

**Child Safeguarding Statement & Risk Assessment**

Scoil Naomh Treasa is a Catholic, co-educational 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 Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools 2017 and Túsla Guidance on the preparation of Child Safeguarding Statements, the Board of Management of Scoil Naomh Treasa 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 Avril Mann.
3. The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (DDLP) is Anne Dunne.
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/employee with a special vulnerability.

1. 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 Túsla, 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 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.

1. This statement is readily accessible to parents and guardians on request. A copy of this Statement will be made available to Túsla and the Department if requested.
2. 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 the 13th of April 2021.

**Signed:** *Brian Dooley* **Date:** *13/04/’21*

**Chairperson, Board of Management**

**Signed:** *Avril Mann* **Date:** 13/04/’21

**Principal**

# **Appendix 1: Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment**

## **Written Assessment of Risk of Scoil Naomh Treasa, Ballyroe**

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 Naomh Treasa, Ballyroe.

1. **List of school activities**

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| **Risk identified** | **Potential risk of harm** | **Procedure in place to manage risk identified** |
| Training of school personnel in child protection matters | Harm not recognised or reported properly | * Child Safeguarding Statement & DES procedures made available to 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 & board training.
 |
| Opening/Closing Times and Break Times | Access to pupils by strangers or other adults.Risk of harm from other pupils | * Supervision by Teachers from 8.50 a.m.
* Adequate Supervision at break times
 |
| One-to-one teaching | Child being harmed in the school by a member of school personnel | * School adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation and relevant DES circulars in relation to recruitment and Garda Vetting.
* Open door/ Classroom with glass windows facing out to the front of school wit blind open.
 |
| Curricular provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe | Non-teaching of the same | * School implement SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe in full
 |
| Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst pupils | * Inadequate Supervision
* Harm to pupils
 | * Adequate supervision
* Anti-bullying policy
* Code of behaviour
 |
| Visitors/Visiting Tutors | Tutors behaving inappropriately.Tutors lacking awareness of child safety issues. | * Visiting tutors from reputable organisations with appropriate vetting.
* Open door/ Classroom with glass windows facing out to the front of school.
* Class teacher present.
 |
| Recruitment of school personnel including but not limited to:* Teachers/SNA’S
* Secretaries/ Caretakers
* Sports coaches
* Parents/ Volunteers
* Student teachers/Students on work experience
 | * Harm to pupils
 | * Vetting Procedures
 |
| Contractors present in school during school hours (Plumbers/ Electricians) | * Harm to pupils
 | * Adequate supervision by staff.
 |
| School Tours/ Outings | * Access to pupils by strangers.
* Inappropriate activity by pupils.
* Dangers posed by unfamiliar environment
 | * Adequate supervision
* Adequate planning and preparation by staff.
 |
| Use of toilet areas in school | * Risk of harm from other pupils
* Child being harmed in the school by a member of school personnel
 | * During Class and inside breaks, only one child may use the toilet each time.
* During outside breaks/lunch, children will be sent in pairs to use toilets.
* Supervision Policy
 |
| Outdoor teaching | Access to pupils by strangers.Inappropriate activity by pupils.Dangers posed by unfamiliar environment | * Adequate supervision
* Adequate planning and preparation by staff.
 |
| Sporting Activities/ Annual Sports Day | Access to pupils by strangers.Inappropriate activity by pupils.Dangers posed by unfamiliar environment | * Adequate supervision
* Adequate planning and preparation by staff.
 |
| Access/Egress | Access to pupils by strangers or other adults.Flight risk for some pupils | * Coded magnetic locks on doors.
 |
| Swimming Lessons/Sports Events | * Potential for unsupervised times in changing areas.
* Access to pupils by strangers or other adults.
 | * Adequate supervision provided.
* Trained lifeguards in pool
 |
| Participation by pupils in religious ceremonies external to school | * Access to pupils by strangers or other adults.
* Inappropriate activity by pupils.
* Dangers posed by unfamiliar environment
 | * Adequate supervision
* Adequate planning and preparation by staff
 |
| Social Media (Outside of school hours) | * Potential for bullying.
* Potential for grooming of pupils
 | * Anti-Bullying Policy.
* Information sessions for pupils, parents and staff
 |
| Use of video/photography/other media to record school events | * Inappropriate use of pictures/recordings
* Harm to children caused by school personnel
* Inappropriate activity by pupils
 | * Adequate supervision
* Adequate planning and preparation by staff
* Acceptable use policy
* Open door
* Group photos and recordings
 |
| Use of ICT by pupils in schools | * Inadequate supervision
* Children inappropriately accessing/using computers, or other devices while at school.
 | * Adequate supervision
* Acceptable use policy
* NCTE filtering
 |
| Care of children with special educational needs | * Child being harmed in the school by a member of school personnel.
* Risk of harm from other pupils.
* Potential for bullying.
 | * Adequate supervision
* Open door/ Classroom with glass windows facing out to the front of school.
* Adequate planning and preparation by staff.
* Anti-Bullying Policy
* Classroom Support Plans/ Support Plans/ Support Plus Plans
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| Care of pupils with specific vulnerabilities/ needs such as* Children in care
* Members of the Traveller community
* Pupils of minority religious faiths
 | * Risk of harm from other pupils.
* Potential for bullying.
 | * Anti-Bullying Policy
* Classroom Support Plans
 |
| Administration of Medicine/ First Aid | * Child being harmed in the school by a member of school personnel.
* Lack of training by school personnel
* Lack of clarity about dosage
* Allergic reactions
 | * Health & Safety Statement
* First Aid Training
* Written instructions provided by parents/ guardians on how medicine is to be administrated
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| Fundraising events involving pupils | * Access to pupils by strangers or other adults.
 | * Adequate supervision
* Adequate planning and preparation by staff.
 |
| Remote Learning using online learning platform, Seesaw, in the event of a full/partial school closure as a result of COVID-19. | * Creation of individual online profiles for children who are under 16 years of age.
* Age appropriateness of online learning platform,
 | * Seesaw: Secure learning platform
* Consent received from parents/guardians for their child/children to use Seesaw App and to engage two-way communication between teachers and their pupils if there is a full/partial school closure
* Use only names on profiles. No other personal or identifying information.
* Child user friendly App with section ‘I’m a student’. Senior Class will be able to engage with Seesaw independently under the supervision of Parents/Guardians. Junior Class will require assistance from parents/guardians.
* Continue to revise online safety measures with pupils.
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| Remote Learning using Zoom video calls, in the event of a full/partial school closure as a result of COVID-19. | * Age appropriateness of App.
* Inappropriate activity by pupils.
* Access to pupils by strangers or other adults.
* Risk of harm by other pupils/ Potential for bullying.
 | * For video/Zoom calls, parental permission is implied, as the link to a video call will be communicated via the parent/guardian’s email address. Essentially, by virtue of the pupil logging on to the call, permission is assumed.
* Pupils engage in Zoom calls with teachers under the supervision of their parents/guardians.
* Recording of calls will not be permitted.
* Staff will use a new meeting ID and password for each Zoom meeting being held.
* Teaching staff model good online etiquette during calls and set clear expectations about respectful online behaviour.
* Continue to revise online safety measures with pupils.
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| **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 17th June 2020. It shall be reviewed as part of the school’s annual review of its Child Safeguarding Statement.

**Signed:** *Brian Dooley* **Date:** *13/04/’21*

**Chairperson, Board of Management**

**Signed:** *Avril Mann* **Date:** 13/04/’21

**Principal**