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Gurraneasig N.S.
Kilbrittain,
Co.Cork
P72 YP78

Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment

October 2026

For: Gurraneasig National School

At: Kilbrittain, Co.Cork. P72 YP78

This school is a 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): Ms. Maeve Tighe

Name of the Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP/DDLP): Ms. Laura White

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

Name of Relevant Person: Ms. Maeve Tighe

(In schools this person is the DLP)

Relevant Person can be contacted on:

Phone: 0238849700

Email: maevetighe@gurraneasigns.com

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: Mr. Edward McCarthy

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.

Note: The procedures and measures in place outlined above, are not intended as an 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, 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 Mitigate Risk
Training of school personnel in Child Protection matters	Harm not recognised or reported promptly	Child Safeguarding Statement & DES procedures made available to all staff DLP & DDLP to complete updated PDST training All Staff viewed Túsla training module & any other online training offered by PDST BOM records all records of staff and board training
One to one teaching	Harm by school personnel	School has policy in place for one to one teaching; Open doors Table between teacher and pupil Glass in window
Care of Children with additional needs, including intimate care needs	Harm by school personnel	Policy on intimate care
Use of Toilet areas in school	Inappropriate behaviour Harm to student	Adequate supervision Toilet facilities located within classroom One at a time Policy Single Gender Toilets Supervision Policy Code of Behaviour Anti-Bullying Policy
Curricular Provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay safe.	Non-teaching of same	School implements SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe in full see SPHE Plan
Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils	Harm from older pupils, unknown adults on the playground	Arrival and dismissal supervised by Teachers Stay Safe Programme Staggered Collections No adults allowed on school grounds without permission
Managing of challenging behaviour amongst pupils, including appropriate use of restraint where required	Injury to pupils and staff	Health & Safety Policy Code Of Behaviour Sensory Breaks

External Personnel to support sports, extra curricular activities & supplementing the curriculum	Harm to pupils	Procedures in place Class Teacher Present
Students participating in work experience	Harm by student	Work Experience Policy Child Safeguarding Statement. Supervisor from secondary school/college
Recreation breaks for pupils	Harm to student	Supervision Policy Health & Safety Code of Behaviour Anti- Bullying Policy SPHE Programme
Classroom teaching	Harm by school personnel	Child Safeguarding Statement Professional Code of Conduct
Outdoor Teaching Activities	Inadequate supervision Harm to student	BOM approves all organised,supervised outings Health & Safety Policy Anti-Bullying Policy Code of Behaviour Professional Code of Conduct Adequate Supervision
Sporting Activities	Inadequate supervision Harm to student	Policy and procedures in place for the use of external sports coaches
School outings	Inadequate supervision Harm to student Bullying	BOM approves all organised,supervised outings Code of Behaviour Anti-Bullying Policy
Annual Sports Night	Harm to student by visitors to school/ school personnel/ other students	Child Safeguarding Statement Code of Behaviour Anti Bullying Policy
Fundraising events involving pupils	Inadequate supervision Harm to student	BOM approves all organised,supervised events Supervision Policy
Use of off-site facilities for school activities	Inadequate supervision Harm to student	BOM approves all organised,supervised outings Supervision Policy
Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst pupils	Bullying Harm to student	Anti-Bullying Policy Code of Behaviour SPHE Programme
-Volunteers/Parents in school activities -Visitors/contractors	Harm not recognised or properly or promptly reported	Child Safeguarding Statement & DES procedures made available to all staff

present in school during school hours -Visitors/contractors present during after school activities		Staff to view Tusla training module & any other online training offered by PDST Vetting Procedures Child Safeguarding Statement
School transport arrangements including use of bus	Inadequate supervision Harm to student Harm by transport personnel	BOM approves all organised,supervised outings Child Safeguarding Statement Supervision Policy
Administration of Medicine	Harm to child by person administering of medicine	Policy and procedures in place for the administration of medicine
Administration of First Aid	Harm to child by person administering of First Aid	Policy and procedures in place for the administration of First Aid
Care of pupils with specific vulnerabilities/ needs such as - Students from ethnic minorities/migrants - Members of the Traveller community - Lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender (LGBT) - Students perceived to be LGBT - Students of minority religious faiths - Children in Care - Children on Child Protection Notification System (CPNS) - Children with medical needs	Bullying Harm to student	Anti-Bullying Policy Code of Behaviour Professional code of conduct SPHE Programme Liaise with NEPS Code of Professional Conduct
Use of ICT/ Internet by pupils in school	Bullying Harm to child	AUP Policy Digital Learning Plan Develop Safe & Responsible Behaviours SPHE Programme
Use of ICT/Internet by pupils through Distance Learning	Bullying Harm to Child	AUP Policy Digital Learning Plan Develop Safe & Responsible Behaviours Zoom Etiquette Policy Code of Behaviour
Use of video / photography / other media to record school events	Harm to child	Enrolment Policy Child Safeguarding Statement Data Protection Policy AUP Policy

Past pupils visiting the school for full or partial days	Supervising Children who are not part of the school community / not insured	Insurance Policy Health & Safety Statement
Security/access to school	Harm to child	Health & Safety Statement Sign out Book Maglock Door & Keypad
Pupils being collected early from school	Harm to child	Sign out Book Advance Notice

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, and that the inclusion of an example of a policy or procedure on these lists does not make it mandatory. 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:

> Identify, as required under the Children First Act, 2015, any risks of harm that may exist in respect of the school's activities.

> Identify and assess the adequacy of the various procedures already in place to manage those risks of harm.

> Identify and put in place any such additional procedures as are considered necessary to manage any risk identified.

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 postprimary 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, illtreatment 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.

Examples of School Activities which schools may draw from, as appropriate

1. Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils
2. Recreation breaks for pupils
3. Classroom teaching
4. One-to-one teaching
5. One-to-one learning support
6. One-to-one counselling
7. Outdoor teaching activities
8. Online teaching and learning remotely
9. Sporting activities
10. School outings
11. School trips involving overnight stay
12. School trips involving foreign travel
13. Use of toilet/changing/shower areas in schools
14. Provision of residential facilities for boarders
15. Annual Sports Day
16. Fundraising events involving pupils
17. Use of off site facilities for school activities
18. School transport arrangements including use of bus escorts
19. Care of children with special educational needs, including intimate care where needed
20. Care of any vulnerable adult students, including intimate care where needed

21. Management of challenging behaviour amongst pupils, including appropriate use of restraint where required

22. Management of provision of food and drink

23. Administration of medicine

24. Administration of First Aid

25. Curricular provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe

26. Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst pupils

27. Training of school personnel in child protection matters

28. Use of external personnel to supplement curriculum

29. Use of external personnel to support sports and other extracurricular activities

30. Care of pupils with specific vulnerabilities/needs

31. Pupils from ethnic minorities/migrants

32. Members of the Traveller community

33. Lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender (LGBT) children

34. Pupils perceived to be LGBT

35. Pupils of minority religious faiths

36. Children in care

37. Children on Tusla's Child Protection Notification System (CPNS)

38. Children with medical needs

39. Recruitment of school personnel including teachers/SNAs, caretakers/secretaries/cleaners and sport coaches

40. External Tutors/Guest Speakers

41. Volunteers/Parents in school activities

42. Visitors/contractors present in school during school hours

43. Visitors/contractors present during afterschool activities

44. Participation by pupils in religious ceremonies/religious instruction external to the school

45. Use of Information and Communication Technology by pupils in school, including social media

46. Application of sanctions under the school's Code of Behaviour including detention of pupils, confiscation of phones etc.

47. Students participating in work experience in the school

48. Students from the school participating in work experience elsewhere

49. Student teachers undertaking training placement in school

50. Use of video/photography/other media to record school events

51. Afterschool use of school premises by other organisations

52. Use of school premises by other organisations during school day

53. Breakfast club

54. Homework club/evening study

55. Children attending boarding schools or living away from home

Examples of Risks of Harm

1. Risk of harm not being recognised by school personnel

2. Risk of harm not being reported properly and promptly by members of school personnel

3. Risk of harm where members of school personnel have not received appropriate training

4. Risk of child being harmed in the school by a member of school personnel

5. Risk of child being harmed in the school by another child

6. Risk of child being harmed in the school by a volunteer or visitor to the school

7. Risk of child being harmed by a member of school personnel, a member of staff of another organisation or other person while a child is participating in outofschool activities, e.g. school trip, swimming lessons

8. Risk of harm due to inappropriate use of online remote teaching and learning communication platform, such as an uninvited person accessing the lesson link, students being left unsupervised for long periods of time in breakout rooms

9. Risk of harm due to bullying of a child

10. Risk of harm due to racism

11. Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children in school

12. Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children while attending outofschool activities

13. Risk of harm due to inappropriate relationship/communications between a child and another child or adult

14. Risk of harm due to children inappropriately accessing/using computers, social media, phones and other devices while at school

15. Risk of harm to children with special educational needs who have particular vulnerabilities, including medical vulnerabilities

16. Risk of harm to child while a child is receiving intimate care

17. Risk of harm due to inadequate code of behaviour

18. Risk of harm in onetoone teaching, counselling, coaching situations

19. Risk of harm caused by a member of school personnel communicating with pupils in an inappropriate manner via social media, texting, digital device, or other manner

20. Risk of harm caused by a member of school personnel accessing/circulating inappropriate material via social media, texting, digital device or other manner

21. Risks where children are living away from home or attending boarding facilities

These are examples of policies and procedures that may be used to address Risks of Harm

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 Stay Safe Programme

6. The school implements in full the Social, Personal, and Health Education (SPHE) curriculum

7. The school implements in full the Wellbeing Programme at Junior Cycle

8. School authorities have a code of behaviour and an antibullying 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*

9. 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

10. The school undertakes anti-racism awareness initiatives

11. The school has a yard/playground supervision policy to ensure appropriate supervision of children during assembly, dismissal and breaks and in respect of specific areas such as toilets, changing rooms etc.

12. The school has in place a policy and clear procedures in respect of school outings

13. The school has a health and safety policy

14. The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation

15. The school adheres to the relevant Department of Education and Youth circulars in respect of recruitment

16. The school has a code of conduct for school personnel (teaching and nonteaching staff)

17. The school complies with the agreed disciplinary procedures for teaching staff

18. The school has a special educational needs policy

19. The school has an intimate care policy/plan in respect of students who require such care

20. The school has in place a policy and procedures for the administration of medication to pupils

21. The school has provided each member of school staff with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment

22. The school ensures all new personnel are provided with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment

23. The school encourages personnel to avail of relevant training

24. The school encourages Board of Management members to avail of relevant training

25. The school maintains records of all personnel and board member training

26. The school has in place a policy and procedures for the administration of First Aid

27. The school has in place a code of behaviour for pupils

28. 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

29. The school has in place a policy governing the use of smartphones and tablet devices in the school by pupils as per *Circular 38/2018* and the national guidelines

30. The school has in place a Critical Incident Management Plan

31. The school has in place a Home School Liaison policy and related procedures

32. The school has in place a policy and procedures for the use of external persons to supplement delivery of the curriculum

33. The school has in place a policy and procedures for the use of external sports coaches

34. The school has in place a policy and clear procedures for onetoone teaching activities

35. The school has in place a policy and procedures for onetoone counselling

36. The school has in place a policy and procedures in respect of student teacher placements

37. The school has in place a policy and procedures in respect of pupils undertaking work experience in the school

38. The school has in place a policy and procedures in respect of pupils of the school undertaking

work experience in external organisations

39. The school has in place a policy in relation to assisting members of school personnel in respect of disclosures of retrospective abuse

40. The school has considered the questions in *Appendix 1* of the *Child Protection and Safeguarding Procedures for Boarding Facilities Associated with Recognised Schools 2023* and implemented the necessary risk mitigation measures

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 19/10/2026.

Signed:* Mc Carthy Date: 19/10/2026

Chairperson of the board of management

Signed:* Maeve Tighe Date: 19/10/26

Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

This Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment is expected to be reviewed again on October 2027.*(expected review date)*.