



Scoil Bhailenóra

Child Safeguarding Statement

Scoil Bhailenóra is a catholic primary school providing primary education to pupils from Junior Infants to Sixth Class.

In accordance with the requirements of the [Children First Act 2015](#), [Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children 2017](#), [the Addendum to Children First \(2019\)](#), the [Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools 2017](#) and [Tusla Guidance on the preparation of Child Safeguarding Statements](#), the Board of Management of Scoil Bhailenóra has agreed the Child Safeguarding Statement set out in this document.

- 1 The Board of Management has adopted and will implement fully and without modification the Department's Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools 2017 as part of this overall Child Safeguarding Statement
- 2 The Designated Liaison Person (DLP) is **Luke Foley**
- 3 The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is **Mollie Farrell**
- 4 The Board of Management recognises that child protection and welfare considerations permeate all aspects of school life and must be reflected in all of the school's policies, procedures, practices and activities. In its policies, procedures, practices and activities, the school will adhere to the following principles of best practice in child protection and welfare:

The school will:

- a) recognise that the protection and welfare of children is of paramount importance, regardless of all other considerations;
- b) fully comply with its statutory obligations under the Children First Act 2015 and other relevant legislation relating to the protection and welfare of children;
- c) fully co-operate with the relevant statutory authorities in relation to child protection and welfare matters;
- d) adopt safe practices to minimise the possibility of harm or accidents happening to children and protect workers from the necessity to take unnecessary risks that may leave themselves open to accusations of abuse or neglect;
- e) develop a practice of openness with parents and encourage parental involvement in the education of their children; and
- f) fully respect confidentiality requirements in dealing with child protection matters.

The school will also adhere to the above principles in relation to any adult pupil with a special vulnerability.

- 5 The following procedures/measures are in place:
 - In relation to any member of staff who is the subject of any investigation (howsoever described) in respect of any act, omission or circumstance in respect of a child attending the school, the school adheres to the relevant procedures set out in Chapter 7 of the Child Protection Procedures for Primary

and Post-Primary Schools 2017 and to the relevant agreed disciplinary procedures for school staff which are published on the DES website.

- In relation to the selection or recruitment of staff and their suitability to work with children, the school adheres to the statutory vetting requirements of the National Vetting Bureau (Children and Vulnerable Persons) Acts 2012 to 2016 and to the wider duty of care guidance set out in relevant Garda vetting and recruitment circulars published by the DES and available on the DES website.
- In relation to the provision of information and, where necessary, instruction and training, to staff in respect of the identification of the occurrence of harm (as defined in the 2015 Act) the school-
 - Has provided each member of staff with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement
 - Ensures all new staff are provided with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement
 - Encourages staff to avail of relevant training – eg. Revision on Return to School, 1st Croke Park Day
 - Encourages Board of Management members to avail of relevant training
 - The Board of Management maintains records of all staff and Board member training
- In relation to reporting of child protection concerns to Tusla, all school personnel are required to adhere to the procedures set out in the Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017, including in the case of registered teachers, those in relation to mandated reporting under the Children First Act 2015.
- In this school the Board has appointed the above named DLP as the "relevant person" (as defined in the Children First Act 2015) to be the first point of contact in respect of the child safeguarding statement.
- All registered teachers employed by the school are mandated persons under the Children First Act 2015.
- In accordance with the Children First Act 2015, the Board has carried out an assessment of any potential for harm to a child while attending the school or participating in school activities. A written assessment setting out the areas of risk identified and the school's procedures for managing those risks is attached as an appendix to this statement.
- The various procedures referred to in this Statement can be accessed via the school's website, the DES website or will be made available on request by the school.

6 This statement has been published on the school's website and has been provided to all members of school personnel, the Parents' Association and the patron. It is readily accessible to parents and guardians on request. A copy of this Statement will be made available to Túsła and the Department, if requested.

7 This Child Safeguarding Statement will be reviewed annually or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which this statement refers.

This Child Safeguarding Statement was adopted by the Board of Management on August 29th 2020 and a reviewed version was ratified at a meeting of the Board of Management on August 19 2021.

Signed: Barry O'Sullivan

Chairperson of Board of Management

Signed: Luke Foley

Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Date: 10/09/24 _____

Date: 10/09/24 _____

Scoil Bhailenóra - Child Safeguarding

Written Assessment of Risk

In accordance with Section 11 of The Children First Act 2015 and with the requirement of Chapter 8 of the *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017*, the following is the Child Safeguarding Written Risk Assessment of Scoil Bhailenóra.

| List of School Activities | Risk Identified by School | Procedures to Address Identified Risk |
|--------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils | <p>HIGH Risk of harm not being recognised by school personnel. Risk of harm to child from other parents/adults/passers-by.</p> | <p>Child Safeguarding Statement & DES procedures made available to all staff DLP & DDLP to attend training</p> <p>Supervision in place in yards from 8.40 every morning. Access to school building restricted during school hours, requiring visitors to present at reception.</p> |
| Recreation breaks for pupils | <p>HIGH Risk of child being harmed by inadequate supervision or by another child. Risk of harm due to bullying.</p> | <p>Adequate Supervision in place. Supervision rotas in place. Including Absence cover. This is well communicated. See Anti-Bullying Policy and Code of Behaviour</p> |
| Children using the toilet when on breaks | <p>HIGH Risk of child being harmed by inadequate supervision, by an un/known adult, or by another child.</p> | <p>Clear parameters for use communicated to staff and pupils.</p> |
| Unsecured external site | <p>HIGH Risk of child being harmed by inadequate supervision, by an un/known adult, or by another child.</p> | <p>Children do not go on unnecessary jobs No child from JI to second to leave the building. No child leaves the school grounds on a job. All children travel at least in twos Children accompanied by an adult where possible.</p> |
| Pupils being sent on jobs between the buildings. | <p>HIGH Risk of child being harmed by inadequate supervision, by an un/known adult, or by another child.</p> | <p>Children do not go on unnecessary jobs No child from JI to second to leave the building. All children travel at least in twos Children accompanied by an adult where possible.</p> |

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| Classroom teaching | LOW Risk of child being harmed by school personnel or another child | Child safeguarding statement and DES procedures made available to all staff. See Code of Behaviour and Anti-Bullying Policy Glass in all classroom doors. Following Best practice Adequate supervision measures |
| One to one teaching / learning support | LOW Risk of child being harmed by school personnel | Child safeguarding statement and DES procedures made available to all staff Door Open or glass window in door Table between teacher and pupil Advise parents – permission sought in writing |
| Outdoor teaching activities | MEDIUM Risk of child being harmed by inadequate supervision, school personnel or another child | Child safeguarding statement and DES procedures made available to all staff. Code of Behaviour and Anti-Bullying Policy |
| Online teaching and learning remotely | HIGH Risk of child being harmed by inappropriate communication / content | See ACU – signed by all families and staff Parental supervision during online lessons. |
| Sporting Activities | MEDIUM Risk of child being harmed by inadequate supervision, school personnel, member of sporting organisation or another child | Child safeguarding statement and DES procedures made available to all staff. Personnel from sporting organisations are Garda vetted and aware of school's Child safeguarding statement. Class teacher / teacher required to be present at all times with external coach. Code of Behaviour and Anti-Bullying Policy |
| School outings | HIGH Risk of child being harmed by accident, inadequate supervision, school personnel, member of another organisation or another child | Child safeguarding statement and DES procedures made available to all staff. Class teacher / teacher required to be present at all times with external personnel. Code of Behaviour and Anti-Bullying Policy Clear reporting structures |
| Use of toilet/changing/shower areas in schools | HIGH Risk of harm to child while receiving intimate care Risk to child from other children due to inappropriate behaviour | See intimate care policy Two staff members present where possible. Teacher remains in the vicinity of shower areas. |

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| Annual Oíche/Lá Spóirt | MEDIUM Risk of child being harmed through inadequate supervision, school personnel or another child | Child safeguarding statement and DES procedures made available to all staff. Class teacher / teacher required to be present at all times with external personnel. Code of Behaviour and Anti-Bullying Policy |
| Fundraising events involving pupils | MEDIUM Risk of child being harmed by inadequate supervision, school personnel, member of another organisation or another child | Child safeguarding statement and DES procedures made available to all staff. Class teacher / teacher required to be present at all times with external personnel. Code of Behaviour and Anti-Bullying Policy |
| Use of off-site facilities for school activities | HIGH Risk of child being harmed by inadequate supervision, school personnel, member of another organisation or another child | Child safeguarding statement and DES procedures made available to all staff. Class teacher / teacher required to be present at all times with external personnel. Code of Behaviour and Anti-Bullying Policy |
| School transport arrangements | HIGH Risk of harm due to inadequate safety measures/procedures, inadequate supervision of children, accident, inappropriate relationship between child and another child or adult. | Bus Eireann safety policy All Drivers are Garda vetted. No children travel in teachers' cars. |
| Care of children with special educational needs. | HIGH Risk of harm to children with SEN who have particular vulnerabilities | Child safeguarding statement & DES procedures made available to all staff. Code of Behaviour and Anti-Bullying Policy Intimate care policy SPHE especially Stay Safe and RSE Programme Special Educational Needs policy Supervision |
| Management of challenging behaviour amongst pupils, including appropriate use of restraint where necessitated | HIGH Risk of harm to child, other children and staff. Risk of harm due to bullying of children. | Training of staff Health and Safety Policy Code of Behaviour Child First Legislation |
| Administration of Medicine | LOW Risk of harm to child or other children | Policy on Administration of Medicines Staff CPD |
| Administration of First Aid | HIGH Risk of harm to child | Training for school personnel |

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| Curricular provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe | MEDIUM Risk of harm to child, particularly SEN children with particular vulnerabilities due to non-teaching of programmes | School Implements SPHE, RSE and Stay Safe in full. SET teachers support vulnerable children in accessing the SPHE programme. Timetable in Staffroom for when mandatory lessons to be taught. Lessons highlighted on each teachers' <i>cúntas Míosúil</i> or notes. |
| Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst pupils | HIGH Risk of harm to child due to bullying | Anti-Bullying Policy Code of behaviour |
| Training of school personnel in child protection matters | HIGH Risk of harm to child due to harm not being recognised or reported by school personnel | Child safeguarding statement and DES procedures made available to all staff. DLP and Deputy DLP to attend PDST training All staff to view online training modules from Tusla and PDST BOM records all staff and Board Training |
| Use of external personnel to supplement curriculum | HIGH Risk of child being harmed by volunteer, member of outside organisation or visitor to school. | Vetting procedures in place. Child safeguarding statement and DES procedures made available to external personnel Class teacher / teacher required to be present at all times with external personnel. |
| Use of external personnel to support sports and other extra-curricular activities | HIGH Risk of child being harmed by volunteer or member of outside organisation | Vetting procedures in place. Child safeguarding statement and DES procedures made available to external personnel Class teacher / teacher required to be present at all times with external personnel. |
| Care of pupils with specific vulnerabilities/ needs such as <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pupils from ethnic minorities/migrants • Members of the Traveller community • Lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender (LGBT) children • Pupils perceived to be LGBT • Pupils of minority religious faiths • Children in care • Children on CPNS | HIGH Risk of harm to pupils with particular vulnerabilities from school personnel or other children. Risk of harm not being recognised by school personnel Risk of Bullying | Child safeguarding statement and DES procedures made available to all staff. Anti-Bullying Policy Code of behaviour Adequate Supervision |

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| <p>Recruitment of school personnel including -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teachers/SNA's • Caretaker/Secretary/Cleaners • Sports coaches • External Tutors/Guest Speakers • Volunteers/Parents in school activities • Visitors/contractors present in school during school hours • Visitors/contractors present during after school activities | <p>HIGH Risk of harm to child due to school personnel, and external personnel/coaches, guests, visitors, volunteers and external contractors.</p> | <p>Child safeguarding statement and DES procedures made available to all staff.</p> <p>Vetting procedures in place.</p> <p>All staff to view online training modules from Tusla and PDST</p> <p>All fixed term staff recruited asked in interview regarding their role as a mandated person.</p> |
| <p>Participation by pupils in religious ceremonies/religious instruction external to the school</p> | <p>MEDIUM Risk of harm to child due to external personnel</p> | <p>Child safeguarding statement and DES procedures made available to all staff.</p> <p>Class teacher / teacher required to be present at all times with external personnel.</p> <p>Code of Behaviour</p> <p>Anti-Bullying Policy</p> <p>Diocesan Safeguarding Policy in place.</p> |
| <p>Use of Information and Communication Technology by pupils in school including social media</p> | <p>MEDIUM Risk of harm to child due to inappropriate on-line communication between child and another child or child and adult or risk due to inappropriately using computers, social media, phones and other devices while at school.</p> | <p>AUP Policy</p> <p>Teaching Council Code of Conduct</p> <p>Anti-Bullying Policy</p> <p>Code of Behaviour</p> <p>Mobile Phone Policy</p> <p>DES internet filter</p> <p>Adequate supervision</p> |
| <p>Students participating in work experience in the school</p> | <p>HIGH Risk of child being harmed by student</p> | <p>Work Experience Policy</p> <p>Vetting Policy</p> <p>Induction by principal</p> <p>Child safeguarding statement and DES procedures in place</p> <p>Adequate supervision – class teacher / SET present at all times.</p> |
| <p>Student teachers undertaking training placement in school</p> | <p>HIGH Risk of child being harmed by student teacher</p> | <p>Work Experience Policy</p> <p>Vetting Policy</p> <p>Child safeguarding statement and DES procedures in place</p> <p>Adequate supervision – class teacher / SET present at all times.</p> |

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| Use of video/photography/other media to record school events | HIGH Risk of harm being caused by school personnel, external personnel, parents or other children accessing/circulating images of children or inappropriate material via social media, texting, digital device or other manner. | ICT Policy Staff usage Policy Anti-Bullying Policy Code of Behaviour Reminders to parents at concerts Signage Acceptable Usage Policy Code of Behaviour |
| After school use of school premises by other organisations / individuals | HIGH Risk of child being harmed by personnel from other organisations | Vetting in place |
| Application of sanctions under the school's Code of Behaviour including detention of pupils, confiscation of phones etc. | HIGH Risk of harm to children due to inadequate Code of Behaviour | Anti-Bullying Policy Code of Behaviour Health and safety policy Catholic Ethos Detention is not a recognised sanction Acceptable Usage Policy |
| Swimming | HIGH Risk of child being harmed by school personnel, personnel from pool, other children and other visitors to pool. | Vetting procedures in place. Child safeguarding statement and DES procedures made available to external personnel Class teacher / teacher required to be present at all times with external personnel. Appropriate supervision of changing rooms Teachers remain outside of the changing rooms but within earshot |
| Parents in building during school-time or while after-school activities are in progress. | HIGH Risk of child being harmed by unauthorised adults in school building. | Sign –in Policy for all visitors. Only authorised entry is through reception. All doors on magnetic-coded locks. Garda Vetting required for all external coaches Class teacher remains present with all guests to class. |
| Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual Transgender (LGBT) Children/Pupils perceived to be LGBT | HIGH Bullying | Anti-Bullying Policy Code of Behaviour Grow IN Love SPHE |

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| Pupils Perceived to be LGBT | | Lived shared catholic ethos Adequate supervision |
| Pupils of Minority Faiths | HIGH Bullying | Anti-Bullying Policy Code of Behaviour Grow IN Love SPHE Lived shared catholic ethos Adequate supervision |
| Pupils from ethnic minorities / migrants | HIGH Bullying | Anti-Bullying Policy Code of Behaviour Grow IN Love SPHE Lived shared catholic ethos Adequate supervision |

Important Note: It should be noted that risk in the context of this risk assessment is the risk of "harm" as defined in the Children First Act 2015 and not general health and safety risk. The definition of harm is set out in Chapter 4 of the *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017*

In undertaking this risk assessment, the board of management has endeavoured to identify as far as possible the risks of harm that are relevant to this school and to ensure that adequate procedures are in place to manage all risks identified. While it is not possible to foresee and remove all risk of harm, the school has in place the procedures listed in this risk assessment to manage and reduce risk to the greatest possible extent.

This risk assessment has been completed by the Board of Management on March 6th, 2018.

It shall be reviewed as part of the school's annual review of its Child Safeguarding Statement.

Signed Barry O'Sullivan (Chairperson, Board of Management)

Date : 10/09/24_____

Signed Luke Foley (Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management)

Date : 10/09/24_____

Checklist for Review of Scoil Bhailenóra Child Safeguarding Statement

The [Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017](#) require that the Board of Management must undertake a review of its Child Safeguarding Statement and that the following checklist shall be used for this purpose. **The review must be completed every year or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which the Child Safeguarding Statement refers.** Undertaking an annual review will also ensure that a school also meets its statutory obligation under section 11(8) of the [Children First Act 2015](#), to review its Child Safeguarding Statement every two years.

The checklist is designed as an aid to conducting this review and is not intended as an exhaustive list of the issues to be considered. Individual Boards of Management shall include other items in the checklist that are of relevance to the school in question.

As part of the overall review process, Boards of Management should also assess relevant school policies, procedures, practices and activities vis a vis their adherence to the principles of best practice in child protection and welfare as set out in the school's Child Safeguarding Statement, the [Children First Act 2015](#), the [Addendum to Children First \(2019\)](#) and the [Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017](#).

| | Yes/No |
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| 1. Has the Board formally adopted a Child Safeguarding Statement in accordance with the 'Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools 2017'? | ✓ |
| 2. Is the Board satisfied that the Child Safeguarding Statement is displayed in a prominent place near the main entrance to the school? | ✓ |
| 3. As part of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement, has the Board formally adopted, without modification, the 'Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools 2017'? | ✓ |
| 4. Does the school's Child Safeguarding Statement include a written assessment of risk as required under the Children First Act 2015 ? (This includes considering the specific issue of online safety as required by the Addendum to Children First) | ✓ |
| 5. Has the Board reviewed and updated where necessary the written assessment of risk as part of this overall review? | ✓ |
| 6. Has the Risk Assessment taken account of the risk of harm relevant to online teaching and learning remotely? | ✓ |
| 7. Has the DLP attended available child protection training? | ✓ |
| 8. Has the Deputy DLP attended available child protection training? | ✓ |
| 9. Have any members of the Board attended child protection training? | ✓ |
| 10. Are there both a DLP and a Deputy DLP currently appointed? | ✓ |
| 11. Are the relevant contact details (Tusla and An Garda Síochána) to hand? | ✓ |
| 12. Has the Board arrangements in place to communicate the school's Child Safeguarding Statement to new school personnel? | ✓ |
| 13. Is the Board satisfied that all school personnel have been made aware of their responsibilities under the 'Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools 2017' and the Children First Act 2015? | ✓ |
| 14. Has the Board received a Principals Child Protection Oversight Report (CPOR) at each Board meeting held since the last review was undertaken? | ✓ |
| 15. Since the Board's last review, did each CPOR contain all of the information required under each of the 4 headings set out in sections 9.5 to 9.8 inclusive of the procedures? | ✓ |
| 16. Since the Board's last review, has the Board been provided with and reviewed all documents relevant to the CPOR? | ✓ |
| 17. Since the Board's last review, have the minutes of each Board meeting appropriately recorded the records provided to the Board as part of CPOR report? | ✓ |
| 18. Have the minutes of each Board meeting appropriately recorded the CPOR report? | ✓ |
| 19. Is the Board satisfied that the child protection procedures in relation to the making of reports to Tusla/An Garda Síochána were appropriately followed in each case reviewed? | ✓ |

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| 20. Is the Board satisfied that, since the last review, all appropriate actions are being or have been taken in respect of any member of school personnel against whom an allegation of abuse or neglect has been made?* | ✓ |
| 21. Where applicable, were unique identifiers used to record child protection matters in the Board minutes? | ✓ |
| 22. Is the Board satisfied that all records relating to child protection are appropriately filed and stored securely? | ✓ |
| 23. Has the Board been notified by any parent in relation to that parent not receiving the standard notification required under section 5.6 of the 'Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools 2017'? | ✓ |
| 24. In relation to any cases identified at question 21 above, has the Board ensured that any notifications required under section 5.6 of the 'Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools 2017' were subsequently issued by the DLP? | ✓ |
| 25. Has the Board ensured that the Parents' Association (if any), has been provided with the school's Child Safeguarding Statement? | ✓ |
| 26. Has the Board ensured that the patron has been provided with the school's Child Safeguarding Statement? | ✓ |
| 27. Has the Board ensured that the school's Child Safeguarding Statement is available to parents on request? | ✓ |
| 28. Has the Board ensured that the Stay Safe programme is implemented in full in the school? (applies to primary schools) | ✓ |
| 29. Has the Board ensured that the Wellbeing Programme for Junior Cycle students is implemented in full in the school? (applies to post- primary schools) | NA |
| 30. Has the Board ensured that the SPHE curriculum is implemented in full in the school? | ✓ |
| 31. Is the Board satisfied that the statutory requirements for Garda Vetting have been met in respect of all school personnel (employees and volunteers)? * | ✓ |
| 32. Is the Board satisfied that the Department's requirements in relation to the provision of a child protection related statutory declaration and associated form of undertaking have been met in respect of persons appointed to teaching and non-teaching positions?* | ✓ |
| 33. Is the Board satisfied that, from a child protection perspective, thorough recruitment and selection procedures are applied by the school in relation to all school personnel (employees and volunteers)?* | ✓ |
| 34. Has the Board considered and addressed any complaints or suggestions for improvements regarding the school's Child Safeguarding Statement? | ✓ |
| 35. Has the Board sought the feedback of parents in relation to the school's compliance with the requirements of the child safeguarding requirements of the 'Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools 2017'? | ✓ |
| 36. Has the Board sought the feedback of pupils in relation to the school's child safeguarding arrangements? | ✓ |
| 37. Is the Board satisfied that the 'Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools 2017' are being fully and adequately implemented by the school? | ✓ |
| 38. Has the Board identified any aspects of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement and/or its implementation that require further improvement? | ✓ |
| 39. Has the Board put in place an action plan containing appropriate timelines to address those aspects of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement and/or its implementation that have been identified as requiring further improvement ? | ✓ |
| 40. Has the Board ensured that any areas for improvement that were identified in any previous review of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement have been adequately addressed? | ✓ |

Signed Barry O'Sullivan Date : 10/09/24_____

Chairperson, Board of Management

Signed Luke Foley Date : 10/09/24_____

Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Scoil Bhailenóra

Notification regarding the Board of Management's review of its Child Safeguarding Statement

To:___Bishop Fintan Gavin_____

The Board of Management of Scoil Bhailenóra wishes to inform you that:

- The Board of Management's annual review of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement was completed at the Board meeting of _02/06/23_____ .
- This review was conducted in accordance with the "Checklist for Review of the Child Safeguarding Statement" published on the Department's website www.education.ie

Signed Barry O'Sullivan Date : 10/09/24_____

Chairperson, Board of Management

Signed Luke Foley Date : 10/09/24_____

Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management