Kilskyre National School

Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment

For:	**Kilskyre NS**	*(School Name)*
At:	**Kilskyre NS, Kells, Co Meath A82DH22**	*(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):

Bebhinn King

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

Gillian Murphy

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

Name of Relevant Person

Bebhinn King

(In schools this person is the DLP)

Relevant Person can be contacted on:

046-9243947	kilskyrens@gmail.com

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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:

Martin Devine

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.
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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.

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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	Harm from older pupils, unknown adults on the playground	Arrival and dismissal supervised by Teachers
2.	Recreation breaks for pupils	Harm by pupils	Supervision Policy
3.	Use of playground activity	Harm by pupils	Supervision Policy
4.	Classroom teaching	Harm by pupils/teachers	Code of Behaviour Supervision Policy Child Safeguarding Statement - vetting
5.	One-to-one teaching	Harm by school personnel	School has policy in place for one-to-one teaching
6.	One-to-one learning support	Harm by school personnel	School has policy in place for one-one support teaching, open door policy
7.	Supervision by substitute teachers or temporary staff	Unfamiliarity with school procedures or students	Induction checklist; supervision duty assigned; Garda vetting confirmed
8.	Outdoor teaching activities	Harm by pupils/teachers	Code of Behaviour
9.	Online teaching and learning remotely	Risk of harm due to inappropriate use of online remote teaching and learning communication platform, such as an uninvited person accessing the lesson link, students being left unsupervised for long periods of time in breakout rooms	Acceptable Use Policy Internet Safety Talks

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	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
10.	Sporting activities	External sports coaches Travelling to/from sports events	Policy & Procedures in place Vetting required/teacher present at all times
11.	Participation in sports / PE	Injury or inappropriate contact	Trained staff/coaches; supervision; safeguarding protocols
12.	School outings	Harm to Pupils	Supervision policy Policy for school outings
13.	Use of toilet/changing/shower areas in schools	Harm to pupils Inappropriate behaviour Junior & Senior Infants walking to the toilet	Adult supervision of JI/SI infants going to the toilet Supervision Policy
14.	Care of children with special educational needs, including intimate care where needed	Harm by school personnel	Policy on intimate care Individual toileting plan where appropriate School Support Plans for each individual child Manual Handling
15.	Curricular Provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay safe.	Non-teaching of same	School implements SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe in full
16.	LGBT Children/Pupils perceived to be LGBT	Bullying	Bí Cineálta Code of Behaviour Friendship Week
17.	Managing of behaviours of concern amongst pupils, including appropriate use of restraint	Injury to pupils and staff	Positive Behaviour Support & Use of Restrictive Practice Health & Safety Policy Code Of Behaviour Circular 0081/2024 - Understanding Behaviours of Concern and Responding to Crisis Situations Guidelines for Schools in Supporting Student

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	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
18.	Fundraising events involving pupils	Harm to pupils Unknown Adults	Code of Behaviour Health & Safety Statement Supervision policy
19.	Annual Sports Day	Harm by pupils	Code of Behaviour Supervision policy
20.	School transport arrangements including use of bus escorts	Harm by school personnel	Bus Escort Policy Child-Protection Training
21.	Students participating in work experience	Harm by student	Work experience Policy
22.	Training of school personnel in Child Protection matters	Harm not recognised or reported promptly	Training of school personnel in Child Protection matters
23.	Administration of Medicine	Harm by school personnel	The school has in place a policy and procedures for the administration of First Aid /Medicine Parental Consent
24.	Administration of First Aid	Harm by school personnel	The school has in place a policy and procedures for the administration of First Aid
25.	Recruitment of school personnel including - Teachers/SNAs 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	Hiring unsuitable individuals	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 (revised 2025)* are made available to all school personnel School Personnel are required to adhere to the *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools (revised 2023)* and all registered teaching staff are required to adhere to the *Children First Act 2015* and it's Addendum (2019)

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	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
26.	Use of photographs / social media	Unauthorised sharing of images	Parental consent forms; Data Protection Policy, No identifying photos ie children's faces on social media.
27.	Swimming (including changing rooms)	Harm by adult or other child during changing	school staff avoid undressing support where possible; adult present in changing rooms
28.	Homework Club	Child being harmed by adult or peer	Staff follow school safeguarding statement
29.	Individual sensory breaks outside the classroom	Pupil leaving building unsupervised or becoming dysregulated	Supervised access only; risk assessed plans; safe sensory spaces designated
30.	Use of sensory rooms or calm spaces	Pupil beings dysregulated	staff training in regulation strategies, Individual support plans
31.	Managing distressed or dysregulated behaviour	Physical injury to pupil or staff; emotional distress	Positive Behaviour Support Plans; sensory strategies
32.	One-to-one support from an SNA	Inappropriate boundaries or dependency	Staff training; open communication with teacher; visibility in setting
33.	Community outings or life skills trips	Child becoming lost or unsafe in public settings	1:1 or 1:2 staffing; signed permission; risk assessment per outing

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
34.	Use of augmentative or assistive communication (AAC) devices	Misuse of device or exclusion of peers	Staff training in AAC; inclusion focus in group activities; tech supervision
35.	Transition to/from mainstream class	Emotional distress or peer exclusion	Visual schedules; teacher/SNA liaison; individualised transition supports

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

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23rd September 2026

Signed:* **Date**:

Chairperson of the board of management

Online Safety

The *Addendum to Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children 2017* published in January 2019 clarifies that organisations providing relevant services to children should consider the specific issue of online safety when carrying out their risk assessment and preparing their Child Safeguarding Statement and 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.

The Guidance on Continuity of Schooling for primary and post-primary schools (April 2020) advises of the importance of teachers maintaining the safe and ethical use of the internet during distance learning and assisting parents and guardians to be aware of their role also. Schools should ensure that their Acceptable Use Policy (AUP) informs and guides remote or distance learning activity.

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.