

CSS 1: Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment 2025/2026

For: Scoil Cholmcille, Mount Hanover

At: Duleek, Co. Meath A92 TC99

This school is a primary school.

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) and 2025, Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025 and Child Safeguarding: A Guide for Policy, Procedure and Practice, 2nd ed. (Tusla, 2024), the board of management has adopted the Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment set out in this document.

The board of management has adopted and will implement fully and without modification the department's Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025 as part of this overall Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment.

Name of the Designated Liaison Person (DLP):

Lorraine O Loughlin

Name of the Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP/DDLP):

Kate Leddy

In the absence of the DLP, the Deputy DLP shall assume responsibilities of the DLP

Name of Relevant Person:

Lorraine O'Loughlin

(In schools this person is the DLP)

Relevant Person can be contacted on:

principal@mounthanoverns.ie

041-9839405

Under the Children First Act 2015 Relevant Person means a person who is appointed by a provider of a relevant service to be the first point of contact in respect of the Child Safeguarding Statement. This person is nominated by the board of management to manage and provide oversight of child protection concerns/allegations of child abuse.

Name of Chairperson of the Board of Management:

Joseph Collins

In the event that both DLP and DDLP are absent and unavailable, and where there is no staff member formally acting in their role, the chairperson of the board of management, or in an ETB school the chief executive or their delegate, assumes the role of DLP.

The board of management recognises that child protection and safeguarding permeate all aspects of school life and must be reflected in all of the school's policies, procedures, practices and activities. In all of these, 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 cooperate with the relevant statutory authorities in relation to child protection and welfare matters.
- Adopt safe practices to minimise the possibility of harm happening to children and protect members of school personnel from the necessity to take unnecessary risks that may leave themselves open to accusations of child abuse.
- Develop a practice of openness with parents and encourage parental involvement in the education of their children.
- Fully respect confidentiality requirements as set out in the Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025 in dealing with child protection matters.
- Adhere to the above principles in relation to any vulnerable adult.

Procedures and Measures in Place

Our Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment has been developed in line with requirements under the Children First Act 2015, the Children First: National Guidance 2017, and Child Safeguarding: A Guide for Policy, Procedure and Practice, 2nd ed. (Tusla, 2024), and the Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025. In addition to the procedures listed in our risk assessment, the following procedures support our intention to safeguard children while they are availing of our service:

➤ Procedure for the Management of Allegations of Abuse or Misconduct against School Personnel Relating to a Child Availing of Our Service

- Where any member of school personnel is the subject of any investigation in respect of any act, omission or circumstance in relation to a child attending the school, the school is required to adhere to the relevant procedures set out in Chapter 7 of the Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025 and to the relevant agreed disciplinary procedures for school staff which are published on the [gov.ie](https://www.gov.ie) website

➤ **Procedure for the Safe Recruitment and Selection of School Personnel to Work With Children**

- The school is required to adhere to the requirements of the Vetting Act. The selection or recruitment of staff and their suitability to work with children, requires the school to adhere 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 Youth and available on the gov.ie website and as outlined in Chapter 10 of the procedures.
- A written protocol is in place authorising immediate action for cases which require an employee to be immediately absented from school for child safeguarding reasons.

➤ **Procedure for Provision of and Access to Child Safeguarding Training and Information, Including the Identification of the Occurrence of Harm**

- The school provides information and training to members of school personnel in relation to the identification of the occurrence of harm (as defined in the 2015 Act) as follows:
- The school has provided each member of school personnel, including any new members of school personnel, (employees and volunteers, board of management members, student teachers and those on work experience) with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment.
- The school ensures that members of school personnel have availed of relevant training and completed child protection training.
- The school encourages board of management members to avail of any relevant training and complete child protection training.
- The board of management ensures that records of all staff and board member child protection training are maintained.

➤ **Procedure for the Reporting of Child Protection or Welfare Concerns to Tusla**

- All members of school personnel are required to adhere to the procedures set out in the Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025, in relation to reporting of child protection concerns to Tusla. Mandated reporting applies to all registered teachers and any other mandated person who may be employed by the school, for example a chaplain or nurse. A full list of those people who are mandated persons is set out in Appendix 1 procedures.

➤ **Procedure for Maintaining a List of the Persons (if any) in the Relevant Service Who Are Mandated Persons**

- There is a procedure in place to maintain a list of mandated persons. Schools may on occasion employ additional staff who are mandated by virtue of their profession. This list will include all registered teachers and identify additional employees that are not registered teachers.

➤ **Procedure for Appointing a Relevant Person (In schools this person is the DLP)**

- There is a procedure in place for appointing a relevant person.

The various procedures referred to in this Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment can be accessed via the school's website (www.mounthanoverns.ie), the gov.ie website or will be made available on request by the school.

In accordance with the Children First Act 2015, the Addendum to Children First 2019 and 2025, and the Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025, the board of management 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.

Note: The procedures and measures in place outlined above, are not intended as exhaustive list. Individual boards of management shall also include in this section such other procedures and measures that are of relevance to the school.

This statement has been published on the school's website or will be made available on request by the school. It has been provided to all members of school personnel, the parents' association, the patron and parents. A copy of this statement and risk assessment will be made available to Tusla and the department if requested.

This Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment will be reviewed annually or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which this statement refers.

List of school activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
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

		<p>All Staff to view Túsla training module & any other online training offered by PDST</p> <p>BOM records all records of staff and board training</p>
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	<p>Bí Cinéalta/Anti-Bullying Policy</p> <p>Code of Behaviour</p>
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	<p>Restraint Policy</p> <p>Health & Safety Policy</p> <p>Code Of Behaviour</p>
Sports Coaches	Harm to pupils	<p>Policy & Procedures in place</p> <p>Garda Vetting Policy</p>
Students participating in work experience	Harm by student	<p>Work experience Policy</p> <p>Child Safeguarding Statement.</p>
Recreation breaks for pupils	Harm by other students, Bullying	Bí Cinéalta/Anti-Bullying Policy
Classroom teaching	Harm to pupils	<p>Code of Conduct for school personnel</p> <p>Disciplinary procedures for school staff</p>
One-to-one teaching	Harm by school personnel	<p>School has policy in place for one to one teaching</p> <p>Open doors</p> <p>Table between teacher and pupil</p> <p>Glass in window</p>

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 Bí Cinéalta/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

		Anti-Bullying Policy and Code of Behaviour made available to all staff
Use of external personnel to supplement curriculum	Risk of child being harmed in the school by volunteer or visitor to school	School adheres to the requirements of the Garda Vetting legislation and relevant DES circulars in relation to recruitment and Garda Vetting Child Safeguarding Statement & DES procedures made available to all staff
Care of pupils with specific vulnerabilities/ needs such as <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 • Children on CPNS 	Bullying	Bí Cinéalta/Anti-Bullying Policy Code of Behaviour
Recruitment of school personnel including - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 	Harm not recognised or properly or promptly reported	Child Safeguarding Statement & DES procedures made available to all staff Staff to view Tusla training module & any other online training offered by PDST Vetting Procedures Policy of Parents / Volunteers Policy on Visiting Contractors

Use of Information and Communication Technology by pupils in school	Bullying	ICT policy Bí Cinéalta/Anti-Bullying Policy Code of Behaviour
Application of sanctions under the school's Code of Behaviour including detention of pupils, confiscation of phones etc.	Harm to pupils by school personnel	Bí Cinéalta/Anti-Bullying Policy Code of Behaviour
Students participating in work experience in the school	Harm to pupils by school personnel or visitors	Garda Vetting Procedures in place The school has in place a policy and procedures in respect of students undertaking work experience in the school
Student teachers undertaking training placement in school	Harm to pupils by school personnel or visitors	Garda Vetting Procedures in place The school has in place a policy and procedures in respect of student teacher placements
Use of video/photography/other media to record school events	Harm to pupil due to inappropriate communications Bullying	ICT Policy in place: acceptable Use of the Internet Bí Cinéalta/Anti-Bullying Policy
After school use of school premises by other organisations	Harm to pupils by visitors	Garda Vetting Procedures in place

In accordance with Section 11 of the Children First Act 2015 and with the requirements of Chapter 9 of the Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025, the following is the written Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment.

In undertaking this Child Safeguarding Statement and 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 Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment was reviewed by the board of management on 9/10/2025.

Signed: 

Chairperson of Board of Management
Management

Signed: Horraine O'Rourke

Principal/Secretary to the Board of

Date: 9/10/26

Date: 9/10/2025

This Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment is expected to be reviewed again on September 2026.