

Shountrade National School

CSS1



Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment

For:	Shountrade National School
At:	Tuogh, Adare, Co. Limerick

This school is a: (tick appropriate) ☒ primary ☐ 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):

Alan Kilcoyne-Principal

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

Pat O' Connell-Deputy Principal +

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

Name of Relevant Person

Alan Kilcoyne-Principal

(In schools this person is the DLP)

Relevant Person can be contacted on:

061-396765

shountradens@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:

AnneMarie Connolly

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.

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.	Opening/Closing Times and Break Times-Daily Arrival and Dismissal of Children	Access to pupils by strangers or other adults. Risk of harm from other pupils.	Supervision by Teachers from 8.45 a.m. Supervision by SNAs from 8.45 a.m. Adequate Supervision at break times. Parents informed that no supervision occurs prior to the above times.
2.	Visitors/Visiting Tutors	Tutors behaving inappropriately Tutors lacking awareness of child safety issues.	Visiting tutors from reputable organisations with appropriate garda vetting. All visitors must report to secretary's office/principal's class. Glass panels in doors. Visitors never given unsupervised access to any number of pupils.
3.	Use of video/photography/other media to record school events	Risk of harm caused by a member of school personnel accessing/circulating inappropriate material via social media, texting, digital device or other manner.	School Personnel aware that they are primary data holder and no images or videos of children are shared online across any platform.
4.	Access/Egress	Access to pupils by strangers or other adults. Flight risk for some pupils.	Teacher controlled locks on doors in certain settings. Appropriate perimeter fencing and gates closed at break time.
5.	Swimming Lessons and Sports Events	Potential for unsupervised times in changing areas. Access to pupils by strangers or other adults.	Adequate supervision provided. Trained lifeguards in pool.
6.	Mobile Phones/Access to internet/Social Media	Potential for bullying Potential for accessing inappropriate material Potential for grooming of pupils Risk of harm due to children inappropriately accessing/using computers, social media, phones and other devices while at school.	Mobile phones not permitted in school. Handed to class teacher in the morning and returned at end of school day if they are required for after school activity with note from parent. No unsupervised access to computer devices when in school. Anti-Bullying Policy including Cyber-bullying sessions with the children. SPHE Curriculum-WebWise lessons completed when appropriate. Acceptable Use Policy is well communicated with staff, parents and pupils.
7.	One to one Support Teaching	Risk of child being harmed in the school by a member of school personnel.	Windows on all doors. They should never be covered. All staff Garda vetted.
8.	Management of challenging behaviour amongst pupils.	Risk of harm where members of school personnel have not received appropriate training.	Staff training where necessary. Clear procedures in place for appropriate use of restraint where required.
9.	Care of pupils with specific vulnerabilities/needs	Risk of harm to children with special educational needs who have particular vulnerabilities, including medical vulnerabilities.	The school has an intimate care policy/plan in respect of students who require such care. Parental Consent received for pupils who require such care.

Child Protection Statement and Risk Assessment

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
10.	Administration of Medicine and Administration of First Aid	Risk of child being harmed in the school by a member of school personnel. Risk of harm where members of school personnel have not received appropriate training.	The school has in place a plan and procedures for the administration of medicine for children receiving with Parental involvement. All staff have basic First Aid training.
11.	School Events including Annual Sports Days	Risk of harm due to inappropriate relationship/communications between a child and another child or adult.	Adequate supervision at all times. Adequate planning and preparation by staff.
12.	School Tours/Outings	Access to pupils by strangers Inappropriate activity by pupils. Dangers posed by unfamiliar environment.	Adequate supervision. Adequate planning and preparation by staff.
13.	Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst pupils	Risk of harm due to bullying of a child.	Adequate supervision. Bí Cineálta Policy.
14.	After School use of school premises by other organisations during school day.	Risk of child being harmed in the school by a volunteer or visitor to school.	School implements the SPHE and Stay Safe programme annually. A teacher or BOM member is present for after school activities.
15.	Before/ After school facility.	Risk of child being harmed in the school.	Formal contract between BOM and Before/After School. Patron Approval.
16.	Before/ After school pupils crossing teacher PARKING AREA.	Risk of pupil being harmed. Risk of staff member being involved in an accident.	BOM of school has a signed agreement with Before/ After School that the only AREAS of outdoor use, are the front of the school, the front field and specifically the basketball court. Staff members of the Before/ After school must take their pupils to the basketball area via the small wall dividing the basketball court and school front field. There is NO crossing of the car park area.
17.	Red School Entrance.	Risk of harm due to steep steps.	Only the pupils from both Autism classes can use the Red Entrance under supervision.
18.	Newsletter- School Newsletter.	Risk of images been used/ seen by people. GDPR	The School Newsletter published on our school website- photographs are redacted. The full Newsletter is only shared through our school Aladdin account.

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 _____ (*most recent review date*)

Signed:*		Date:
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Chairperson of the board of management

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

This Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment is expected to be reviewed again
on _____ (*expected review date*)

** Document to be printed and signed with original signatures*

Appendix - Location of copies of the Child Protection Procedures and Children First Guidance

Copies of the Child Protection Procedures can be accessed by using the following link;

www.gov.ie/childprotectionschools

A Digital Copy of the Children First National Guidance 2017 can be accessed by using the following link;

[Children First National Guidance 2017.pdf](#)

There is also one hard copy of the **Child Protection Procedures** document and one hard copy of the **Children First National Guidance** document in the principal's office (room name Violet Hill)

All Child Protection Files are kept in a locked cabinet in the locked office.