Gaelscoil Mhic Aodha

Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment

For:	**Gaelscoil Mhic Aodha**	*(School Name)*
At:	**Bóthar Mhelitta, Baile Chill Dara. Co. Chill Dara**	*(School Address)*

This school is a: (tick appropriate) ☒primary ☐post-primary ☐ special 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):

Norma Ní Chonchúir

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

Niamh Ní Dhuinn

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

Name of Relevant Person

Norma Ní Chonchúir

(In schools this person is the DLP)

Relevant Person can be contacted on:

045 535588	norma@gsmhicaodha.com

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:

Táine Uí Fhinn

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.

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 (if any), 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

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
1.	Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils each day	• Risk of child being harmed in the school by another child or a member of the public • Risk of harm due to bullying of a child • Risks involving traffic or early arrival prior to supervision	• Clear communication to parents in Newsletter and on Aladdin regarding exact supervision start and end times • SNA handover to bus • Handover to onsite afterschool care provider • Arrival and dismissal supervised by teachers and SNAs
2.	Recreational breaks for pupils	• Risk of child being harmed in the school by another child or a member of school staff • Risk of harm to children with SEN who have particular vulnerabilities	• Yard supervision rota • Designated play areas • Bí Cineálta Policy and Code of Behaviour enforced • SNA Support during breaks
3.	Classroom Teaching	• 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 harm to children with SEN who have particular vulnerabilities	• Teaching staff and SNA's Garda Vetted and submit statutory declarations • Adherence to Teaching Council Code of Conduct • Provision of Child Safeguarding Statement to all staff. Clear DLP/DDLP identification • Full implementation of Stay Safe Programme, SPHE Curriculum, SEN policy and Code of Behaviour

4.	One-to-one teaching	• Risk of child being harmed in the school by a member of school personnel • Risk of harm to children with SEN who have particular vulnerabilities	• Implementation of SEN policy • Glass panels on doors • Adherence to statutory Garda Vetting legislation and DE recruitment circulars
5.	Outdoor activities	• Risk of child being harmed in the school by a member of school personnel • Risk of harm to children with SEN who have particular vulnerabilities • Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision	• Adherence to statutory Garda Vetting legislation and DE recruitment circulars • Effective supervision maintained by staff • Full implementation of Stay Safe Programme, SPHE Curriculum, SEN policy and Code of Behaviour
6.	Sporting Activities	• Risk of child being harmed - injury, bullying or harm by staff/coach/other children • Risk of harm to due to inadequate supervision	• External Coaches vetted • Effective supervision maintained by staff at all times • Health and Safety Policy • Code of Behaviour • Bí Cineálta policy

7.	Swimming	• Risk of child being harmed by member of public or swimming pool staff • Risk of harm to children with SEN who have particular vulnerabilities during changing • Risk of child being harmed by another pupil	• Pool not in use by public at time • Code of Behaviour • CSS provided by Pool management • Continuous teacher supervision • Teacher outside of door of changing area • Intimate care - Pupil Support Plan
8.	Use of toilet/changing/shower areas in schools	• Risk of child being harmed by another pupil • Risk of harm to children with SEN who have particular vulnerabilities	• One child allowed to use toilet at a time • Adults not allowed to use pupil toilets • Intimate care - Pupil Support Plan
9.	Use off-site facilities for school activities	• Risk of child being harmed in the school by another child or a member of the public • Risk of harm to due to inadequate supervision	• Code of Behaviour • Teacher/SNA supervision

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
10.	Administration of Medicines	• Incorrect dosage, unauthorized administration, or harm	• Administration of Medicine policy • Written indemnity and parental consent required for all medication • Medicines stored in the school office
11.	First Aid Administration	• Risk of harm to a child by school personnel	• Formal first aid training provided to staff • First aid responders trained on staff • Administration of Medicine policy • Health and Safety policy
12.	Annual Sports Day	• Risk of child being harmed in the school by another child or a member of staff/Volunteer	• Adherence to statutory Garda Vetting legislation and DE recruitment circulars • Effective supervision maintained by staff • Full implementation of Stay Safe Programme, SPHE Curriculum, SEN policy and Code of Behaviour
13.	School outings	• Risk of child being harmed by another pupil • Risk of Child being harmed by a member of the public	• Teacher and SNA supervision • BOM approval • Parental permission via Aladdin

14.	School trips involving overnight stay	• Risk of child being harmed by another pupil • Risk of harm to children with SEN who have particular vulnerabilities	• BOM approval • Vetted adults – school staff • Detailed risk assessments carried out
15.	Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst pupils	• Risk of child being harmed by another pupil • Risk of harm to children with SEN who have particular vulnerabilities • Risk of harm - bullying	• Bí cineálta policy • Code of behaviour • Full implementation of SPHE curriculum/Stay safe
16.	School transport arrangements including use of bus escorts	• Risk of child being harmed by another pupil • Risk of harm to children with SEN who have particular vulnerabilities	• SNA – collect/walk children to/from bus • Bus Éireann – communication with bus inspector if needed
17.	Fundraising events involving pupils	• Risk of child being harmed by a member of the public	• BOM approval of events • Children remain in the care of their parents at events • Garda vetted – staff/volunteers

18.	Care of children with special educational needs, including intimate care where needed	• Risk of harm to children with SEN who have particular vulnerabilities	• SEN Policy • Two adults present • Intimate care plan - School support Plan
19.	Management of challenging behaviour amongst pupils, including appropriate use of restraint where required	• Risk of harm not being reported promptly • Risk of harm by a member of staff • Risk of harm during physical restraint	• Code Of Behaviour • Health and safety Policy • Critical Incident Policy • RELATE Training • Compliance with Understanding Behaviours of Concerns and Responding to crisis
20.	Use of external personnel to supplement curriculum and to support sports and other extra-curricular activities	• Risk of harm by coach/external personnel • Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision	• Teacher supervision at all times • Adherence to vetting procedures

21.	Training of school personnel in child protection matters	• Uninformed staff failing to recognize or report child protection concerns	• Record of Training (CSS 8) maintained by Principal • Mandatory completion of Oide/Tusla Children First e-learning • DLP and DLP have attended Oide face to face training on the New Child Protection Procedures – Sept 2025 and September 2026 • All staff attended training on the New Child Protection Procedures - Dec 2025 • CSS, DES procedures and DLP/DDLP details provided to staff
22.	Curricular Provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, STAY SAFE	• Non-delivery or sensitive topics causing distress without safeguard	• Full delivery of SPHE Plan including RSE and Stay Safe programme • Stay Safe taught every year to all classes • Parental information letters issued prior to RSE modules
23.	Management of Food and Drink	• Risk of harm – allergies • Choking	• Healthy eating policy – Code of Behaviour • Administration of Medicines policy – EpiPen
24.	Care of pupils with specific vulnerabilities/needs	• Risk of harm to children with SEN who have particular vulnerabilities	• SEN Policy. School support plans • Monitoring by teachers and SNAs

25.	Members of the Traveller community	• Risk of harm due to bullying of a child • Discrimination	• Bí Cineálta Policy • Equality Policy
26.	Pupils from ethnic minorities/migrants	• Risk of harm due to bullying of a child • Racism • Discrimination	• Bí Cineálta Policy • Equality policy • Croí na scoile Plan
27.	Children perceived to be LGBT	• Risk of harm due to bullying of a child	• Bí Cineálta Policy • Equality Policy • Code Of Behaviour
28.	Children in care	• Risk of harm due to bullying of a child • Trauma, Vulnerability	• SEN Support • Bí Cineálta Policy • Principal/Deputy principal link with social workers
29.	Children with medical needs	• Risk of harm due to inadequate care response	• First Aid Responders on staff • First Aid training completed by staff • Health and safety policy • Student Support Plan

30.	Recruitment of school personnel including teachers/SNA's/ Caretakers/Secretaries/ cleaners and coaches	• Risk of child being harmed by member of school personnel	• All staff Garda Vetted and submit statutory declarations • Adherence to Teaching Council Code of Conduct • Provision of Child Safeguarding Statement to all staff. Clear DLP/DDLP identification
31.	External coaches/speakers/tutors/ volunteers/parents	• Risk of child being harmed - injury, bullying or harm by staff/coach/other children • Risk of harm to due to inadequate supervision	• External Coaches vetted • Volunteers on a regular basis – Garda Vetted • Effective supervision maintained by staff at all times • Health and Safety Policy
32.	Use of information and communication technology by pupils in the school	• Risk of harm due to children inappropriately accessing/using computers, social media, phones and other devices while at school	• AUP – Acceptable usage policy • Code of Behaviour – no phones allowed in school • Schools broadband in use – content filtering
33.	Visitors / contractors present in the school during school activities	• Risk of child being harmed in the school visitor to the school	• All visitors sign in and out through the school office • Contractors are escorted around the building by a member of school staff
34.	Visitors / contractors present in the school during after-school activities	• Risk of child being harmed in the school by a visitor to the school outside of school hours	• After school activities supervised by staff running the activities • Contractors to sign in and out through the school office

35.	Application of sanctions under code of behaviour	• Risk of harm due to inadequate code of behaviour	• Code of behaviour in line with TUSLA/NEWB Guidelines • Reporting of incidents – log of actions
36.	Students participating in work experience in the school	• Risk of child being harmed in the school by a visitor to the school • Risk of harm not being reported promptly	• Garda vetted through GSMA • Insurance through 2nd level school • Always supervised by staff member
37.	Student teachers undertaking placement in school	• Risk of child being harmed in the school by a visitor to the school • Risk of harm not being reported promptly	• Garda Vetted • Supervised by staff – Class teachers and SETs • CSS, DLP contact details provided to student teachers
38.	Use of school premises by other organisations during the school day	• Risk of child being harmed in the school by a visitor to the school • Risk of harm not being reported correctly/promptly	• Licence agreement in place • Groups required to have child safeguarding statement and confirmation that adults working with children have been garda vetted
39.	Afterschool use of school premises by other organisations	• Risk of child being harmed in the school after school hours • Risk of harm not being reported correctly/promptly	• Licence/hire agreement • Groups required to have child safeguarding statement and confirmation that adults working with children have been garda vetted

40.	Parent Association Activities	• Risk of child being harmed in the school visitor to the school • Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision	• Volunteers on a regular basis – Garda Vetted • Children remain in the care of their own parents during PA activities
41.	Use of video/photography/other media to record school event	• Risk of harm to child - images shared without consent • GDPR breach	• School photos shared via Aladdin Connect • Consent for photographs to be taken – enrolment form • Data Protection Policy
42.	Online Teaching and Learning	• Risk of harm to a child over an online call	• Data Protection Policy • AUP

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 9/11/26 *(most recent review date)*

Signed:*	Taine NT Phun	**Date**: 9/11/2026

Chairperson of the board of management

Signed:*		**Date**: 9/11/26

Principal/Secretary to the board of management

This Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment is expected to be reviewed again on November 2027 *(expected review date)*