



## Scoil Sheosaimh Naofa

BALLINAGAR, TULLAMORE, CO. OFFALY R35 RW26

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*Príomhoide:* Mr. Niall Spain *Leas-Príomhoide:* Ms. Sheila Lynam *Cathaoirleach:* Monsignor T. Coonan

### Child Safeguarding Statement

Scoil Sheosaimh Naofa Ballinagar is a 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 \(revised 2023\)](#) and [Tusla Guidance on the preparation of Child Safeguarding Statements](#), the Board of Management of Scoil Sheosaimh Naofa Ballinagar 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 (revised (2023))* as part of this overall Child Safeguarding Statement
- 2 The Designated Liaison Person (DLP) is **Niall Spain**
- 3 The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is **Sheila Lynam**
- 4 The Relevant Person is **Niall Spain**  
(The relevant person is one who can provide information in respect of how the child safeguarding statement was developed and will be able to provide the statement on request. In a school setting the relevant person shall be the designated liaison person.)
- 5 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:

- 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 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;
- develop a practice of openness with parents and encourage parental involvement in the education of their children; and
- 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.

6 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 (revised 2023)* and to the relevant agreed disciplinary procedures for school staff which are published on the [gov.ie](http://gov.ie) 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 Department of Education and available on the [gov.ie](http://gov.ie) 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
  - 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 (revised 2023)*, including in the case of registered teachers, those in relation to mandated reporting under the Children First Act 2015.

- All registered teachers employed by the school are mandated persons under the Children First Act 2015.
- In accordance with the Children First Act 2015 and the Addendum to Children First (2019), 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 included with the Child Safeguarding Statement.
- The various procedures referred to in this Statement can be accessed via the school's website, the [gov.ie](http://gov.ie) website or will be made available on request by the school.

**Note:** The above is not intended as an exhaustive list. Individual Boards of Management shall also include in this section such other procedures/measures that are of relevance to the school in question.

- 7 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 Tusla and the Department if requested.
- 8 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 **October 12<sup>th</sup> 2022.**

This Child Safeguarding Statement was reviewed by the Board of Management on **December 6<sup>th</sup> 2023.**

Signed: Renee Gallagher  
Chairperson of Board of Management

Signed: Mall Spain  
Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Date: 06/12/2023.

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## Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment

### Written Assessment of Risk of Scoil Sheosaimh Naofa Ballinagar

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 PostPrimary Schools (revised 2023)*, the following is the Written Risk Assessment of Scoil Sheosaimh Naofa Ballinagar.

1. List of school activities	2. The school has identified the following risk of harm in respect of its activities –	3. The school has the following procedures in place to address the risks of harm identified in this assessment -
Training of school personnel in Child Protection matters	Harm not recognised or reported promptly Harm to pupils Lack of staff training	Child Safeguarding Statement & DES procedures made available to all staff  DLP& DDLP to attend PDST face to face training (conducted online this year) All Staff to view Tusla training module & any other online training offered by PDST (completed March 2018) BOM records all records of staff and board training
One to one teaching	Harm by school personnel	Open doors Glass panel in each door
Care of Children with special needs, including intimate care needs	Harm by school personnel	Policy on intimate care
Use of toilet/changing/shower areas in schools	Inappropriate behaviour Harm to pupils	Usage and supervision policy
Fundraising events involving pupils	Harm to pupils Unfamiliar visiting adults	Child Protection Policy Adequate Supervision of pupils
Use of off-site facilities for school activities	Harm to pupils	Child Protection Policy Adequate Supervision of pupils
School transport arrangements for school activities	Harm to pupils	Child Protection Policy Adequate Supervision of pupils
Administration of Medicine	Harm to pupils	Medicine kept in locked cabinet in staffroom Policy on Administration of Medication
Administration of First Aid	Harm to pupils	Adequate Supervision First Aid Training by staff

List of school activities	The school has identified the following risk of harm in respect of its activities –	The school has the following procedures in place to address the risks of harm identified in this assessment -
Curricular provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe	Harm to pupils	SPHE time tabled 30minutes per week
Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst pupils	Harm to pupils	Anti-bullying policy SPHE/Stay Safe classes
Use of external personnel to supplement curriculum	Harm to pupils	Garda Vetting inspected by DLP/DDLP Visitors' Sign In before entry Class teacher present during activity
Care of pupils with specific vulnerabilities/ needs such as <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pupils from ethnic minorities/migrants</li> <li>• Members of the Traveller community</li> <li>• Lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender (LGBT) children</li> <li>• Pupils perceived to be LGBT</li> <li>• Pupils of minority religious faiths</li> <li>• Children in care</li> <li>• Children on CPNS</li> <li>• Children with medical needs</li> </ul>	Bullying/Isolation	Anti-Bullying Policy Code of Behaviour Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment School Mission Statement
Use of school premises by other organisation during school day	Harm to pupils	The practice is not approved by the Board of management
Use of Information and Communication Technology by pupils in school	Bullying Cyber-bullying Inappropriate information being received	ICT policy Acceptable Usage Policy Anti-Bullying Policy Code of Behaviour Internet Filter System

List of school activities	The school has identified the following risk of harm in respect of its activities –	The school has the following procedures in place to address the risks of harm identified in this assessment -
Recruitment of school personnel including - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Teachers</li> <li>SNA's</li> <li>Caretaker/Secretary/Cleaners/bus escorts</li> <li>Sports coaches</li> <li>External Tutors/Guest Speakers</li> <li>Visitors/contractors present in school during school hours</li> <li>Visitors/contractors present during after school activities</li> </ul>	Harm not recognised or properly or promptly reported	Child Safeguarding Statement & DES procedures made available to all staff  Staff to view Tusla training module & any other online training offered by PDST  Garda Vetting Procedures  Signed in and generally monitored by members of staff Children gone home Safety Statement Visitors' Sign In Book
Application of sanctions under the school's Code of Behaviour including detention of pupils, confiscation of phones etc.	Bullying Harm by student Harm to pupils	Policy & procedures in place
Student teachers undertaking training placement in school	Harm to pupils	Student Teacher Guidelines Class Teacher present at all times Vetting checked
Use of video/photography/other media to record school events	Unknown personnel recording or taking photographs Sharing material on Social Media	Enrolment Form AUP Policy
After school use of school premises by other organisations	Harm to pupils	Garda Vetting Insurance Policy on Hiring out of G.P. Room after hours
Management of challenging behaviour amongst pupils, including appropriate use of restraint where required	Harm by student Harm to pupils	The school has a health and safety policy  School has an adequate Code of Behaviour containing procedures for prevention, de-escalation and management of challenging behaviour  Staff members avail of relevant training
School transport arrangements including use of bus escorts	Harm by student Harm to pupils	Adequate staffing arrangements and Garda vetting procedures followed. Clear instructions and students details given to Bus escorts

List of school activities	The school has identified the following risk of harm in respect of its activities –	The school has the following procedures in place to address the risks of harm identified in this assessment -
Care of children with special educational needs, including intimate care where needed,	Harm to student	The school has an intimate care policy/plan in respect of students who require such care
School trips involving foreign travel	Bullying Harm by student Harm to pupils	The school has in place a code of behaviour for pupils The school has a codes of conduct for school personnel (teaching and non-teaching staff)
Application of sanctions under the school's Code of Behaviour including detention of pupils, confiscation of phones etc.	Harm to student Inappropriate use of phone	Adequate Code of Behaviour Policy Staff are familiar with appropriate procedures and relevant sanctions
Students participating in work experience in the school	Harm to pupils Harm to other students on placement	TY/TP Placement Policy Child Safeguarding and vetting procedures
Outdoor teaching activities	Harm by student Harm to pupils	The school has in place a code of behaviour for pupils The school has a codes of conduct for school personnel (teaching and non-teaching staff)
Online teaching and learning remotely	Harm by student Harm to pupils	AUP Policy in place
Recreation breaks for pupils	Harm by student Harm to pupils	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
Classroom teaching	Harm by student Harm to pupils	The school has in place a code of behaviour for pupils The school has a codes of conduct for school personnel (teaching and non-teaching staff)
<b>Important Note:</b> 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 <i>Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools (revised 2023)</i>		

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.