



Child Safeguarding Statement

2023 – 2024

Gaelscoil Lir is a primary school with special classes, which was established in 2021. The school provides education to pupils from Junior Infants to Second 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 Appendix to Children First (2019), the Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools (revised 2023) and the Tusla Guidance on the preparation of child safeguarding statements, the Child Safeguarding Statement set out in this document has been agreed by the Board of Management of Gaelscoil Lir.

1. The Board of Management has adopted and will fully implement the Department's Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools (revised 2023) without amendment as part of the overall Child Safeguarding Statement.
2. Sinéad Bheilbigh is the Designated Liaison Person (DLP)
3. Ciara Nic Oscair is Deputy Designated Liaison Person (DLP)
4. Sinéad Bheilbigh is the Relevant Person
(The person is a relevant person who can provide information on how the child safeguarding statement has been developed and who will be able to provide the statement if requested. That person may also be the DLP)
5. The Board of Management recognises that child protection and welfare considerations are relevant through all aspects of school life and must be reflected in all policies, procedures, practices and activities of the school. In its policies, procedures, practices and activities, the school shall comply with the following principles of best practice in the protection and welfare of children:

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 will comply with other relevant legislation relating to the protection and welfare of children;
- co-operate fully with the relevant statutory authorities in relation to child protection and welfare matters;
- adopt safe practices to minimise the possibility of harm or accidents to children and to protect workers from the need to take unnecessary risks that may leave themselves open to a charge of abuse or neglect;
- developing openness practice with parents and encouraging parental involvement in their children's education; and
- fully respect confidentiality requirements when dealing with child protection matters.

The school will also comply with the above principles in respect of any adult student with special vulnerability.

6. The following procedures/measures are in place:

- In relation to any staff member who is the subject of any investigation (as described) in relation to any action, omission or circumstance in relation to a child attending the school, the school complies with the relevant procedures set out in Chapter 7 of the Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools (revised 2023) and the school complies with the relevant agreed disciplinary procedures for school staff published on gov.ie website.
- In relation to the selection or recruitment of staff and their suitability to work with children, the school complies with statutory vetting requirements of the National Vetting Bureau (Children and Vulnerable Persons) Acts 2012 to 2016 and the school complies with the broader guidance on duty of care set out in Garda vetting and recruitment circulars published by DE and available on the gov.ie website.
- In relation to the provision of information, and, where necessary, guidance and training to staff in relation to the identification of an injury incident (as defined in the 2015 Act) the school has:
 - Provided a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement to all staff
 - Ensures that a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement is made available to all new staff
 - Encourages staff to avail of relevant training
 - It encourages members of the Management Board to avail of relevant training and
 - The Management Board keeps records of all training of staff and members of the Management Board
- With regard to Tusla in relation to the reporting of child protection concerns, all school personnel are required to comply with 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 mandated to report under the Children First Act 2015.
- All registered teachers employed by the school under the Children First Act 2015 are mandated persons.


- In accordance with the Children First Act 2015 and the Children First Addendum (2019), the Board assessed any possibility of harm to a child while attending school or participating in school activities. A written assessment setting out the areas of risk identified and the school's procedures for managing these risks is included in the Child Safeguarding Statement.
- The various procedures referred to in this Statement can be found on the school website, the gov.ie website or will be made available at the request of the school.

Note: The above is not intended as an exhaustive list. The individual Boards of Management in this section will also include such other procedures/measures relevant to the school as are relevant to the school in question.

7. This statement was published on the school's website and made available to all school personnel, the Parents' Association (if any) and the patron. It is easily accessible to parents and guardians on request. A copy of this Statement will be made available to Tusla and the Department on request.
8. The Child Safeguarding Statement will be reviewed annually or as soon as practicable following a material change in any matter to which this statement refers.


The Child Safeguarding Statement was adopted by the Board of Management on 28/09/2023

The Board of Management reviewed the Child Safeguarding Statement on 28/09/2023 [latest revised date].

Signature: 

Chairperson of the Management Board

Date: 28/9/23

Signature: 

Principal/Secretary to Board of Management

Date: 28/9/23