

## Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment Template

### Child Safeguarding Statement

**Scoil Cholmcille, Mount Hanover** 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 \(revised 2023\)](#) and [Tusla Guidance on the preparation of Child Safeguarding Statements](#), the Board of Management of **Scoil Cholmcille, Mount Hanover** 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 **Kate Leddy (Acting)**
- 3 The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is **Brigid O' Donnell (Acting)**

4 The Relevant Person is

**Kate Leddy**

- 5 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.

6 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](http://gov.ie) 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.
- 7 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.
- 8 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 10-10-24 [date].

This Child Safeguarding Statement was reviewed by the Board of Management on 10-10-24, [most recent review date].

Signed: Josella Collins

Chairperson of Board of Management

Signed: Kate Heddy (Acting Principal)

Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Date: 10/10/24

Date: 10-10-24

### Written Assessment of Risk of Scoil Cholmcille, Mount Hanover

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 Post Primary Schools (revised 2023)*; the following is the Written Risk Assessment of **Scoil Cholmcille, Mount Hanover**.

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	Child Safeguarding Statement & DES procedures made available to all staff DLP& DDLP to attend PDST face to face training All Staff to view Túsla training module & any other online training offered by PDST BOM records all records of staff and board training
Care of Children with special needs, including intimate care needs	Harm by school personnel	Policy on intimate care
Toilet areas	Inappropriate behaviour	Usage and supervision policy
Curricular Provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay safe.	Non-teaching of same	School implements SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe in full
LGBT Children/Pupils perceived to be LGBT	Bullying	Anti-Bullying Policy Code of Behaviour
Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils	Harm from older pupils, unknown adults on the playground	Dismissal supervised by Teachers

Managing challenging behaviour amongst pupils, including appropriate use of restraint	Injury to pupils and staff	Restraint Policy Health & Safety Policy Code Of Behaviour
Sports Coaches	Harm to pupils	Policy & Procedures in place Garda Vetting Policy
Students participating in work experience	Harm by student	Work experience Policy Child Safeguarding Statement.
Recreation breaks for pupils	Harm by other students, Bullying	Anti-Bullying Policy
Classroom teaching	Harm to pupils	Code of Conduct for school personnel Disciplinary procedures for school staff
One-to-one teaching	Harm by school personnel	School has policy in place for one to one teaching Open doors Table between teacher and pupil Glass in window
Outdoor teaching activities	Harm to pupils due to inadequate supervision	Health and Safety Policy School outings policy
Sporting Activities	Harm to pupils by a member of staff of another organisation	School adheres to the requirements of the Garda Vetting legislation and relevant DES circulars in relation to recruitment and Garda Vetting

School outings	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children while attending out of school activities	Policy and clear procedures in respect to school outings
Annual Sports Day	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision	Supervision of pupils Anti-Bullying Policy Code of Behaviour
Fundraising events involving pupils	Risk of child being harmed by a member of school personnel, a member of staff of another organisation or other person while child is participating in out of school activities	School adheres to the requirements of the Garda Vetting legislation and relevant DES circulars in relation to recruitment and Garda Vetting
Use of off-site facilities for school activities	Risk of harm by volunteer or visitor to the school	School adheres to the requirements of the Garda Vetting legislation and relevant DES circulars in relation to recruitment and Garda Vetting
School transport arrangements including use of bus escorts	Risk of harm by school personnel	School adheres to the requirements of the Garda Vetting legislation and relevant DES circulars in relation to recruitment and Garda Vetting
Administration of Medicine Administration of First Aid	Harm to pupils by school personnel	Policy on the administration of medication to pupils Diabetes Policy First Aid: Basic Course for personnel
Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst pupils	Harm not recognised or properly or promptly reported	Child Safeguarding Statement & DES procedures made available to all staff

<p>Use of external personnel to supplement curriculum</p>	<p>Risk of child being harmed in the school by volunteer or visitor to school</p>	<p>Anti-Bullying Policy and Code of Behaviour made available to all staff</p> <p>School adheres to the requirements of the Garda Vetting legislation and relevant DES circulars in relation to recruitment and Garda Vetting</p> <p>Child Safeguarding Statement &amp; DES procedures made available to all staff</p>
<p>Care of pupils with specific vulnerabilities/needs such as</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Pupils from ethnic minorities/migrants</li> <li>● Members of the Traveller community</li> <li>● Lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender (LGBT) children</li> <li>● Pupils perceived to be LGBT</li> <li>● Pupils of minority religious faiths</li> <li>● Children in care</li> <li>● Children on CPNS</li> </ul>	<p>Bullying</p>	<p>Anti-Bullying Policy</p> <p>Code of Behaviour</p>
<p>Recruitment of school personnel including -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Teachers</li> <li>● SNA's</li> <li>● Caretaker/Secretary/Cleaners</li> <li>● Sports coaches</li> <li>● External Tutors/Guest Speakers</li> <li>● Volunteers/Parents in school activities</li> <li>● Visitors/contractors present in school during school hours</li> </ul>	<p>Harm not recognised or properly or promptly reported</p>	<p>Child Safeguarding Statement &amp; DES procedures made available to all staff</p> <p>Staff to view Tusla training module &amp; any other online training offered by PDST</p> <p>Vetting Procedures</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Visitors/contractors present during after school activities</li> </ul>		<p>Policy of Parents / Volunteers</p> <p>Policy on Visiting Contractors</p>
<p>Use of Information and Communication Technology by pupils in school</p>	<p>Bullying</p>	<p>ICT policy</p> <p>Anti-Bullying Policy</p> <p>Code of Behaviour</p>
<p>Application of sanctions under the school's Code of Behaviour including detention of pupils, confiscation of phones etc.</p>	<p>Harm to pupils by school personnel</p>	<p>Anti-Bullying Policy</p> <p>Code of Behaviour</p>
<p>Students participating in work experience in the school</p>	<p>Harm to pupils by school personnel or visitors</p>	<p>Garda Vetting Procedures in place</p> <p>The school has in place a policy and procedures in respect of students undertaking work experience in the school</p>
<p>Student teachers undertaking training placement in school</p>	<p>Harm to pupils by school personnel or visitors</p>	<p>Garda Vetting Procedures in place</p> <p>The school has in place a policy and procedures in respect of student teacher placements</p>
<p>Use of video/photography/other media to record school events</p>	<p>Harm to pupil due to inappropriate communications</p> <p>Bullying</p>	<p>ICT Policy in place: acceptable Use of the Internet</p> <p>Anti-Bullying Policy</p>
<p>After school use of school premises by other organisations</p>	<p>Harm to pupils by visitors</p>	<p>Garda Vetting Procedures in place</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 10/10/24.

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

Signed  Date 10/10/24

Chairperson, Board of Management

Signed Kate Leddy (Chairing Principal) Date 10-10-24

Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

