

Mandatory Template 1: Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment

Child Safeguarding Statement



Cahergal N.S.
Scoil Náisiúnaí An Chathair Sheáil

Cahergal N.S 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 Cahergal National School 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 **Alastair Beegan**
- 3 The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is **Elaine Duddy**
- 4 The Relevant Person is **Alastair Beegan**
(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](https://www.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](https://www.gov.ie) 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](https://www.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-
 - 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 (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](https://www.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 _____ [date].

This Child Safeguarding Statement was reviewed by the Board of Management on _____ [most recent review date].

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

1. List of School Activities	2. The school has identified the following risk of harm in respect of its activities –	3. The school has the following procedures in place to address the risks of harm identified in this assessment -
Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils	Harm from other pupils, unknown adults on the premises Harm from potential to leave the premises after school before being collected	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All school personnel are provided with a copy of the school's <i>Child Safeguarding Statement</i> The <i>Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools (revised 2023)</i> are made available to all school personnel School Personnel are required to adhere to the <i>Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools (revised 2023)</i> and all registered teaching staff are required to adhere to the <i>Children First Act 2015</i> The school implements in full the Stay Safe Programme The school implements in full the SPHE curriculum The school has an Anti-Bullying Policy which fully adheres to the requirements of the Department's <i>Anti-Bullying Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools</i> The school has a Health and Safety policy The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation and relevant DES
Recreation breaks for pupils	Harm from other pupils	
Classroom Teaching	Harm from school personnel and other pupils	
One-to-one Teaching	Harm from school personnel	
One-to-one Counselling	Harm from school personnel or from external organisation personnel	
Outdoor teaching activities	Harm from other pupils, harm from school personnel or external organisation personnel	
Sporting Activities	Harm from other pupils, harm from school personnel or external organisation personnel	
School Outings / Sports Day	Harm from other pupils, harm from school personnel or external organisation personnel, and the general public	

Use of toilet/changing/shower areas in schools	Inappropriate behaviour or harm by school personnel and other children	<p>circulars in relation to recruitment and Garda vetting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The school has a code of conduct for school personnel (teaching and non-teaching staff) • The school complies with the agreed disciplinary procedures for teaching staff • The school has a Special Educational Needs policy • The school has a Mobile Phone Policy for staff and pupils • The school has a Supervision policy • The school has an Intimate Care policy • The school has a GDPR policy • The school ensures that the parental body/general public are briefed and informed about the acceptable use of photo taking and video recording during school events and concerts • The school – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Has provided each member of school 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 ○ Maintains records of all staff and board member training
Fundraising events involving pupils	Harm from other pupils, harm from school personnel or external organisation personnel and general public	
Use of off-site facilities for school activities	Harm from other pupils, harm from school personnel or external organisation personnel and general public	
School transport arrangements including use of bus escorts	Harm from other pupils, harm from school personnel or external organisation personnel – bus driver	
Care of children with Special Educational Needs, including intimate care where needed	Harm by school personnel	
Management of challenging behaviour amongst pupils, including appropriate use of restraint where required	Harm by school personnel	
Administration of Medicine	Inappropriate behaviour by school personnel	
Administration of First Aid	Inappropriate behaviour by school personnel	
Curricular provision in respect of SPHE , RSE, Stay Safe	Non-teaching of same	
Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst pupils	School personnel not adhering to school policy	
Training of school personnel in Child Protection matters and following relevant procedures	Harm not recognised or reported promptly in line with procedures and protocol	
Use of external personnel to supplement curriculum	Harm to pupils by external individual, harm not recognised or properly or promptly reported	

Use of external personnel to support sports and other extra-curricular activities	Harm to pupils by external individual, harm not recognised or properly or promptly reported	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The school has in place a code of behaviour for pupils • The school has in place a Critical Incident Management Plan
Care of pupils with specific vulnerabilities/needs such as <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children with Special Educational Needs • Pupils from ethnic minorities/migrants • Members of Traveller Community • LGBT Children • Pupils perceived to be LGBT • Pupils of minority religious faiths • Children in care • Children on Tusla CPNS (Child Protection Notification System) 	Harm by other pupils, harm by school community, non-teaching of relevant programmes, Risk of bullying	
Recruitment of school personnel including- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teachers/SNA • Substitute Teachers • 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 	Harm not recognised or properly or promptly reported Harm due to lack of training in relevant Child Protection Procedures	
Participation by pupils in religious ceremonies/religious instruction external to the school	Harm from other pupils, harm from school personnel or external organisation personnel and general public	
Use of Information and Communication Technology by pupils in school	Harm due to children inappropriately accessing/using computers, social media, phones and other devices while at school	
Application of sanctions under the school's Code of Behaviour including detention of pupils.	Harm by school personnel,	

Students participating in work experience in school	Harm by school personnel, harm due to lack of training in relevant Child Protection Procedures	
Student teachers undertaking training placement in school	Harm by school personnel, harm due to lack of training in relevant Child Protection Procedures	
Use of video/photography/other media to record school events	Harm caused by member of school personnel, parental body or general public accessing/circulating inappropriate material via social media, texting, digital device or other manner	
Use of school premises by other organisation during the school day	Harm from school personnel or external organisation personnel and general public	
After school use of school premises by other organisations	Harm from school personnel or external organisation personnel and general public	
Movement of Pupils around the school <ul style="list-style-type: none">School Committees–Green Schools, Active Schools, etcPre-School and after school provisions	Harm by pupils, school personnel and school community,	
Swimming	Risk of child being harmed by a member of school personnel, a member of staff of another organisation or other person while child participates in swimming, Risk of bullying from other pupils also – communal changing etc.	

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 (revised 2023)*

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.

Examples of activities, risks and procedures

The examples listed in this document are provided to assist schools in undertaking their risk assessment under the Children First Act, 2015. Schools should note that this list of examples is not intended to be exhaustive. It is the responsibility of each school to ensure, as far as possible, that any other risks and procedures that are relevant to its own particular circumstances are identified and specified in the written risk assessment and that adequate procedures are in place to address all risks identified.

It is acknowledged that schools already have in place a range of policies, practices and procedures to mitigate the risk of harm to children while they are participating in the activities of the school and that some school activities will carry low or minimal risks of harm compared to others. In the context of the risk assessment that must be undertaken by schools, the Children First Act, 2015 refers to risk as “any potential for harm”. Therefore, it is important that, as part of its risk assessment process, each school lists and reviews all of its various activities (which shall include identifying those that may carry low risk of harm as well as those that carry higher risks of harm). Doing so will help the school to (1) identify, as required under the Children First Act, 2015, any risks of harm that may exist in respect of the school’s activities, (2) identify and assess the adequacy of the various procedures already in place to manage those risks of harm and (3) identify and put in place any such additional procedures as are considered necessary to manage any risk identified.

The Addendum to Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children 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.

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.

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 (revised 2023)*.