Yes
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'?	Yes
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 Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools 2017' were subsequently issued by the DLP?	Yes
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)	N/A
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)	Yes
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?	Yes
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

	Yes/No
34. Has the Board sought the feedback of pupils in relation to the school's child safeguarding arrangements?	Yes
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 No.
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 M/A.
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?	Yes

Signed: 
Chairperson, Board of Management

Date: 12/09/24

Signed: 
Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Date: 12/09/24

Appendix 1

Notification regarding the Board of Management's review of the Child Safeguarding Statement

To: _____

The Board of Management of Scoil Dara 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 12/09/2024.
- 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

Signed: 
Chairperson, Board of Management

Date 12/9/24

Signed: 
Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Date 12/9/24

Appendix 4

Checklist for annual review of the Anti-Bullying Policy and its implementation

The Board of Management (the Board) must undertake an annual review of the school's anti-bullying policy and its implementation. The following checklist must be used for this purpose. The Checklist is an aid to conducting this review and is not intended as an exhaustive list. In order to complete the checklist, an examination and review involving both quantitative and qualitative analysis, as appropriate across the various elements of the implementation of the school's anti-bullying policy will be required.

	Yes/No
Has the Board formally adopted an anti-bullying policy that fully complies with the requirements of the <i>Anti-Bullying Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools</i> ?	Yes
Has the Board published the policy on the school website and provided a copy to the parents' association?	Yes
Has the Board ensured that the policy has been made available to school staff (including new staff)?	Yes
Is the Board satisfied that school staff are sufficiently familiar with the policy and procedures to enable them to effectively and consistently apply the policy and procedures in their day to day work?	Yes
Has the Board ensured that the policy has been adequately communicated to all pupils?	Yes
Has the policy documented the prevention and education strategies that the school applies?	Yes
Have all of the prevention and education strategies been implemented?	Yes
Has the effectiveness of the prevention and education strategies that have been implemented been examined?	Yes
Is the Board satisfied that all teachers are recording and dealing with incidents in accordance with the policy?	Yes
Has the Board received and minuted the periodic summary reports of the Principal?	Yes
Has the Board discussed how well the school is handling all reports of bullying including those addressed at an early stage and not therefore included in the Principal's periodic report to the Board?	Yes
Has the Board received any complaints from parents regarding the school's handling of bully incidents?	Yes
Have any parents withdrawn their child from the school citing dissatisfaction with the school's handling of a bullying situation?	No
Have the Ombudsman for Children investigations into the school's handling of a bullying case been initiated or completed?	No
Has the data available from cases reported to the Principal (by the bullying recording template) been analysed to identify any issues, trends or patterns in bullying behaviour?	Yes
Has the Board identified any aspects of the school's policy and/or its implementation that require further improvement?	No
Has the Board put in place an action plan to address any areas for improvement?	N/A

Signed: 
Chairperson, Board of Management

Date: 12/09/24

Signed: 
Principal

Date: 12/09/24