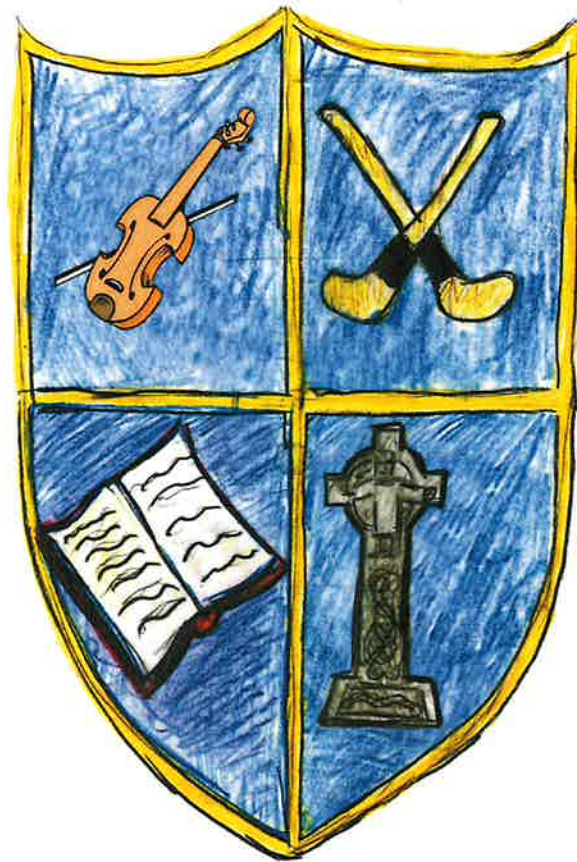


Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment



Toonagh National School

October 2026



Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment

For:	Toonagh National School
At:	Toonagh, Fountain, Ennis, Co. Clare. V95 DF88.

This school is a: ☒ primary school ☐ 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):

Gearóid Roughan

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

Seán Eustace

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

Name of Relevant Person

Gearóid Roughan

(In schools this person is the DLP)

Relevant Person can be contacted on:

065 6820143

toonaghschool@gmail.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, or in an ETB school the Chief Executive or their delegate:

Marie Slattery

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 from other pupils or non-school personnel on the school grounds.	Schools starts at 9.20am. We provide supervision from 9.05am onwards each morning. Parents are notified there is no supervision prior to this time. Regular eminders on school newsletter and Aladdin. The arrival of children is supervised staff members and a rota is in place. Evening dismissal is also supervised by staff on a rota basis.
2.	Break times for pupils	Risk of harm to pupils due to inadequate supervision of children in school. Risk of child being harmed in the school by another child or adult	Adequate supervision rota to cover all yards. Any incidents recorded in Accident Book or reported to DLP or DDLP.
3.	Classroom Teaching	Risk of child being harmed in the school by a member of school personnel. Risk of child being harmed by another child.	Fully Garda vetted teaching staff. Ensure new teaching staff are given mandatory policies. Teaching staff receive Child Protection Training. Glass on all doors.
4.	One to one teaching/support/SNA work	Risk of child being harmed in the school by a member of school personnel. Risk of child being harmed by another child.	Fully Garda vetted staff. Ensure new staff are given mandatory policies. Staff receive Child Protection Training. Glass on all doors.
5.	School Outings/Field Trips/Tours/Matches/Outdoor Teaching	Risk of child being harmed in the school by a member of school personnel. Risk of child being harmed in the school by another child or adult.	Adequate Supervision. Staff ensure that they can monitor children at all times. Adequate pupil-teacher ratio when on trips/ tours etc

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
		Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children while attending out of school activities.	First Aid Box and List of contacts brought on trip/tour/event. Garda Vetting.
6.	Child Protection Training of school staff	Harm not recognised or reported properly.	Child Safeguarding Statement & DES procedures made available to all staff, displayed in reception areas and displayed in all classrooms. DLP/ DDLP names clearly posted at the front door of the school. All Staff to undertake training about the new child protection guidelines offered by OIDE.
7.	Use of Information. and Communication Technology (ICT) by pupils in school	Bullying. Inappropriate behaviour. Risk of child being harmed by another child or adult while on-line. Risk of harm due to inappropriate relationship/communications between child and another child or adult. Risk of harm due to children inappropriately accessing/using computers and mobile devices while at school.	School Internet Acceptable Use Policy (AUP) followed. Bí Cineálta Policy. Code of Behaviour. Stay Safe programme Guest Speakers on Internet safety. SPHE Plan. Digital Learning Plan. Mobile Phone Policy.
8.	Online Teaching Activities and Remote Learning	Bullying. Inappropriate behaviour. Risk of child being harmed by another child or adult while on-line Risk of harm due to inappropriate	School Internet Acceptable Use Policy (AUP) followed. Bí Cineálta Policy. Code of Behaviour. Stay Safe programme. Guest Speakers on Internet safety. SPHE Plan. Child Protection Training.

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
		behaviour/communications between child and another child or adult Risk of harm due to children inappropriately accessing/using computers and mobile devices while at school.	Guidance Document on Continuity of Schooling for Primary Schools.
9.	Use of toilets and changing areas in the school	Risk of harm to pupil from a pupil or an adult.	Fully vetted staff. When children are on break or in the morning before school starts, they request permission from the supervising teacher. Intimate Care Policy to be followed.
10.	Care of pupils with additional needs including intimate care when needed	Harm to pupils. Harm to school personnel. Risk of harm to children with additional needs who have particular vulnerabilities.	Follow Policy on Intimate Care Needs/Toileting. Care plans are developed and agreed with parents in advance.
11.	Swimming lessons for pupils	Risk of child being harmed by a member of school personnel. Risk of child being harmed by instructor or another person at the pool/ changing rooms. Risk of pupil being harmed by another pupil.	Adequate supervision. Adequate pupil-teacher ratio when changing and on bus. Code of behaviour followed. Vetting/Insurance by service provider. First Aid Box at pool and List of contacts brought by teacher. Staff ensure that they can monitor children at all times.
12.	Annual Sports Day	Risk of child being harmed in the school by another child. Risk of child being harmed by a member of school personnel, a member of staff of another organisation/ volunteer/ parent.	Teachers supervise at all times. Fully vetted staff with pupils at all times.

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
13.	Management of challenging behaviour amongst pupils, including appropriate use of restraint where required	Risk of child being harmed in the school by another child. Risk of harm to school personnel. Risk of harm due to bullying of child. Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children in school.	Code of Behaviour. Bí Cineálta Policy. Training for staff in this area. Any incidents recorded in Accident Book or reported to DLP or DDLP
14.	Administration of medication/ Children with medical needs	Risk of harm not being recognised by school personnel. Risk of harm not being reported properly and promptly by school personnel. Risk of child being harmed in the school by a member of school personnel.	Follow Administration of Medication Policy. First Aid Training. Health and Safety Policy. Staff training on administration of medication for specific illnesses- eg epilepsy, diabetes. Care Plans in place where necessary and regularly reviewed. Updates and reminders at staff meetings.
15.	Administration of First Aid	Risk of harm not being recognised by school personnel. Risk of harm not being reported properly and promptly by school personnel. Risk of child being harmed in the school by a member of school personnel.	Follow First Aid procedures. Record in Accident Book. Phone parent (where appropriate). First Aid Training. Health and Safety Policy. Updates and reminders at staff meetings.
16.	Curricular provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe	Risk of harm not being recognised by school personnel. Risk of harm not being reported properly and	Stay Safe and RSE taught to all classes biannually as per School Plan. RSE Policy. SPHE Plan. Updates of training for staff, where appropriate.

Child Protection Statement and Risk Assessment Toonagh N.S.

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
		promptly by school personnel	
17.	Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst pupils	Risk of harm not being recognised by school personnel. Risk of harm not being reported properly and promptly by school personnel. Risk of child being harmed in the school by another child. Risk of harm due to bullying of child. Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children in school.	Bí Cineálta Policy and training completed. Code of Behaviour. Stay Safe/SPHE Plan. Yard duty Roster. Adequate supervision.
18.	Use of external personnel to supplement curriculum, sports and extra-curricular activities	Risk of harm not being recognised by school personnel. Risk of harm not being reported properly and promptly by school personnel. Risk of child being harmed in the school by another child Risk of harm due to bullying of child. Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children in school.	Policy on external speakers/external tutors and coaches. Garda Vetting/Insurance compliance. Code of Behaviour. Bí Cineálta Policy. Adequate supervision by class teacher. All visitors must sign in at reception.
19.	Participation by pupils in religious ceremonies/religious practises and religious	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children while attending out of school activities.	Adequate supervision to and from church. Code of Behaviour.

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
	instruction external to school		Bí Cineálta Policy. Adequate supervision by class teachers.
20.	Students participating in work experience in the school (student teachers and TY students)/SNA work experience	Risk of child being harmed in the school by volunteer or visitor to the school.	Garda Vetting and Insurance compliance. Follow School Placement and Work Experience Policy. No mobile phones allowed for people/students on work experience. Adequate supervision by class teachers.
21.	Use of video/photography/other media to record school events	Risk of harm to pupils caused by member of school personnel/parents accessing/circulating inappropriate material via social media, texting, digital device or other manner.	Permission Slip. Internet Acceptable Use Policy (AUP). Digital Learning Plan. Mobile Phone Policy.
22.	Recruitment of school personnel including: - Teachers/SNAs - Caretaker/Secretary - Cleaners - Sports Coaches - Guest Speakers - Volunteers/Parents in school activities - Visitors/Contractors present in school during school hours - Visitors/Contractors present after school during hours	Risk of child being harmed in the school by a member of school personnel. Risk of child being harmed in the school by volunteer or visitor to the school.	Policy on external speakers/external tutors and coaches. Garda Vetting and Insurance compliance. Check references. Statutory Declaration (where applicable). Teaching Council Registration (where applicable). Teacher supervises class when volunteer/guest/coach is present. All visitors must sign in at reception.
23.	Unexpected Visitors to the school	Risk of child being harmed in the school by visitor to the school.	Parents are informed that the class teacher must be aware of personnel available to collect a pupil. Visitors to the school must report to the office and sign in.

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
			Members of the public/ adults that are not school personnel should always be accompanied by a member of staff while in the school building. Meetings with staff are by appointment only. Adequate supervision by class teachers.

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.

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.

These are the policies and procedures that are used to address risks of harm in Toonagh N.S.

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. 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 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.
11. The school has in place clear procedures in respect of school outings.
12. The school has a health and safety statement.
13. The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation.
14. The school adheres to the relevant Department of Education and Youth circulars in respect of recruitment.
15. The school complies with the agreed disciplinary procedures for teaching staff.
16. The school has a special educational needs policy.
17. The school has an intimate care policy/plan in respect of students who require such care.
18. The school has in place a policy and procedures for the administration of medication to pupils.
19. The school has provided each member of school staff with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment.

Appendix A - 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.

Two hard copies of the Child Protection Procedures 2025 and the Children's First Guidance Document are available in the document holders on display at the two main entrances to the school.

Our Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment is available to view our website www.toonaghns.com

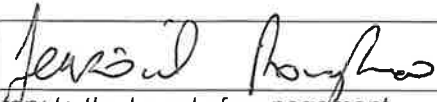
Two hard copies of the Child Protection Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment are in the document holders on display at the two main entrances to the school. A copy of the Child Protection Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment is on display in every classroom and in every Special Education Teaching room.

20. The school ensures all new personnel are provided with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment.
21. The school encourages personnel to avail of relevant training.
22. The school encourages board of management members to avail of relevant training.
23. The school maintains records of all personnel and board member training.
24. The school has in place procedures for the administration of First Aid.
25. The school has in place a code of behaviour for pupils.
26. 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.
27. The school has in place a policy governing the use of mobile phones in the school by pupils as per Circular 38/2018 and the national guidelines.
28. The school has in place a Critical Incident Management Plan.
29. The school has in place a policy and procedures for the use of external persons to supplement delivery of the curriculum.
30. The school has in place a policy and procedures for the use of external sports coaches.
31. The school has in place a policy and clear procedures for one-to-one teaching activities.
32. The school has in place a policy and procedures for one-to-one counselling.
33. The school has in place a policy and procedures in respect of student teacher placements.
34. The school has in place a policy and clear procedures in respect of work experience placements in the school.

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 the 12th of October 2026.

Signed:*		Date:	12/10/2026
Chairperson of the board of management			
Signed:*		Date:	12/10/2026
Principal/Secretary to the board of management			

This Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment is expected to be reviewed again in October 2027.



Scoil an Tamhnaigh

Toonagh, Fountain, Ennis,
Co. Clare

Roll No. 03898U

Tel: 065-6820143

Email: toonaghschool@gmail.com

Notification Regarding the Board of Management's Review of the Child

Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment

This template must be used by the board of management to inform the school community and relevant parties that they have fulfilled their statutory obligation to annually review the school's Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment.

To: All School Personnel, Toonagh NS Parents' Association and all members of Toonagh National School wider school community

The board of management of:

Toonagh National School

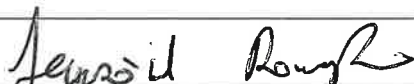
wishes to inform you that:

- (a) The board of management's annual review of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement was completed at the Board meeting of

12th October 2026

- (b) This review was conducted in accordance with the board of management's review of the Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment published on www.gov.ie/childprotectionschools.

Signed:*		Date:	12/10/2026
Chairperson of the board of management			

Signed:*		Date:	12/10/2026
Principal/Secretary to the board of management			