Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment Bunscoil Lughaidh Naofa (Reviewed June 2025)

Child Safeguarding Statement

Bunscoil Lughaidh Naofa is a primary school providing primary education to pupils (all girls) 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 St. Joseph's NS Kingscourt 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 Valerie Norton
3 The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is Shane Bowe

4 The Relevant Person is Valerie Norton
The relevant person can be contacted on 042 9661808 or v.norton@bunscoil.ie
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 t manage and provide oversight of child protection concerns/allegations of child abuse.

5 The name of the Chairperson of the Board of Management is Pat Doherty
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 assumes the role of DLP.

6 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.

7 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 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 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 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.

8 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.

9 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 _____.

This Child Safeguarding Statement was reviewed by the Board of Management on _____

Signed: Pat Dunne

Chairperson of Board of Management

Signed: Valerie Norton

Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Date: 17/11/2025

Date: 17/11/2025.

Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment 2025

Written Assessment of Risk of Bunscoil Lughaidh Naofa, Carrickmacross, County Monaghan Roll number 15329U

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 Bunscoil Lughaidh Naofa, Carrickmacross, County Monaghan.

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 -
1. Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils **2.** In-Class teaching and learning **3.** Outside breaks for children **4.** Outside classroom teaching and learning **5.** Outdoor teaching activities **6.** Teaching and learning outside normal school hours/extra-curricular activities **7.** Remote learning **8.** School outings/tours **9.** Toileting accidents **10.** Use of toilet areas in the school (during break times and in class)	• 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 child participating in out of school activities e.g. school trip, swimming lessons, off site activities	• All school personnel are provided with a copy of the school's *Child Safeguarding Statement* including the *Risk Assessment* and an updated copy if/when amendments are made following a review. • The *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools (revised 2023)* are made available to all school personnel • School Personnel are required to adhere to the *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools (revised 2023)* and all registered teaching staff are required to adhere to the *Children First Act 2015* • All teachers must be registered with the Teaching Council, have provided the appropriate Garda Vetting link, Statutory Regulation, Teaching Council Registration and Proof of Identification

11. Care of children with special educational needs and intimate care where needed **12.** Management of challenging behaviour amongst pupils, including appropriate restraint where required **13.** Administration of medicine **14.** Administration of First Aid **15.** Employment of teaching staff, SNAs, caretaker, secretary, sports coaches and other visitors **16.** Children in care **17.** Curricular provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe, Well being **18.** Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst pupils **19.** Use of Information and Communication Technology by pupils in school **20.** Employment of Special Needs Assistants **21.** Employment of ancillary staff	• 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 child while a child is 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 appropriate manner via social media, texting, digital device or other manner	• All staff members will be informed of the school's expectation to follow the Code of Conduct for Teachers • All teachers must have a copy of the school's Child Protection Statement to hand and be informed of the identity of the DLP and Deputy DLP • Special Education Teachers work in classrooms with glass panels in the classroom door and work to a timetable that is shared with the principal. • All SNAs, the school secretary and ancillary staff are Garda vetted. • The school implements the Stay Safe Programme each year. • The school implements in full the SPHE curriculum • The school has a Bí Cineálta policy which replaces the Anti Bullying Policy as is required by all schools which fully adheres to the requirements of the Department's *Bí Cineálta Procedure s for Primary and Post-Primary Schools* • The school has a yard/playground supervision policy to ensure appropriate supervision of children during, assembly in the mornings,

22. Visiting speakers for workshops **23.** Visiting coaches for sport **24.** Use of School for after school activities for example football **25.** Parent Association Activities – For example: Fundraisers/ Sports Days **26.** School transport arrangements **27.** Participation by pupils in religious ceremonies **28.** Application of sanctions under the school's Code of Behaviour **29.** Students participating in work experience in the school **30.** Student teachers/SNAs undertaking training placement in school **31.** Use of video/photography/other media to record school events **32.** Display of photographs in school/church/media/social media **33.** Pupils from ethnic minorities/migrants	• Risk of harm caused by member of school personnel accessing/circulating inappropriate material via social media, texting, digital device or other manner	dismissal and breaks. The two entrance gates, yards and exit doors of the school are also supervised each morning and evening. • The school has clear procedures in respect of school outings • The school has implemented a sign-out system for the early dismissal of pupils • 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 has a Special Educational Needs Policy • The school has a Critical Incident Policy • The school has a Parent/staff Communication Policy • The school has a Supervision Policy • The school has a Mobile Phone Policy • The school has an ICT Acceptable Usage Policy for Distance Learning, using ipads and Chrome books and using the internet

34. Members of the Traveller community **35.** Lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender (LGBT) children **36.** Pupils perceived to be LGBT **37.** Pupils of minority religious faiths		• The school has a School Tours/Excursions/Sports Activities Policy • The school has in place a policy and procedures for the administration of medication to pupils • The school – o Has provided each member of school staff with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement o Ensures all new staff are provided with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement o Encourages staff to avail of relevant training o Encourages board of management members to avail of relevant training o Maintains records of all staff and board member training • The school has in place a policy and procedures for the administration of First Aid • The school has in place a Code of Behaviour for pupils • The school has procedures in place in respect of usage of mobile phones by pupils

		• The school has procedures in place for the use of external persons to supplement delivery of the curriculum • The school has procedures in place for the use of external sports coaches • The school has procedures in place in respect of student teacher placements. All student teachers and work placement students must provide a joint agreement from their educational institution and proof of identification • Under 16s are not permitted in the school as workplace students • Where the school has agreed to vet the student and that students is between 16 and 18 years of age a Parental Consent for Vetting will be required • The school has procedures in place in respect of students undertaking work experience in the school • Parents give consent to sharing photos involving school activities via social media and the school website on enrolment. Photos are taken on a school camera or ipad by a member of school staff

		• Only the parents can see their child's photo or work on any educational platform such as Google Classroom, Seesaw or Aladdin Connect. • The Parent Association must have a designated Child Protection Officer on their Committee and this will be outlined and updated in their Constitution. The CPO will inform the school of any members who will be involved with supervising or assisting PA events which will bring them into contact with pupils from the school. The school will arrange to have such parents vetted through the Garda Vetting Unit via the Diocesan Office for Safeguarding Children.

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 genera 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 (revised 2023)*

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.