

**Scoil Oilibhéir Naofa
Junior Primary School
Bettystown
Co Meath**



CHILD SAFEGUARDING STATEMENT



**Roll Number: 20216L
Principal: Maria White
Deputy Principal: Sarah Liddy**

Scoil Oilibhéir Naofa Junior School

Bettystown, Co Meath A92 H762 Roll No: 20216L

Phone: 041-9887431 Email: office@bettystownschool.ie Web: www.bettystownschool.ie



Principal – Maria White

Deputy Principal – Sarah Liddy

Child Safeguarding Statement

Scoil Oilibhéir Naofa is a junior primary school providing primary 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 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 Scoil Oilibhéir Naofa 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 **Maria White**
- 3 The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is **Sarah Liddy**
- 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 above named DLP as the “relevant person” (as defined in the Children First Act 2015) to be the first point of contact in respect of the s 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.
- 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 14th June 2021.

Signed:
Chairperson of Board of Management

Signed:
Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Date: _____

Date: _____

Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment

Written Assessment of Risk of Scoil Oilibhéir Naofa

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 Scoil Oilibhéir Naofa.

1. List of school activities

Risk identified	Potential risk of harm	Procedure in place to manage risk identified
Risk of harm not being recognised by school personnel	Harm not reported promptly and properly by school personnel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training in Child Protection Procedures made available to staff: Tusla online training completed by all staff. • DLP and DDLP attended PDST training • New Board of Management members to attend CPSMA Child Protection training if made available • New Board of Management members made aware of Child Protection Procedures: Tusla online training. • Safe Guarding Statement and Risk Assessment provided to each member of staff and discussed at staff meeting in September of each year • Child Protection referred to at every staff meeting
One to one assessment	Harm by school staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Doors left open • Table between teacher and pupil
Risk of harm to children with SEN including intimate care needs	Harm by school staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy on intimate care formulated and ratified by BOM Oct 2018
Opening/Closing Times	Access to pupils by strangers or other adults Risk of harm from other pupils and/or self	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • External doors opened for pupils only promptly at 8.50 am (opening times subject to change due to Covid measures-staggered arrival and dismissal possible) • External doors closed 5 minutes after last arrival time

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pupils only released to person known to class teacher (or person known to have permission to collect child) • Early collection from front office only
Toilets	Risk of harm by other pupils	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff vigilance regarding use of toilets by children
Visitors/Visiting Tutors	Tutors behaving inappropriately Tutors lacking awareness of child safety issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Only visiting tutors from reputable organisations with appropriate Garda vetting engaged by school • Visiting tutors to be supervised by a class teacher, support teacher or other member of staff as appropriate
School Tours/Outings	Access to pupils by strangers Inappropriate activity by pupils. Dangers posed by unfamiliar environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adequate supervision • Teaching of the Stay Safe Programme and Code of Behaviour • Adequate research, planning and preparation by staff
Entry and Exit Points	Access to pupils by strangers or other adults Flight risk for some pupils	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adequate care taken by all school staff – teachers, SNAs, secretary, caretaker • All visitors must report to the office on arrival to school • External doors closed after arrival and kept locked during the day – extra vigilance required by staff regarding closing doors on entering and exiting the building following break/ lunch/ outdoor learning.
Yard	Access to pupils by strangers or other adults Flight risk for some pupils	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School gates to be kept closed during break times • Adequate supervision by teachers and SNAs on duty
Social Media	Potential for bullying Potential for grooming of pupils	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anti-Bullying Policy • No pupil mobile devices in the school • Information sessions for pupils, parents and staff • Safeguards and filtering on all school devices to block social media sites.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acceptable User Policy developed and ratified by the Board
Online learning	Potential for bullying Potential for grooming of pupils	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appendix to AUP has been updated to include safeguarding measures for online learning. • A second teacher to be present at class video meetings to monitor posts/ messages by pupils. • Parents requested to be present in the room with child when child attending Zoom/ video lesson. • Only those with usernames known to school staff will be permitted into Zoom video sessions. • Nobody is permitted to make a recording or take a screenshot of any meeting.

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 14th June 2021. It shall be reviewed as part of the school’s annual review of its Child Safeguarding Statement.

Signed: _____

Chairperson of Board of Management
Management

Date: _____

Signed: _____

Principal/Secretary to the Board of

Date: _____