



Scoil Ghráinne Community National School  
Phibblestown, Clonee, Dublin 15  
Phone: 016402418  
[www.scoilghrainecns.ie](http://www.scoilghrainecns.ie)



## Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment

### Written Assessment of Risk of Scoil Ghráinne Community National School

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 Written Risk Assessment of Scoil Ghráinne Community National School.

#### UNDERSTANDING WHAT RISKS TO ASSESS

**Section 11(1)(a) of the Children First Act 2015 defines risk as “any potential for harm to a child while availing of the service.” Section 2 of the Act defines harm as follows:**

*“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.”*

Taken from

<https://www.dcy.gov.ie/documents/publications/20171002ChildrenFirst2017.pdf>

Department of Children and Youth Affairs, Children First. National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children. Page 32

#### 1. List of school activities

- Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils
- Recreation breaks for pupils
- Classroom teaching
- In-class support
- Group teaching (withdrawal)
- One-to-one teaching (withdrawal)
- One-to-one behavioural support (withdrawal)
- Outdoor teaching activities
- Sporting Activities
- Swimming
- School tours and outings
- Trips to the local shops/café/village
- Use of toilet
- Changing clothing for matches, plays etc.
- Annual Sports Week
- Fundraising events involving pupils, such as Sponsored Walk
- Use of off-site facilities for school activities such as Fingal Athletics and

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- inter-school football matches.
- School transport arrangements including use of bus escorts
- Care of children with special educational needs, including intimate care where needed
- Changing of children if they have a toileting accident or clothing accident
- Children changing before and after swimming
- Management of challenging behaviour amongst pupils, including appropriate use of restraint where required
- Administration of Medication
- Administration of First Aid
- Curricular provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe
- Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst pupils
- Training of school personnel in child protection matters
- Use of external personnel to supplement curriculum
- Use of external personnel to support sports and other extra-curricular activities
- Care of pupils with specific vulnerabilities/ needs such as:
  - Children for whom English is not their first language
  - Pupils from ethnic minorities/migrants
  - Members of the Traveller community
  - Children from Roma backgrounds
  - Pupils perceived to be LGBT
  - Pupils of minority religious faiths
  - Children in care
  - Children on CPNS (Child Protection Notification System)
- Recruitment of school personnel including -
  - Teachers/SNA's
  - Substitute teachers and SNAs
  - 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
- Participation by pupils in religious ceremonies/religious instruction/retreats external to the school
- Use of Information and Communication Technology by pupils in school
- Application of sanctions under the school's Code of Behaviour including detention of pupils, confiscation of phones etc.
- Student teachers undertaking school placement in our school
- Students from second level schools on work experience in our school
- Trainee SNAs on work experience
- Use of video/photography/other media to record school events
- After school use of school premises by other organisations
- Use of school premises by other organisation during school day
- Homework club
- Use of appropriate media by teachers in classroom- photos, videos.
- Use of separate changing rooms for students with disabilities

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## 2. The school has identified the following risk of harm in respect of its 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 a member of school personnel
- Risk of child being harmed in the school by another child
- Risk of child being harmed in the school by volunteer or visitor to the school
- Risk of child being harmed by a member of school personnel, a member of staff of another organisation or other person while the child is participating in 'out of school activities' e.g. school trip, swimming lessons
- Risk of harm due to bullying of child
- Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children in school
- Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children while attending out of school activities
- 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, social media, phones and other devices while at school
- Risk of harm to children with SEN who have particular vulnerabilities
- Risk of harm to a child while receiving intimate care
- Risk of harm due to inadequate code of behaviour
- Risk of harm in one-to-one teaching, counselling, coaching situation
- Risk of harm caused by member of school personnel communicating with pupils in an inappropriate manner via social media, texting, digital device or other manner
- Risk of harm caused by member of school personnel accessing/circulating inappropriate material via social media, texting, digital device or other manner
- Risk of harm caused by a member of the public engaging in conversation with or taking photographs during yard time or yard based activities

## 3. The school has the following procedures in place to address the risks of harm identified in this assessment -

- All school personnel are provided with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement,
- The Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017 are made available to all school personnel
- School Personnel are required to adhere to the Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017 and all registered teaching staff are required to adhere to the Children First Act 2015
- The school implements the Stay Safe Programme
- The school implements the SPHE curriculum
- The school implements 'You Can Do It!', 'Checking-In' surveys and the Behaviour Support Team (BST)
- The school has an Anti-Bullying Policy which fully adheres to the requirements of the Department's Anti-Bullying Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools
- The school has yard/playground procedures to ensure appropriate supervision

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- of children during, assembly, dismissal and breaks.
- The school has in place a policy and clear procedures in respect of school tours.
  - The school has a Health and Safety policy
  - The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation and relevant DES circulars in relation to recruitment and Garda vetting
  - The school follows the grievance procedures for school personnel as agreed with the relevant partners such as INTO , Fórsa and the Teaching Council
  - The school complies with the agreed disciplinary procedures for teaching staff and SNAs
  - The school has procedures for the administration of medication to pupils  
The school: -
  - Has provided each member of school 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
  - Maintains records of all staff and board member training
  - The school has procedures for the administration of First Aid
  - The school has in place a code of behaviour for pupils
  - The school has in place an Acceptable Use Policy for staff and for pupils in respect of usage of ICT
  - The school has in place a Mobile Phone policy in respect of usage of mobile phones by pupils and staff.
  - The school has in place a Critical Incident Management Plan
  - The school has procedures in respect of student teacher placements
  - The school has in place procedures in respect of Accident and Incident reporting and Investigation policy for pupils, staff and visitors.
  - The school adheres to the Data Protection policy
- The following policies and procedures are currently under development:**
- A Special Educational Teaching policy
  - An intimate care policy/plan in respect of students who require such care
  - Procedures for the use of external persons to supplement delivery of the curriculum
  - Procedures for the use of external sports coaches
  - Procedures in respect of students undertaking work experience in the school

Information on the Tusla Children First e-Learning Programme can be assessed here:  
<http://www.tusla.ie/children-first/children-first-e-learning-programme>

**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*

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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 the 13<sup>th</sup> of March 2018. It shall be reviewed as part of the school's annual review of its Child Safeguarding Statement.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Chairperson, Board of Management

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

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