



"Let the rooms
be full of happiness."

*Scoil Iósaf National School,
Castlemartyr, Co. Cork. P25 JK64*

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Roll Number 13647B Charities Registration No 20201993

Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment

Child Safeguarding Statement

Scoil Iósaf 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 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 Iósaf 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 Anne Marie Barry
3. The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is Barra Ó Tuama
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, 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.

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 DE 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 DE 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 abovenamed 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.
- 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 DE website or will be made available on request by the school.

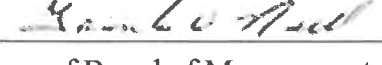
Note: The above is not intended as an exhaustive list. Individual Boards of Management shall also include in this section such other procedures/measures that are of relevance to the school in question.

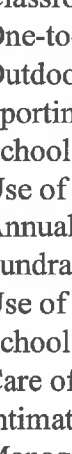
- 6 This statement has been published on the school's website and has been provided to all members of school personnel, the Parents' Association (if any) and the patron. It is readily accessible to parents and guardians on request. A copy of this Statement will be made available to Tusla and the Department 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 reviewed by the Board of Management on 09/03/2023

This Child Safeguarding Statement was adopted by the Board of Management on 09/03/2023

Signed: 
Chairperson of Board of Management
Date: 09/03/2023

Signed: 
Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management
Date: 09/03/2023

Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment

Written Assessment of Risk of Scoil Iósaf

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 2017*, the following is the Written Risk Assessment of Scoil Iósaf.

1. List of school activities

- Daily arrival of pupils onto the school grounds
- Pupils moving safely across the school grounds.
- Pupils should not be present where vehicles are moving
- Transition of pupils from point of assembly to classrooms
- Transition of pupils from classrooms to other areas within the school
- Transition of pupils from classrooms to resource classrooms and vice versa.
- Daily dismissal of pupils
- Recreation breaks for pupils
- Transition from classroom to designated recreation areas
- Transition of pupils from playground assembly areas to classrooms
 - Classroom teaching
 - One-to-one teaching
 - Outdoor teaching activities both within the school grounds and outside
 - Sporting Activities
 - School outings
 - Use of toilet/changing/ areas in schools
 - Annual Sports Day
 - Fundraising events involving pupils e.g. Carol Singing
 - Use of off-site facilities for school activities e.g. Woods, River
 - School transport arrangements for outings
 - Care of children with special educational needs
 - Intimate care needs of pupils where needed
 - Management of challenging behaviour amongst pupils, including use of restraint
 - 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 curricular activities

- Care of pupils with specific vulnerabilities/ needs such as
 - Pupils from ethnic minorities/migrants
 - Members of the Traveller community
 - Lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender (LGBT) children
 - Pupils perceived to be LGBT
 - Pupils of minority religious faiths
 - Children in care
 - 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 external to the school
 - Use of Information and Communication Technology by pupils in school
 - Application of sanctions under the school's Code of Behaviour
 - Students from Transition Year participating in work experience in the school
 - Student teachers undertaking training placement in school
 - Students from other third level institutions undertaking placement in the school
 - Use of video/photography/other media to record school events
- After school use of school premises by other organisations Use of school premises by other organisation during the school day.

2. The school has identified the following risk of harm in respect of its activities –

In accordance with section 2 of the Children First Act, 2015 the defined threshold of "harm" in relation to a child is as follows:

"harm" means, in relation to a child

(a) assault, ill-treatment or neglect of the child in a manner that seriously affects or is likely to seriously affect the child's health, development or welfare, or

(b) sexual abuse of the child, whether caused by a single act, omission or circumstance or a series or combination of acts, omissions or circumstances, or otherwise;"

"ill-treatment" means, in relation to a child, to abandon or cruelly treat the child, or to cause or procure or allow the child to be abandoned or cruelly treated;

"neglect" means, in relation to a child, to deprive the child of adequate food, warmth, clothing, hygiene, supervision, safety or medical care;

"welfare" includes, in relation to a child, the moral, intellectual, physical, emotional and social welfare of the child."

- 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 a volunteer/visitor to the school
- Risk of harm due to bullying of child
- Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children in 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, counselling, coaching situation
- Risk of child being harmed by a member of staff of another organisation or any other person while the child is participating in out of school activities e.g. school trip, swimming lessons
- 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 caused by member of school personnel communicating with pupils in appropriate 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 harm not being recognised by school personnel
- Risk of harm not being reported properly and promptly by school personnel

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 in the general office and at <https://www.education.ie/en/Schools-Colleges/Information/Child-Protection/child-protection-guidelines.pdf>
- 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* at <http://www.irishstatutebook.ie/eli/2015/act/36/enacted/en/html>
- The school implements in full the Stay Safe Programme
- The school implements in full the SPHE curriculum
- The school implements in full the Weaving Wellbeing programme 2nd– 6th
- 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 yard/playground 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 procedures in place in respect of school outings
- The 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 all staff
- The school has a Special Educational Needs policy
- The school has in place a policy and procedures for the administration of medication to pupils

- 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 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 in respect of usage of ICT by pupils
- The school has in place a Critical Incident Management Plan
- The school has in place procedures for the use of external persons to supplement delivery of the curriculum
- The school has in place a policy and procedures in respect of external persons on the school premises.
- Scoil Íósaf is a “Nut Free” zone, in recognition of current pupil nut allergy.

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.

Distance Learning Child Safeguarding Statement

Scoil Íósaf is committed to a child-centred approach in all our work with children. We strive to provide a safe environment and experience, where the welfare of the child is paramount.

This policy extends the Child Protection Policy of Scoil Íósaf.

Distance Learning

In facilitating access to safe communication between Scoil Íósaf staff and pupils, Scoil Íósaf extends the opportunity to learn via seesaw during remote periods of teaching & learning. In providing these opportunities, we commit to adhering to following best practices in the interest of safeguarding both pupils and staff.

Child Protection Concerns Related to Distance Learning

Communicating with pupils over the internet raises the following concerns in relation to child protection:

- The situation introduces the pupil to the idea of communicating with an adult that is not part of their family group over the internet. This is not a practice that should come to be considered normal by the pupil and it should be emphasised by parents that communicating in this manner is something that requires permission and supervision;

- This method of communication invites the teacher/SNA into the pupil's home, and vice versa, without being physically present and, therefore, possibly unknown to other members of either household. There should be an awareness on behalf of all involved that there is someone virtually present in their home and that everyone's actions need to be reflected in this.
- Scoil Iósaf staff undertake as part of our Child Protection Policy to report any concerns over child welfare to Anne Marie Barry (Principal Teacher), who is the Designated Liaison Person or in her absence to Barra Ó Tuama (Deputy Principal and Deputy Designated Liaison Person).

Seesaw Communication

- Seesaw may be used for classes to engage in school activities.
- It is the responsibility of parents to ensure that there is supervised access to the internet and seesaw and that content uploaded is appropriate.
- Pupils may request help or clarifications using this method of communication.
- Pupils may submit schoolwork via Seesaw.
- Teachers will provide feedback to pupils via Seesaw. Teachers will respond to messages during school hours. Any messages received after these hours will be responded to the following school day.
- If parents wish to raise any concerns or discuss anything with teacher/SNA they must email the school email to request a telephone call – castlemartyrns@gmail.com

In the event of video calls to pupil(s) during remote teaching & learning:

- All calls should be held in an area of the home that is open and accessible to the parents of the pupil. Lessons should not, for instance, take place in a room with a closed door without parental/guardian's supervision.
- All present must show their face. In the interest of safety, any person entering the room who does not reveal their identity will be removed.
- All persons partaking in the call must be dressed appropriately. Pyjamas are not appropriate.
- Teachers/SNA should hold the video call in a location that respects the privacy of the pupils learning.
 - All one-to-one calls require a parent/guardian to be present during the video.
 - For all one-to-one calls there must be two adults on the video call.
 - Parents are responsible for the supervision of their child during the video call.
 - No lessons are permitted to be recorded by any pupils
 - If a class teacher wishes to record a lesson online prior consent will be sought from parents.

Boundaries Professional Distance

While encouraging and fostering a positive relationship with learners, all Scoil Íósaf staff must retain a sense of themselves as ‘professionals’ and, thus, maintain a professional distance with learners and parents in both the workplace and while working with pupils remotely. Staff members should ensure that they do not place themselves in situations where learners have undue expectations of a staff member’s ability to resolve conflicts or personal issues. Pupils and parents themselves have a responsibility to recognise the ‘professional’ nature of their relationship with a staff member and hence not hold undue expectations of how staff should relate to them in the workplace or online.

Grounds for Concern

The grounds for concern laid out in the Scoil Íósaf Child Protection Policy shall apply in all lessons given over the internet and shall apply to all children in the pupil’s home. If a staff member witnesses any concerning issues during the videocall they must report these to Designated Liaison Person in accordance with the Child Protection Guidelines. This includes things that happen in the background or off-camera.

If a parent has any concerns about the process or relationship between pupil and staff member, they should contact Anne Marie Barry, the Designated Liaison Person to discuss the situation. Scoil Íósaf undertakes to investigate all complaints or concerns regarding its teaching staff in line with our Child Protection Policy.

Raising Concerns

Concerns for the welfare of pupils will be dealt with in line with the Scoil Íósaf Child Protection Policy.

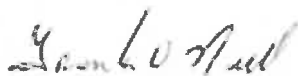
General Code of Conduct

All participants in Distance Learning must agree to:

- Treat all users, educators and colleagues fairly and equally. Stimulate conversation and be respectful of others’ views.
- Respect the legitimate intellectual property rights, do not plagiarise work, and give credit to the originators of ideas.
- Not share the posts of others

The policy was ratified by the Board of Management of Scoil Íósaf on 09/03/2023. It will be reviewed on a cyclical basic or as the need arises.

Signed:



Chairperson of Board of Management

Signed:



Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Date: 09/03/2023

Date: 09/03/2023

To: Staff of Scoil Iósaf

The Board of Management of Scoil Iósaf 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 9/3/23
- This review was conducted in accordance with the "Checklist for Review of the Child Safeguarding Statement" published on the Department's website <http://www.education.ie>

Signed Maibé Níall

Date 9/3/23

Chairperson, Board of Management

Signed Rose Marie Barry

Date 9/3/23

Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

To: Parents Association of Scoil Íósaf

The Board of Management of Scoil Íósaf 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 9/3/23
- This review was conducted in accordance with the "Checklist for Review of the Child Safeguarding Statement" published on the Department's website <http://www.education.ie>

Signed *Garth O'Neill*

Date 9/3/23

Chairperson, Board of Management

Signed *Carmel Marie Barry*

Date 9/3/23

Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management