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Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment

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| For: | St. Caimin's Community School |
| At: | Tullyvarraga, Shannon, Co. Clare |

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):

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| Ms Maria Sheehan |
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Name of the Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP/DDLP):

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| Ms Jenny O'Halloran |
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In the absence of the DLP, the Deputy DLP shall assume responsibilities of the DLP

Name of Relevant Person

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| Ms Maria Sheehan |
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(In schools this person is the DLP)

Relevant Person can be contacted on:

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| Phone number: 061-364211 | Email: maria.sheehan@stcaimins.ie |
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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:

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| Sr Ena Quinlan |
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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.

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.

Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment

| | List of School Activities | Risks Identified Against Each School Activity | Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk |
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| 1. | Arrival and dismissal of pupils | Inadequate supervision; bullying; racism; harm not recognised or reported | Supervision policy; Code of Behaviour; Anti-Bullying Policy; anti-racism initiatives; Child Safeguarding training; Child Protection Procedures 2025 |
| 2. | Recreation breaks for pupils | Inadequate supervision; bullying; racism; peer-to-peer harm | Yard/playground supervision policy; Anti-Bullying Policy; Behaviour Policy; staff child protection training |
| 3. | Classroom teaching | Harm from staff or another child; inappropriate communication; harm not recognised | Staff Code of Conduct; Garda vetting; Child Protection Procedures 2025; SPHE/RSE/Stay Safe; AUP |
| 4. | One-to-one teaching | Inappropriate adult-child interaction; inadequate supervision | One-to-one teaching protocols; open-door/visibility measures; staff training |
| 5. | One-to-one learning support | Inappropriate interactions; unreported disclosure; inadequate supervision | SEN policy; one-to-one procedures; reporting procedures; Garda vetting |
| 6. | One-to-one counselling | Inappropriate relationship: disclosure not properly reported | Counselling procedures; supervision measures; Child Protection Procedures 2025 |
| 7. | Outdoor teaching activities | Inadequate supervision; physical injury; inappropriate interactions | School outings protocols; supervision ratios; Health & Safety Statement |
| 8. | Online / remote teaching | Uninvited access: students left unsupervised in breakout rooms; ICT misuse | Acceptable Use Policy; smartphone/tablet policy; staff online communication procedures |
| 9. | Sporting activities | Physical harm; inappropriate conduct by coach/volunteer; poor supervision | External coach policy; vetting; supervision ratios; Health & Safety Policy |
| 10. | School outings | Harm by visitors/external adults; inadequate supervision; transport risks | School outings protocols; vetting; supervision procedures; bus escort arrangements |

| | List of School Activities | Risks Identified Against Each School Activity | Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk |
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| 11. | Overnight school trips | Inappropriate interactions; peer misconduct; high supervision needs | Overnight trip procedures; staff–student ratio; vetting; parental consent |
| 12. | Foreign travel school trips | Harm by external persons; inadequate supervision | Foreign travel procedures; risk assessment; vetting; supervision policy |
| 13. | Use of toilets, changing, shower areas | Inappropriate behaviour; inadequate supervision | Supervision policy for toilets/changing rooms; Staff Code of Conduct |
| 14. | Breakfast club | Inadequate supervision; inappropriate interactions | Breakfast club procedures; staff supervision; safeguarding training |
| 15. | Homework club / evening study | Inadequate supervision; risk from volunteers; inappropriate interactions | Homework club procedures; sign-in/out procedures; vetting |
| 16. | Care of children with SEN | Medical or developmental vulnerabilities; inappropriate intimate care | SEN policy; intimate care plans; medication administration procedures; staff training |
| 17. | Care of vulnerable adult students | Vulnerability to harm; inadequate communication/care | Care plans; SEN supports; staff training |
| 18. | Management of challenging behaviour | Unsafe restraint; harm to pupil or staff | Understanding Behaviours of Concern guidelines; Behaviour Policy; staff training |
| 19. | Management of food and drink | Allergy risk; medical harm | Health & Safety Policy; allergy procedures; staff training |
| 20. | Administration of medicine | Incorrect administration; inappropriate contact | Medication administration policy; staff training; parental consent |
| 21. | Administration of First Aid | Inappropriate contact; incorrect response | First Aid policy; trained personnel; reporting procedures |
| 22. | SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe curriculum | Sensitive discussions: disclosures not reported | Full curriculum implementation; Child Protection Procedures |

| | List of School Activities | Risks Identified Against Each School Activity | Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk |
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| 23. | Bullying prevention | Bullying; racism; discrimination | Anti-Bullying Policy; anti-racism initiatives; SPHE/Wellbeing programme |
| 24. | Staff training in child protection | Risks not recognised or reported | Mandatory training; training records; Child Safeguarding Statement |
| 25. | Use of external personnel for curriculum | Inappropriate interactions; poor supervision | External personnel policy; vetting; always supervised by a teacher |
| 26. | Use of external sports coaches | Risk of inappropriate behaviour | Sports coach policy; vetting; supervision |
| 27. | Pupils with specific vulnerabilities | Targeted harm; bullying; isolation | SEN/vulnerability supports; Anti-Bullying Policy; inclusion measures |
| 28. | Pupils from minority groups | Racism, discrimination, bullying | Anti-racism initiatives; Anti-Bullying Policy; SPHE/Wellbeing |
| 29. | Children in care / on CPNS | Increased safeguarding risk | Liaison with TUSLA; enhanced safeguarding procedures |
| 30. | Visitors/contractors during school hours | Unsupervised adults near children | Visitor procedures; sign-in; supervision; vetting if required |
| 31. | Visitors/contractors after school | Adults on premises during child activity | Contractor procedures: supervision where children are present |
| 32. | Volunteers/parents in activities | Inappropriate interactions with pupils | Volunteer policy; vetting; supervision |
| 33. | Religious instruction offsite | Harm by external adults; inadequate supervision | External activity supervision rules; vetting where relevant |
| 34. | Use of ICT/social media | Cyberbullying; accessing inappropriate material | AUP; device policy; supervised ICT access |
| 35. | Application of sanctions | Inappropriate adult-child interactions; unsafe disciplinary practices | Code of Behaviour; supervision procedures; Behaviour Policy |

| | List of School Activities | Risks Identified Against Each School Activity | Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk |
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| 36. | Students on work experience (in school) | Inappropriate interactions; inadequate supervision | Work experience policy; vetting where needed |
| 37. | Students on work experience elsewhere | Harm by external adults; poor supervision | External placement policy; parental consent; risk assessment |
| 38. | Student teachers on placement | Inappropriate interactions; miscommunication | Placement policy; vetting; supervision |
| 39. | Use of video/photography/media | Misuse of images; privacy breaches | Media/photography consent procedures; AUP |
| 40. | Afterschool use of premises | Unvetted adults onsite; unsupervised access | Facility use policy; supervision agreements |
| 41. | Use of premises during school day by outside groups | Access to children by unknown adults | Restricted access; sign-in procedures; supervision |

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 12 May 2026 (most recent review date)

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| Signed:* | <i>Lona Ni Chaoimhe</i> | Date: | <i>12-05-2026</i> |
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Chairperson of the board of management

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| Signed:* | <i>M. Sheeran</i> | Date: | <i>12/May/2026</i> |
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Principal/Secretary to the board of management

This Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment is expected to be reviewed again on _____ (expected review date)

* Document to be printed and signed with original signatures