

Coláiste de hÍde



Meas - Bród - Comhar

Bóthar Chaisleán Thigh Motháin, Tamhlacht, Baile Átha Cliath 24.
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Príomhoide: Sarah Ní Mhuirí
Príomhoide Tánaisteach: Aodán de Paor

Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment

Coláiste de hÍde, Bóthar Chaisleáin Thigh Mothain, Tamhlacht, D24 NP82 is post-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):

Sarah Ní Mhuirí

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

Aodán de Paor

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

Name of Relevant Person

Sarah Ní Mhuirí

Relevant Person can be contacted on:

01-4513984 /

eolas@colaistedehide.ie

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, or in an ETB school the Chief Executive or their delegate:

Mark McDonald, Director of Schools

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 co-operate 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 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, 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 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.

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.

Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment

Risk in the context of this Child Safeguarding Statement and 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 the Children First Act 2015: '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.

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
1.	Daily entry and exit of students	Risk of injury due to inadequate supervision Risk of injury due to lack of adequate supervision Risk of injury from unauthorised adult gathering child. Student leaving school without permission.	The school has a Staff Supervision Protocol. The school has a Code of Behaviour and a Bí Cineálta Policy. Visitor sign-in system at the main office. A sign-in and sign-out system at the main office which is connected to the school's attendance system.
2.	Recreation breaks for pupils	Risk of bullying Physical injury Lack of adequate supervision	The school has a Health and Safety Statement, a Bí Cineálta Policy and a Staff Supervision Protocol.
3.	Students leaving the school grounds at lunchtime	Risk of harm due to inappropriate relationship/communication between a child and a child or adult. Risk of bullying/ cyberbullying Physical injury	The school has a Staff Supervision Protocol. The school has a Code of Behaviour. There are sanctions for students who leave the school grounds and parents are informed immediately.
4.	Teaching in the classroom	Unrecognised risk of injury Risk of injury not being reported promptly Inappropriate peer interactions	The following policies are in place: Code of Behaviour; Bí Cineálta Policy; Inclusion Policy; Health and Safety Statement, Guidance Procedure for One-to-One Teaching and Staff Supervision Protocol. Staff are trained in and adhere to Child Protection Procedures.
5.	One to One Tuition/Support	Inappropriate contact Child feeling isolated Unvetted staff	The following policies are in place: Code of Behaviour; Bí Cineálta Policy; Inclusion Policy; Health and Safety Statement, Guidance Procedure for One-to-One Teaching and Staff Supervision Protocol. The school complies with Garda Vetting legislation.
6.	Outdoor teaching activities	Risk of bullying Physical injury Cyberbullying Risk of harm due to inappropriate contact/communication between a child and a child or adult	The following policies are in place: Code of Behaviour; Bí Cineálta Policy; Health and Safety Statement. Staff are trained in and adhere to Child Protection Procedures.
7.	Online teaching and learning	Cyberbullying Access to harmful content Uninvited access Photographs or recording of a student without permission	The school implements the SPHE programme including online safety. The school has an Acceptable User Policy. There are restrictions on the sites that can be accessed on the school internet. The school has a Bí Cineálta Policy.
8.	Sports Activities	Adults without vetting Inappropriate contact Students stray from the event Injury from external adults	The school has a Code of Behaviour and a Staff Supervision Protocol. The school complies with Garda Vetting legislation. Staff are trained in and adhere to Child Protection Procedures.

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
9.	School trips	Lack of comprehensive oversight Harm from external adults Missing child Breach of boundaries Improper communication	The school complies with Garda Vetting legislation. The school has a School Tour Policy. An Acceptable User Policy is in place.
10.	Overnight/overseas trips	Increased vulnerability Inappropriate behaviour Inappropriate contact from adults	The school has a School Tour Policy. A School Trip Risk Assessment Checklist is completed in advance The school complies with Garda Vetting legislation.
11	Use of toilets/dressing rooms area	Bullying Inappropriate contact Lack of oversight	The school supervises toilets and dressing rooms. The school has a Staff Supervision Protocol, a Bí Cineálta Policy and a Code of Behaviour.
12	Sports Day	Bullying Inappropriate contact Lack of supervision/ risk of injury	The school plans effectively for the sports day, ensuring that all groups are properly supervised. First Aid training is provided to staff. The school maintains staff training records. A list of First Responders with up-to-date training is hanging on the wall outside the office. The school has a Code of Behaviour and a Health and Safety Statement.
13	Fundraising events involving students	Adults without vetting Missing child Injury during activity	The school complies with Garda Vetting legislation. It ensures that effective supervision is in place when planning an event
14	Use of off-site facilities for school activities	Adults without vetting Lack of oversight Injury during activity	The school has guidelines and procedures in place regarding outsiders/visitors. The school complies with Garda Vetting legislation.
15	School transport arrangements including the use of bus escorts	Bullying Inappropriate contact Harm from adults	The school has a Bí Cineálta Policy The school complies with Garda Vetting legislation.
16	Childcare with special educational needs, including close personal care where necessary,	Increased vulnerability Inappropriate contact Bullying Missing student	The school has an Inclusion Policy. Staff are trained in and adhere to Child Protection Procedures and Staff Supervision Protocols and Guidance Procedure for One-to-One Teaching. SNAs receive relevant training when necessary.
17	Caring for any vulnerable student, including close personal care where necessary	Bullying Inappropriate contact Lack of oversight Harm from external adults Missing student	The school has a Bí Cineálta Policy, an Inclusion Policy and Guidance Procedure for One-to-One Teaching. Staff are trained in and adhere to Child Protection Procedures. Staff receive relevant training when necessary.

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
18	Managing challenging behaviour among students, including using restraint appropriately where necessary	Physical injury Undue restriction	The school has a Health and Safety statement and a Code of Behaviour.
19	Management of food and drink supply	Adults who are not trained in first aid Food allergy Health & safety	First Aid training is provided to staff. The school maintains staff training records. A list of First Responders with up-to-date training is hanging on the wall outside the office. The school has a Health and Safety Statement.
20	Medical Administration	Unsafe handling	Training is provided to staff appropriately (m.sh. training of SNAs with Epilepsy Ireland) The school has guidelines for administering medication including parental consent.
21	Administration of First Aid	Inappropriate contact Incorrect treatment	Training is provided to staff appropriately (m.sh. training of CRSs with Epilepsy Ireland) Staff are trained in and adhere to Child Protection Procedures.
22	Curriculum provision for SPHE including RSE	Unqualified teacher, Uncomfortable pupils, Subject not age appropriate, Withdrawal from class (parental permission)	The school has a Relationships and Sexuality Education Policy that outlines procedures. Teachers are provided with appropriate training.
23	Preventing and dealing with bullying among students	Harm from bullying/ cyberbullying	The school has a Code of Behaviour and a Bí Cineálta Policy.
24	Training of school personnel in child protection matters	Impact on staff's mental health	The information is shared with the staff members in advance and the trainers are informed. Staff receive relevant training where appropriate (e.g. SafeTALK)
25	External personnel supporting the curriculum/extra-curricular activities	Inappropriate content Adults without vetting Bullying the pupil Uncomfortable pupils	The school has a Safeguarding Best Practice Guidance for Visitors. Staff are trained in and adhere to Child Protection Procedures. The school has a Bí Cineálta Policy A teacher is always present
	Caring for pupils with specific vulnerabilities/needs such as:		
26	- Ethnic minority/migrant students / students who are members of the travelling community/ LGBT+ students/ students of minority religious beliefs	Racism Bullying Marginalization Lack of support and understanding	The school has an Inclusion Policy, a Bí Cineálta Policy and a Relationships and Sexuality Education Policy. The school has a School Support Team that implements appropriate interventions. Various weeks are celebrated e.g. Kindness Week, Wellbeing Week, Stand Up, Friendship Week.
27	- Children in care and/ or Children on the Child Protection Notification System	Poor Behaviour Lack of equipment Challenge with emotion management	Staff are trained in and adhere to Child Protection Procedures. The school has a School Support Team that implements appropriate interventions. The school has an Attendance Policy.
28	- Children with medical needs	Unavailable medicine Outdated medicine	Information on students with medical needs is on Tyro and information is shared at staff meetings.

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
		Lack of knowledge among staff on how to administer medicine Lack of knowledge among staff about the child's needs	Appropriate training is provided to appropriate staff when required. The school has a Health and Safety Statement.
	Recruitment of school personnel including:		
29	- teachers, SNAs, carers, secretaries, cleaners and sports coaches	Adults without vetting	The school complies with Garda Vetting legislation.
30	- External Tutors/Guest Speakers/ Volunteers/ Parents in school activities/ Visitors or contractors at school during school hours	Inappropriate contact Inappropriate content Unvetted adults	The school has a Safeguarding Best Practice Guidance for Visitors. The school complies with Garda Vetting legislation. A staff member is always present.
31	- Visitors/contractors present during after school activities	Inappropriate contact Inappropriate content Unvetted adults Increased risk with fewer people on site	The school has a Safeguarding Best Practice Guidance for Visitors The school complies with Garda Vetting legislation.
32	- The use of Information and Communication Technology by students at school, including social media	Cyberbullying Access to inappropriate content Contact with strangers Data privacy	The school implements an SPHE programme including online safety. The school has an Acceptable Use Policy. There are restrictions on the sites that can be accessed on the school internet. The school has a Bí Cineálta Policy and a Code of Behaviour.
33	- Enforce sanctions under the school's Code of Behaviour including detaining students indoors, confiscating phones etc.	Confrontation between students and staff Improper use of sanctions	The school has a Code of Behaviour.
34	Students from the school who are participating in work experience elsewhere	Unrestricted access Lack of awareness of protection Tinreamh	The school complies with Garda Vetting legislation. Teachers call weekly to check attendance
35	Trainee teachers undertaking a training placement at school	Inappropriate communication	The school has a Work Placement Guide to Safeguarding in place.
36	Using video/photography/other media to record school events	Share image without permission	The school has an Acceptable User Policy. Parents are asked about photo permissions via the school app.
37	Another organisation using school premises during the school day	Damage to property and buildings Inappropriate contact	The school has Guidelines for Child Safeguarding for Visitors, External Speakers & Contractors. The school has a Health and Safety Statement.
38	Supervised study	Access to harmful content Bullying	The school has a Bí Cineálta Policy and an Acceptable User Policy. A teacher is always present.

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
39	Breakfast Club	Bullying Inappropriate contact Lack of oversight Harm from external adults Missing student	The school has a Bí Cineálta Policy, an Inclusion Policy, Guidance Procedure for One-to-One Teaching Staff are trained in and adhere to Child Protection Procedures. A member of staff is always present and the school has a Staff Supervision Protocol.

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 11th June 2026.

Signed:	<i>Deirdre MacamBhaird</i>	Date:	<i>11/6/2026</i>
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Chairperson of the board of management

Signed:	<i>Sarah Ní Mhúirí</i>	Date:	<i>11/06/2026</i>
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Principal/Secretary to the board of management

This Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment is expected to be reviewed again in June 2027.

This Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment is on display in Coláiste de hÍde, available on the school website www.colaiistedehide.ie and in hardcopy from the school office on request.

