

Scoil na Croise Naofa
Geashill N.S.

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Geashill NS

Child Safeguarding Statement & Risk Assessment

Geashill National School is a primary school providing primary education to pupils from Junior Infants to Sixth 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 Addendum to Children First (2019), the Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools (revised 2023) and Tusla Guidance on the preparation of Child Safeguarding Statements, the Board of Management of Geashill NS 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 (revised (2023))* as part of this overall Child Safeguarding Statement
- 2 The Designated Liaison Person (DLP) is **Mícheál Hyland**.
- 3 The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is **Colette Hyland**.
- 4 The Relevant Person is **Mícheál Hyland**.
(The relevant person is one who can provide information in respect of how the child safeguarding statement was developed and will be able to provide the statement on request. In a school setting the relevant person shall be the designated liaison person.)
- 5 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.

6 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 (revised 2023)* and to the relevant agreed disciplinary procedures for school staff which are published on the gov.ie 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 Department of Education and available on the gov.ie 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-

- Ø Has provided each member of staff with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement
- Ø Ensures all new staff are provided with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement
- Ø Encourages staff to avail of relevant training
- Ø Encourages Board of Management members to avail of relevant training
- Ø The Board of Management maintains records of all staff and Board member training

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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 (revised 2023)*, including in the case of registered teachers, those in relation to mandated reporting under the Children First Act 2015.

All registered teachers employed by the school are mandated persons under the Children First Act 2015.

In accordance with the Children First Act 2015 and the Addendum to Children First (2019), 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 included with the Child Safeguarding Statement.

The various procedures referred to in this Statement can be accessed via the school's website, the gov.ie 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.

7 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.

8 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 January 9th 2024.

This Child Safeguarding Statement was reviewed by the Board of Management on 3rd December 2024.

Signed:

[Handwritten Signature]

Chairperson of Board of Management

Date:

3/12/2024

Signed:

[Handwritten Signature]

Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

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Date:

3/12/2024

Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment

Written Assessment of Risk of Geashill National School

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 (revised 2023)*, the following is the Written Risk Assessment of Geashill National School.

List of School Activities	The School has identified the following Risk of Harm	The School has the following Procedures in place to address risk identified in this assessment
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 All Staff to view Tusla training module & any other online training offered by PDST BOM records all records of staff and board training
One to one teaching	Harm by school personnel	School has policy in place for one to one teaching Open doors Glass in window
Care of Children with special needs, including intimate care needs	Harm by school personnel	Policy on intimate care. Collaboration with parents – written consent
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	Anti-Bullying Policy Code of Behaviour

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List of School Activities	The School has identified the following Risk of Harm	The School has the following Procedures in place to address risk identified in this assessment
Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils Care of pupils with special needs getting on and off bus	Risk of harm not being recognised by school personnel	Arrival and dismissal supervised by Teachers Pupils supervised from 8.50am in the yard at the back of the school. SNA and bus escorts ensure pupils availing of bus transport arrive and leave safely Procedures in place for change of person collecting
Managing of challenging behaviour amongst pupils, including appropriate use of restraint	Injury to pupils and staff	Health & Safety Policy Code Of Behaviour
Sports Coaches	Harm to pupils	Procedures in place Garda vetted
Classroom teaching	Risk of child being harmed by school personnel	School personnel are required to adhere to <i>Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017</i> all registered teaching staff are required to adhere to the Child First Act 2015
Outdoor teaching activities & Lunch Breaks	Risk of child being harmed by another child and risk of inadequate supervision	Supervision Policy to ensure appropriate supervision at all times
Sporting Activities	Risk of child being harmed by another child and risk of inadequate supervision	Supervision Policy to ensure appropriate supervision

List of School Activities	The School has identified the following Risk of Harm	The School has the following Procedures in place to address risk identified in this assessment
School outings	Risk of child being harmed by school personnel/member of staff of another organisation	School has procedures for school outings
Use Of Toilet/changing/ (at swimming/training/matches)	Risk of child being harmed by school personnel/member of staff of another organisation	Supervision Policy and procedures for school outings Agreement with parents in advance
Use of off-site facilities for school activities (GAA, swimming, other sporting events, Church, school tours)	Risk of child being harmed by school personnel/member of staff of another organisation	Supervision Policy and procedures for school outings
Fundraising events involving pupils	Risk of child being harmed by another child	Health & Safety Policy Supervision Policy
School transport arrangements (including use of bus escorts)	Risk of child being harmed by another child	Garda Vetting Procedures Code of Behaviour & Anti-Bullying Policy Child Safeguarding Statement Online Child Safeguarding Training Clear procedures for school outings Supervision policy

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List of School Activities	The School has identified the following Risk of Harm	The School has the following Procedures in place to address risk identified in this assessment
Management of challenging behaviour amongst pupils, including appropriate use of restraint where required	Risk of harm to child when with SEN who has particular vulnerabilities	Policy on Restraint to be drafted and source restraint training
Administration of Medicine Administration of First Aid	Risk of neglect	Procedures in place. Policies to be updated.
Curricular provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe	Neglect to teach in full	Programmes are run throughout the school year.
Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst pupils	Risk of child being bullied	Anti-Bullying Policy and initiatives
Use of external personnel to supplement curriculum	Risk of child being harmed by school personnel/member of staff of another organisation	Supervision Policy <i>Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post- Primary Schools 2017</i>

List of School Activities	The School has identified the following Risk of Harm	The School has the following Procedures in place to address risk identified in this assessment
<p>Care of pupils with specific vulnerabilities/ needs such as</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Pupils from ethnic minorities/migrants ● Deaf Pupils ● 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 	<p>Risk of child being bullied</p>	<p>Anti-Bullying Policy Code of Behaviour School Ethos Bi Cineálta guidelines and procedures</p>
<p>Recruitment of school personnel including -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Teachers ● SNAs ● Bus Escorts ● 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 	<p>Harm not recognised or properly or promptly reported</p>	<p>Child Safeguarding Statement & DES procedures made available to all staff</p> <p>Staff to view Tusla training module & any other online training offered by Oide.</p> <p>Vetting Procedures</p>
<p>Use of school premises by other organisation during school day</p>	<p>Harm to child by member of staff of another organisation</p>	<p>Vetting procedures Children supervised by a member of school staff</p>

List of School Activities	The School has identified the following Risk of Harm	The School has the following Procedures in place to address risk identified in this assessment
Use of Information and Communication Technology by pupils in school	Bullying Inappropriate use	ICT policy Anti-Bullying Policy Code of Behaviour Children supervised when using IT
Application of sanctions under the school's Code of Behaviour including confiscation of phones etc.	Risk of bullying	Anti-Bullying Policy Code of Conduct
Students participating in work experience in the school	Harm by student	Safeguarding Statement Garda Vetting
Student teachers undertaking training placement in school	Harm by student/teacher	Safeguarding Statement & Child Protection Policy Garda Vetting
Use of video/photography/other media to record school events	Risk of bullying	Anti-Bullying Procedure Acceptable Use Policy

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*

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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 reviewed by the Board of Management on 03/12/24. It will be reviewed as part of the school's annual review of its Child Safeguarding Statement.

Signed :  3/12/24

John Hackett Date 03/12/2024

Chairperson, Board of Management

Signed :  3/12/24

Mícheál Hyland Date 03/12/2024

Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management