



Coláiste Pobail Acla

Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment

**Coláiste Pobail Acla,
Polranny,
Achill,
Co. Mayo.**

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CSS 1

Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment



For: Coláiste Pobail Acla
At: Achill, Co. Mayo, F28 CP49

This school is a: Post-Primary 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):

Jason Ó Mongáin

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

Paul Fahy

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

The Relevant Person:

Jason Mangan

(In schools this person is the DLP)

Relevant Person can be contacted on:

(098) 45139 and jasonmongain@msletb.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. Tom O'Grady / Ms. Regina Anderson

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 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.

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, 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 Activity	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils	Congestion at entrances/exits, risk of accidents, unauthorised access	Provide supervision main entry point via school office
Recreation breaks for pupils	Injury during play, bullying, inadequate supervision	Ensure adequate supervision, establish clear rules, and maintain safe play equipment, staggered breaks
Classroom teaching	Spread of illness, disruptive behaviour, fire hazards	Promote hygiene, behavioural expectations monitored through student mgt. system, keep exits clear
One-to-one teaching	Allegations of misconduct, lack of transparency	Conduct sessions in rooms with visibility, follow safeguarding policies, and maintain records
One-to-one learning support	Misunderstanding boundaries, privacy concerns	Ensure open-door policies, document sessions and provide staff training
One-to-one counselling	Emotional distress, confidentiality breaches	Use of counsellor, maintain Confidentiality and have clear reporting protocols
Outdoor teaching activities	Weather-related risks, getting lost, injuries	Supervise closely and have emergency procedures in place
Online teaching and learning remotely	Cyberbullying, data privacy issues, lack of engagement	Use secure platforms, educate about online safety and monitor participation
Sporting activities	Physical injuries, dehydration, equipment failure	Provide proper equipment, ensure first aid availability and supervise activities closely
School outings	Lost pupils, accidents, transportation issues	Keep accurate attendance, use consent forms and maintain appropriate supervision ratios

School trips involving overnight stay	Inadequate supervision, homesickness, medical emergencies, inappropriate behaviour	Set clear behaviour expectations, maintain supervision ratios, gather medical info, and ensure emergency contacts are available
School trips involving foreign travel	Travel-related illness, loss of travel documents, cultural misunderstandings, emergencies abroad	Provide pre-travel briefings, keep copies of documents, set communication protocols and purchase travel insurance
Use of toilet/changing/shower areas in schools	Privacy violations, inappropriate behaviour, bullying	Implement supervision protocols, provide clear usage guidelines and ensure staff training
Annual Sports Day	Injuries, sunburn, dehydration	Have first aid on site, encourage hydration, maintain supervision
Fundraising events involving pupils	Handling of money, unsupervised interactions, safety in public venues	Supervise pupils, provide clear guidelines and ensure safe money handling procedures
Use of off-site facilities for school activities	Unfamiliar environments, transportation risks, lost pupils	Brief students, maintain supervision, and use transport through framework
School transport arrangements including use of bus escorts	Injury during transit, lack of supervision, delays	Use trained escorts, seat belts and accessible contact with assigned staff on bus
Care of children with special educational needs, including intimate care where needed	Breach of dignity, inappropriate conduct, privacy concerns	Follow individualised care plans, provide staff training and maintain documentation
Care of any vulnerable adult students, including intimate care where needed	Breach of dignity, abuse, privacy violations	Implement safeguarding procedures, staff training and maintain records
Management of challenging behaviour amongst pupils, including appropriate use of restraint where required	Injury to staff or students, misuse of restraint, escalation of incidents	Staff training in de-escalation, clear behaviour policies, document all incidents
Management of provision of food and drink	Allergic reactions, choking, hygiene issues	Identify allergies, supervise eating, follow food safety protocols

Administration of medicine	Incorrect dosage, unauthorised access, missed doses	Maintain medicine logs, assigned staff awareness, secure storage, parental authorisation
Administration of First Aid	Incorrect treatment, lack of trained personnel, delayed response	Ensure first aid training, maintain accessible kits, document incidents
Curricular provision in respect of SPHE & RSE	Inadequate delivery of sensitive topics, discomfort, misinformation	Use approved curriculum, provide teacher training, create supportive environment
Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst pupils	Unreported incidents, ongoing harm, retaliation	Implement anti-bullying policies, encourage reporting, provide support systems
Training of school personnel in child protection matters	Gaps in knowledge, inconsistent application of procedures	Regular mandatory training, updates on legislation, accessible policies
Use of external personnel to supplement curriculum	Unvetted individuals, inconsistent teaching quality, safeguarding breaches	Vet all external personnel, monitor sessions and follow safeguarding protocols
Use of external personnel to support sports and other extra-curricular activities	Inadequate supervision, lack of familiarity with students, safeguarding risks	Vetting, provide clear guidelines and ensure staff presence
Care of pupils with specific vulnerabilities/needs :		
Pupils from ethnic minorities/migrants	Discrimination, language barriers, social isolation	Promote inclusion, offer language support and foster cultural awareness
Members of the Traveller community	Discrimination, exclusion, misunderstanding cultural practices	Provide staff training, promote inclusion and celebrate diversity
Lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender (LGBT) children	Bullying, exclusion, lack of support	Enforce anti-bullying policies, provide support and promotion of staff awareness through CPD and students
Pupils perceived to be LGBT	Bullying, isolation, psychological harm	Foster inclusive environment, monitor for bullying and provide support resources

Pupils of minority religious faiths	Exclusion, disrespect of beliefs, bullying	Respect religious practices, educate about diversity and address incidents promptly
Children in care	Lack of continuity, emotional distress, safeguarding risks	Coordinate with care providers, monitor well-being, and maintain communication
Children on Tusla's Child Protection Notification System (CPNS)	Unrecognised risk, inadequate support, failure to report concerns	Maintain regular communication with Tusla, Staff consultation through SST and monitor closely
Children with medical needs	Medical emergencies, missed medication, exclusion from activities	Develop care plans, train staff and ensure accessibility
Recruitment of school personnel including: teachers/SNAs, caretakers/secretaries/cleaners and sport coaches	Employment of unsuitable individuals, safeguarding breaches	Conduct checks, follow recruitment policies, and verify references
External Tutors/Guest Speakers	Unvetted individuals, inappropriate content, safeguarding risks	Screen all visitors, provide guidelines, and supervise sessions
Volunteers/Parents in school activities	Inadequate supervision, safeguarding concerns, unclear roles	Provide induction, vet volunteers and supervise activities
Visitors/contractors present in school during school hours	Unauthorised access, disruption, safeguarding risks	Require sign-in, provide escorts and restrict access areas
Visitors/contractors present in school during school hours	Unsupervised access, safety breaches	Supervise access, restrict movement and require sign-out
Use of Information and Communication Technology by pupils in school, including social media	Cyberbullying, exposure to inappropriate content, privacy breaches	Monitor usage, teach digital citizenship and enforce acceptable use policies
Application of sanctions under the school's Code of Behaviour including detention of pupils, suspension due to use of mobile phones etc.	Unfair application, escalation of conflict, loss of personal property	Follow clear procedures, document actions and communicate with parents, no confiscation of property

Students participating in work experience in the school	Inadequate supervision, unclear expectations, safeguarding risks	Provide induction, assign mentors and monitor progress
Students from the school participating in work experience elsewhere	Unfamiliar environments, inadequate supervision, safeguarding concerns	Parents Vet placements, maintain contact and obtain parental consent
Student teachers undertaking training placement in school	Lack of experience, safeguarding risks, unclear roles	Provide induction, assign mentors and supervise closely
Use of video/ photography/ other media to record school events	Unauthorised sharing, privacy breaches, misuse of images	Obtain consent, follow media policies and restrict access to recordings
After-school use of school premises by other organisations	Unsupervised access, property damage, safety risks	Set terms of use, require supervision and restrict access to sensitive areas
Use of school premises by other organisations during school day	Disruption, unauthorised access, safeguarding risks	Monitor access, sign-in requirements and supervision by school staff
Homework club/evening study	Supervision issues, unauthorised departure, bullying	Maintain sign-in/out records, supervise sessions and enforce behaviour policies
International students and Host Families	Suitable placement	Visit host families, accommodation type and Garda vetting

Online Safety

The Addendum to Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children 2017 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 and Risk Assessment. 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.

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 addition the following Policies and procedures are used to address Risks of Harm across multiple headings above

1. All school personnel are provided with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment
2. The Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025 are made available to all school personnel
3. School personnel are required to adhere to the Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025 and all registered teaching staff are required to adhere to the Children First Act 2015 as well as supporting the continued implementation of the best practice guidance set out in Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children 2017 and its addenda, including the Addendum to Children First 2019 and 2025
4. 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
5. The school implements in full the Social, Personal, and Health Education (SPHE) Curriculum
6. The school implements in full the Wellbeing Programme at Junior Cycle
7. School authorities have a code of behaviour and an anti-bullying policy in place in accordance with the department's "Bí Cineálta" procedures to prevent and address bullying in schools and as outlined in Circular 55/2024
8. The school has complied with the Understanding Behaviours of Concern and Responding to Crisis Situations developed by the Department of Education and Youth to address uncertainty for staff on how to respond when facing crisis situations where there are concerns regarding physical safety
9. The school undertakes anti-racism awareness initiatives
10. The school has a health and safety policy
11. The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation
12. The school adheres to the relevant Department of Education and Youth circulars in respect of recruitment
13. The school has a code of conduct for school personnel (teaching and non-teaching staff)
14. The school complies with the agreed disciplinary procedures for teaching staff
15. The school has an Additional educational needs policy
16. The school has an intimate care policy/plan in respect of students who require such care
17. The school has in place a policy and procedures for the administration of medication to pupils
18. The school has provided each member of school staff with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment
19. The school ensures all new personnel are provided with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment
20. The school encourages personnel to avail of relevant training
21. The school encourages board of management members to avail of relevant training
22. The school maintains records of all personnel and board member training
23. The school has in place a policy and procedures for the administration of First Aid
24. The school has in place a code of behaviour for pupils
25. The school has an Acceptable Use Policy in place, to include provision for online teaching and learning remotely, and has communicated this policy to parents
26. The school has in place a policy governing the use of smartphones and digital devices in the school by pupils as per Circular 38/2018 and the national guidelines which forms part of our Acceptable Use Policy and Code of Behaviour
27. The school has in place a Critical Incident Management Plan
28. The school has in place a policy and procedures for the use of external persons to supplement delivery of the curriculum

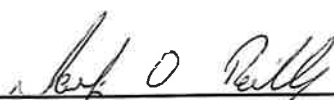
29. The school has in place a policy and clear procedures for one-to-one teaching activities
30. The school has in place a policy and procedures for one-to-one counselling
31. The school has in place a policy and procedures in respect of student teacher placements
32. The school has in place a policy and procedures in respect of pupils undertaking work experience in the school
33. The school has in place a policy and procedures in respect of pupils of the school undertaking work experience in external organisations

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.

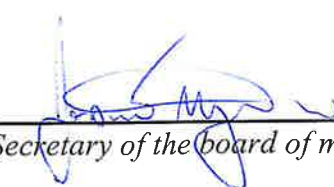
In undertaking this Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment, the board of management has endeavoured to identify as far as possible the risks of harm that are relevant to this school and to ensure that adequate procedures are in place to manage all risks identified. While it is not possible 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:

27th May 2026 (most recent review date).

Signed: 
Chairperson of the board of management

Date: 27/5/26

Signed: 
Principal/Secretary of the board of management

Date: 27-05-26

This Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment is expected to be reviewed again on:

26th May '27 (expected review date).

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.

Front Door,
Main School Office reception area

Link to pdf. On school website