SCOIL MHUIRE

KANTURK

CSS1

Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment

For:	**Scoil Mhuire Kanturk**	
At:	**Greenfield Road, Kanturk, Co. Cork**	

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):

Mr. Garvan Queeney

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

Mr. Rickie O' Keeffe

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

Name of Relevant Person

Mr. Garvan Queeney

(In schools this person is the DLP)

Relevant Person can be contacted on:

02950807	office@scoilmhuirekanturk.ie

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:

Mr. Padraic O' Connell

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
1.	Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils	• Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision. • Risk of child being harmed by another child or unauthorised visitor. • Risk of harm from traffic/buses during arrival/dismissal.	• Yard and entrance supervision policy in place for arrival and dismissal. • Attendance tracked via Tyro; sign-in/out procedures enforced at reception for late arrivals/early departures. • Main entrance monitored during school hours.
2.	Recreation breaks for pupils	• Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision. • Risk of peer-on-peer abuse, bullying, or harassment. • Risk of harm in toilet or changing areas.	• Rota of staff supervision for yard, corridors, canteen, and communal areas during breaks. • Bí Cineálta Anti-Bullying Policy implemented in full. • Code of Behaviour enforced.
3.	Classroom teaching & outdoor learning	• Risk of harm not being recognised or reported promptly. • Risk of child being harmed by a member of school personnel, another child, or a visitor.	• Teaching Council Code of Professional Conduct adhered to. • Mandatory SPHE, Senior RSE, and Junior Cycle Wellbeing implemented in full. • Health and Safety Policy in place.
4.	One-to-one teaching & AEN support	• Risk of child being harmed in 1-to-1 situations by a member of staff. • Risk of harm to pupils with AEN/vulnerabilities.	• Clear glass vision panels fitted on doors (or doors kept open where feasible). • Policy for 1-to-1 teaching and AEN support implemented. • Additional Educational Needs Policy in place.
5.	One-to-one counseling (In-person or online)	• Risk of harm or inappropriate boundaries in 1-to-1 pastoral environments.	• Guidance Counselor abides by IGC Code of Ethics and Practice. • Procedures for 1-to-1 counseling followed (visible room setup, vision panels).
6.	Online / remote teaching or co-curricular activities	•Risk of harm due to cyberbullying or inappropriate online boundaries.	• ICT Acceptable Use Policy enforced. • Content filtering system active. • Approved VLE platforms (such as google classroom, examrevision.ie) and official school emails only.
7.	Use of ICT, VLEs, and 1:1 student digital devices	• Cyberbullying, online harassment, or unauthorized image sharing.	• ICT Acceptable Use Policy (AUP) and student device policies in place. • Strict mobile phone policy enforced – New mobile phone procedure -

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
		• Risk of non-consensual image creation/distribution (including AI/deepfake abuse). • Direct messaging between staff and students on private channels.	phones in pouches. (confiscation rules apply for non- compliance with policy). • Staff-student communication restricted strictly to official school emails/google classroom
8.	Outdoor sports, PE, and use of external coaches	• Risk of child being harmed by another child, staff, volunteer, or external coach.	• Policy and procedures in place for external sports coaches. • All external personnel Garda-vetted prior to commencement. • Teacher supervision provided during sports and physical activities.
9.	School outings, local excursions, and day trips	• Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision while off-site. • Risk of child being harmed by external personnel or general public.	• School Outings Policy strictly applied. • Written parental consent obtained prior to trips. • Garda-vetted personnel and staff supervision in place.
10.	School trips involving overnight stays	• Risk of harm in overnight accommodation or during unmonitored hours. • Risk of peer harm or inappropriate adult contact.	• Gender-appropriate supervision ratios maintained. • Clear supervision and rooming accommodation arrangements. • Policy and clear procedures for school outings enforced.
11.	School trips involving foreign travel	• Risk of harm during international travel or off-site itineraries.	• International Trips Policy and clear procedures in place. • Comprehensive risk assessments completed prior to departure. • Parental consent and Garda-vetted staff mandatory.
12.	Use of toilet, changing, and shower areas	• Risk of child being harmed in unsupervised or private areas. • Inappropriate phone, camera, or recording usage.	• Supervision policy for communal areas and corridors. • Enhanced supervision where feasible. • Mobile phones strictly prohibited in changing and toilet areas. Mobile phones in phone locker pouches for the duration of the day.
13.	Fundraising events & School Musical / Open Day	• Risk of harm by another child, staff member, volunteer, or external visitor.	• Policy and clear procedures in respect of school outings/events. • Parental consent obtained where applicable. • Garda-vetted staff oversight.
14.	Use of off-site facilities for school activities	• Risk of harm at external venues, public fields, or hired sports grounds.	• Policy and clear procedures for off-site activities followed. • Supervision provided exclusively by school staff. • Garda-vetted personnel only.

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
15.	School transport arrangements (including bus escorts)	• Risk of harm while traveling on contract buses or transport.	• Adherence to Garda vetting legislation and DES circulars for drivers/escorts. • Supervision protocols during boarding and disembarking.
16.	Management of challenging behaviour amongst pupils	• Risk of child being harmed by another child during behavioral incidents.	• Code of Behaviour implemented. • Enhanced supervision where required. • Bí Cineálta framework applied to manage peer conflict.
17.	Administration of Medicine and First Aid	• Risk of harm to a child while receiving medical attention.	• Policy and procedures in place for the Administration of Medicine. • First Aid policy and accident recording procedures enforced.
18.	Prevention and addressing of bullying	• Peer-on-peer harm, cyberbullying, or identity-based harassment (e.g., Traveller/Roma, LGBTQ+, SEN, ethnic minorities).	• Full adoption and implementation of the Bí Cineálta Anti-Bullying Procedures. • SPHE, Senior RSE, and Junior Cycle Wellbeing programs delivered in full. • Mentoring programmme in place empahsising respect, tolerance and kindness
19.	Training of school personnel in Child Protection	• Personnel not being aware of responsibilities or failing to report concerns.	• All personnel provided with Child Safeguarding Statement upon induction. • Staff and BoM complete mandatory 2025 training modules. • Training records maintained by the Board of Management.
20.	External personnel supplementing curriculum or guest speakers	• Risk of child being harmed by an unvetted guest speaker or tutor.	• Policy and procedures in place for external personnel supplementing curriculum. • Class teacher remains present in the room at all times.
21	External sports coaches and extra-curricular tutors	• Risk of harm in coaching environments or unmonitored settings.	• Policy and procedures for external coaches enforced. • Garda Vetting verified prior to commencing duties.
22.	Care of pupils with specific vulnerabilities / minority groups	• Risk of harm, discrimination, or isolation targeting vulnerable pupils.	• Bí Cineálta anti-bullying policy implemented. • AEN Policy, Wellbeing Programme, and pastoral care support structures active. • Mentoring programme in place for all year groups
23.	Recruitment of school personnel (teachers, SNAs, caretakers,	• Risk of unvetted or unsuitable persons accessing children.	• Statutory NVB Garda Vetting legislation enforced.

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
	secretaries, cleaners, coaches, volunteers)		• Department of Education recruitment circulars followed. • Written protocol in place for immediate absencing of staff if required.
24.	Visitors and contractors present during or after school hours	• Unmonitored access to pupils by external visitors or tradespeople.	• Visitor sign-in protocol at reception. • Contractor vetting and badge requirements. • Supervision of work areas during operational hours.
25.	Application of sanctions under Code of Behaviour (detention, phone confiscation)	• Harm or improper conduct during isolation/detention or handling student property.	• Code of Behaviour policy strictly followed. • Detention supervision protocols enforced. • Secure procedure for confiscated mobile phones.
26.	Transition Year (TY) Work Experience & Community Placements	• Risk of harm while participating in external workplace settings.	• Policy and procedures in place for student work experience. • Employer agreement forms and parental consents required prior to placement.
27.	Students participating in social outreach / volunteering	• Risk of harm to pupils participating in external community outreach.	• Policy and procedures in respect of pupils undertaking Social Outreach. • Parental consent and staff liaison in place.
28.	Student teachers undertaking training placements	• Risk of harm by unvetted or unsupervised student teachers.	• Policy and procedures in place for student teacher placements. • Vetting confirmed via HEI/Teaching Council prior to entry.
29.	Media, photography, and video recording of school events	• Inappropriate publication or circulation of student images online.	• Code of Behaviour and ICT Acceptable Use Policy applied. • Parental consent obtained for media usage.
30.	After-School Study & Homework Club	• Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision after regular hours.	• Supervision arrangements in place. • Code of Behaviour applies.
31.	After-school use of school premises by external organisations	• External third-party users coming into contact with pupils.	• Adherence to Garda Vetting requirements for external hiring bodies. • Facility use agreements in place.
32.	Oral and Practical State Examinations	• Risk of harm in 1-to-1 examination settings.	• State Examination Commission (SEC) procedures strictly followed. • Supervision arrangements and visible examination room setups in place.

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
33.	Use of Quiet room/Sensory space	• Risk of harm or inadequate supervision in isolated quiet spaces.	• Use of sensory/quiet spaces is supervised by school personnel. • Procedures for 1-to-1 teaching apply where relevant.
34.	Incoming First Year Admissions / Assessment Tests	• Inadequate supervision of primary pupils visiting school premises.	• Students dropped off and collected directly by parents/guardians. • Supervision provided during all assessment activities.
35	Senior pupils leaving school premises at lunchtime	• Risk of harm from external personnel or traffic while off-site.	• Parental indemnity forms signed prior to granting pass. • Code of Behaviour applies while off-site during the school day.
36.	Provision and management of food and drink (Canteen / Break services)	• Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision during breaktime food services. • Risk of allergic reaction or choking incident during meal times.	• Supervision rota active in canteen and dining areas during breaks. • First Aid Policy and Administration of Medicine/Allergy protocols enforced. • Code of Behaviour enforced during food services.
37	Care of children with SEN/intimate care	Vulnerability; intimate care risk; harm not recognised/reported	• SEN Policy; • Intimate care protocols • Staff training • Reporting procedures.
38.	Participation in religious ceremonies & school services	• Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision in off-site churches or assembly spaces. • Risk of harm from unauthorised external visitors during services.	• School Outings Policy and supervision ratios applied for church/ceremony visits. • Continuous teacher oversight maintained throughout events. • External venue personnel adherence to Garda Vetting regulations.
39.	Emergency distance / remote learning protocols (Inclement weather / closures)	• Risk of harm from uninvited external access to remote digital sessions. • Risk of inappropriate communications or boundary blurring during online delivery.	• ICT Acceptable Use Policy (AUP) enforced for remote teaching. • Approved school VLE platforms such as Google Classroom and official emails used exclusively. • Guidance and protocols communicated to staff, pupils, and parents.
40.	Critical incidents, evacuations, and emergency situations	•Risk of harm, distress, or lack of supervision during emergency evacuations or crisis events.	• Critical Incident Management Plan (CIMP) maintained and implemented. • Fire safety and assembly point supervision protocols active. • Guidance on *Understanding Behaviours of Concern and Responding to Crisis Situations* applied.

41.	Breakfast Club (Early morning provision prior to school assembly)	• Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision during early morning hours. • Risk of child being harmed by another child, staff member, or unauthorized visitor before standard school opening times. • Risk of allergic reaction or choking incident during food consumption.	• Designated staff supervision rota active during Breakfast Club hours. • Attendance and sign-in protocol maintained for participating pupils. • All supervising staff and volunteers Garda-vetted in accordance with recruitment procedures. • Code of Behaviour, Bí Cineálta policy, and First Aid/Allergy protocols enforced.

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.

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 15/10/26 *(most recent review date)*

Signed:*	Alan Bourke	**Date:** 15/10/26

Chairperson of the board of management

Signed:*	Ciara Creaney	**Date:** 15/10/26

Principal/Secretary to the board of management

This Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment is expected to be reviewed again on 12/10/27 *(expected review date)*

** Document to be printed and signed with original signatures*

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Appendix - Location of copies of the Child Protection Procedures and Children First Guidance

This may be in the form of specifying the online location for the procedures (Department of Education and Youth website www.gov.ie/childprotectionschools and/or the school website), providing a link to the Children First National Guidance 2017 Children_First_National_Guidance_2017.pdf, and stating the number and location of hard copies of these procedures available in the school.

- Department of Education and Youth website www.gov.ie/childprotectionschools
- Scoil Mhuire Kanturk website www.scoilmhuirekanturk.ie
- Children First National Guidance 2017 Children_First_National_Guidance_2017.pdf
- CPSSRA on display at all main entrances to the school building.
- Hard copy available at the main school office upon request.