



Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment of Ard Scoil Rís

June 2020

Written Assessment of Risk of Ard Scoil Ris

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 2017*, the following is the Written Risk Assessment of Ard Scoil Ris

1. List of school activities

1. Daily arrival and dismissal of students
2. Recreation breaks
3. Classroom teaching
4. One to one teaching
5. One to one counselling
6. Outdoor teaching
7. Toileting and changing for physical education
8. Transportation to off-site events and activities
9. School trips involving overnight stay
10. School trips involving foreign travel
11. Care of children with special educational needs, including intimate care where needed,
12. Care of any vulnerable adult students, including intimate care where needed
13. Administration of First Aid
14. Curricular provision in respect of SPHE and RSE.
15. Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst pupils
16. Training of school personnel in child protection matters
17. Recruitment of school personnel
 - a. Teachers
 - b. SNAs
 - c. Caretaker, secretaries, cleaners and other ancillary staff as may be required.
18. Participation by students in religious ceremonies in accordance with ERST ethos.
19. Use of ICT by students in school
20. Evening Study
21. Use of video/photography/other media to record school events
22. After school use of school premises by other organisations
23. Applications of sanction under Code of Behaviour
24. Care of pupils with specific vulnerabilities/ needs such as ADD, ADHD, ASD, Dyslexia, DCD , Depression, Self Harm.
25. Pupils from ethnic minorities/migrants.
26. Gay, bisexual or transgender (LGBT) children
27. Pupils perceived to be LGBT
28. Pupils of minority religious faiths
29. Children in care
30. Children on CPNS
31. Sports Activities
 - a. Gaelic matches
 - b. Hurling matches
 - c. Badminton matches
 - d. Basketball matches
 - e. Athletics
 - f. Golf
 - g. Cricket

- 32. Green School Activities
 - a. Picking up litter
- 33. Guest Facilitators
 - a. First Aid
 - b. Boxing
 - c. Rugby
 - d. Mindfulness and Relaxation
 - e. Coding
 - f. Fencing
 - g. Modern Foreign Languages
- 34. Action Projects
 - a. Sponsored walks
 - b. Amber Flag
 - c. St Vincent de Paul Hamper Collection
 - d. No Uniform Day for Peter McVerry Trust
 - e. Guess the Score Card
 - f. Subject Specific Quizzes
- 35. Bonding Trips
 - a. Cinema Trips
 - b. Outdoor pursuits
 - c. Recess
 - d. Ice skating
- 36. Curriculum focused trips
 - a. Theatre
 - b. Museums
 - c. Coastal Survey
 - d. Ploughing Championships
 - e. Leinster House
 - f. Capuchin Day Centre
- 37. Graduation and other Ceremonies
 - a. Sixth Year
 - b. Transition Year
 - c. Extra Curricular Awards
 - d. Student of the Year Awards
 - e. Sport Day Medal Presentation
 - f. First Year Welcoming Mass
 - g. Christmas Carol Service
- 38. TY Activities
 - a. Crepe making workshop
 - b. Outdoor pursuits
 - c. Zeminar
 - d. First Aid
 - e. Carol singing in local shopping centre
 - f. CSI
 - g. School Bank
 - h. Social Placement
- 39. Themed Weeks
 - a. Maths Weeks
 - i. Subject focused games and activities

- b. Seachtain Na Gaelige
 - i. Subject focused games and activities
 - c. Catholic Schools Week
 - i. Prayers and Reflections over intercom
40. Sports Day
- a. Range of athletic events
41. Evening events
- a. Parent teacher meetings
 - b. BOM meetings
 - c. Parents council meetings
 - d. School Drama Production
 - e. Information evening
 - i. Information Night for Incoming First Years
 - ii. Senior Options
 - iii. Information Night in St Fiachra's SNS
42. Workshops
- a. Antibullying
 - b. Internet safety
 - c. Study Skills
43. Irish/French/Spanish/Japanese Orals
44. College / University Open day trips
45. Work Experience
- a. Transition Year
 - b. 5th Year LCVP
46. ERST Student Council Conference
47. Zambian Immersion Trip
- Fundraising activities including
 - Church collections
 - Bag packing in local shops
 - Visiting local businesses.
 - Speaking to school partners including
 - BOM
 - Parent Council
 - Assemblies
 - Primary Schools
 - Staff
48. Remote and Online Learning
- a. Use of Zoom
 - b. Use of Google Classroom
 - c. Use of G Suite
49. Supervised Study
- a. Parental Supervised Study During Easter Holidays.

50. The school has identified the following risk of harm in respect of its activities -

- Risk of harm not being recognised by school personnel
- Risk of harm not being reported properly and promptly by school personnel
- 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 volunteer or visitor to the school
- Risk of child being harmed by a member of school personnel, a member of staff of another organisation or other person while child participating in out of school activities e.g. school trip
- Risk of harm due to bullying of child
- Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children in school
- 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 to children with SEN who have particular vulnerabilities
- Risk of harm to child while a child is receiving intimate care
- Risk of harm in one-to-one teaching, counselling, coaching situation
- 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 caused by school personnel allowing unauthorised people into online lessons.
- Risk of harm caused by children being contacted by 3rd parties not on school network.
- Risk of harm caused by reduced face to face access to school personnel during school closure caused by pandemic.

51. 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
- 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*
- The school implements in full the SPHE curriculum
- The school implements in full the Wellbeing Programme at Junior Cycle
- 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 in place a policy and clear procedures in respect of school outings
- The school has a Health and Safety Plan
- The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation and relevant DES circulars in relation to recruitment and Garda vetting
- The teaching staff has a code of conduct through the Teaching Council.

- The school complies with the agreed disciplinary procedures for teaching staff
- The school has a Whole School Inclusion Policy
- 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 a code of behaviour for pupils
- The school has in place an Internet Acceptable Use policy in respect of usage of ICT by pupils
- The school has in place a Critical Incident Management Plan.
- The school has provided training and advice around online learning and remote learning.,

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 2017*

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 10th June 2020. It shall be reviewed as part of the school’s annual review of its Child Safeguarding Statement.

Signed *Mr Martin Duggan*

Date 10th June 2020

Chairperson, Board of Management

Signed *Mr Mark Neville*

Date 10th June 2020

Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Ard Scoil Rís Child Safeguarding Statement

Ard Scoil Rís is a voluntary secondary school providing post-primary education to pupils from First Year to Leaving Certificate Year.

In accordance with the requirements of the Children First Act 2015, Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children 2017, 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 Ard Scoil Rís 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 Mark Neville**
- 3 **The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is Ciaran O'Callaghan**
- 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 DES 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 DES and available on the DES 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 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, 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 attached as an appendix to these procedures.
- The various procedures referred to in this Statement can be accessed via the school's website, the DES 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 adopted by the Board of Management on 10th June 2020

Signed: *Mr Martin Duggan*

Chairperson of Board of Management

Signed: *Mr Mark Neville*

Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Date: 10th June 2020

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