

Gaelcholáiste Mhuire A.G.

Risk Assessment & Child Safeguarding Statement June 2025

Written Assessment of Risk of Gaelcholáiste Mhuire A.G.

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 (revised 2023)*, the following is the Written Risk Assessment of Gaelcholáiste Mhuire A.G.

List of school activities

- Daily arrival and departure of students
- Breakfast club / after school canteen
- Recreation breaks for pupils
- Classroom teaching / small group / One-to-one teaching
- Students out of class during timetabled period
- One-to-one counselling
- One-to-one meeting with students
- Sporting Activities
- School outings / School trips involving overnight stay and/or foreign travel
- Use of toilet/changing/shower areas in schools
- Use of changing rooms while at away matches
- Fundraising events involving students
- Students to and from school during lunchtime
- Use of off-site facilities for school activities
- Use of Gaelscoil as temporary accommodation for TY classes
- Students walking between Gaelscoil/Cope/Adare Hall/Rowing club and the school
- Student interaction with workers/personnel of other facilities in Gaelscoil/Cope/Adare Hall/Rowing club
- School transport arrangements including use of bus escorts
- Care of children with special educational needs, including intimate care where needed.
- Care of children with SEN who have particular vulnerabilities
- Care of vulnerable adult students from Cope, including intimate care where needed
- Administration of Medicine and/or first aid
- Curricular provision in respect of Wellbeing
- Curricular provision for SPHE and RSE
- Prevention of and dealing with bullying amongst students

- Training of school personnel in child protection matters
- Use of external personnel to supplement curriculum
- Students being harmed visitors to the school
- Collection of students by parents during school time
- Collection of students attending after school classes
- Parents in school/new campus arrangements
- Use of external personnel to support sports and other extra-curricular activities
- Care of pupils with specific vulnerabilities/ needs such as
 - Pupils from ethnic minorities/migrants
 - Members of the Traveller community
 - Lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender (LGBTQ) children
 - Children in care
- Recruitment of school personnel including
 - Teachers/SNAs
 - Caretaker/Cleaner/Secretary
 - Sports coaches
 - External tutors/Guest Speakers
 - Volunteers /Parents in school activities
 - Visitors/contractors present during school hours
 - Visitors/contractors present during after school activities
 - Tutors/students attending after school classes
- Use of Information and Communication Technology by students in school
- Inappropriately accessing/using computers, social media, phones and other devices while at school
- Inappropriate use of school phone by students/bullying
- Application of sanctions under the school's Code of Behaviour including detention of pupils, confiscation of phones etc.
- Member of school personnel communicating with students in inappropriate manner via social media, texting, digital device or other manner
- Harm not being reported properly and promptly by school personnel
- Students from the school participating in work experience elsewhere
- Student teachers undertaking training placement in school
- Use of video/photography/other media to record school events
- Homework club/evening study

The school has identified the following risk of harm in respect of its activities

| Risk Identified | Policies/Procedures in place to manage risk |
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| Risk of harm not being recognised by school personnel | <p>School Uniform Policy</p> <p>Student sign in/out policy during school time</p> <p>Sign in/out Procedure at school</p> <p>Reception/Identification tag for a visitors to the school</p> |
| Risk of harm not being reported properly and promptly by school personnel | <p>All school personnel are provided with a copy of the school's <i>Child Safeguarding Statement</i>.</p> <p>Procedures for reporting in teachers journals</p> <p>The <i>Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017</i> are made available to all school personnel and training is provided for all staff.</p> <p>All school personnel are aware of DLP and DDLP.</p> <p>A copy of induction material is made available to all new staff.</p> |
| Risk of child being harmed in the school by a member of school personnel | <p>School Personnel are required to adhere to the <i>Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017</i> and all registered teaching staff are required to adhere to the <i>Children First Act 2015</i>.</p> <p>The school has an Anti-Bullying Policy which fully adheres to the requirements of the Department's <i>Anti-Bullying Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools</i>.</p> <p>The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation and relevant DES circulars in relation to recruitment.</p> <p>The school adheres to the Teaching Council <i>Code of Professional Conduct</i>.</p> <p>The staff handbook contains all relevant information regarding child safeguarding policies and procedures (updated annually).</p> |

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| <p>Risk of child being harmed in the school by another child</p> | <p>The school has an Anti-Bullying Policy which fully adheres to the requirements of the Department's <i>Anti-Bullying Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools</i>.</p> <p>The school has a supervision policy to ensure appropriate supervision of students before and after school and during break time</p> <p>The school has in place a policy and clear procedures in respect of school outings</p> <p>The school has a Health and Safety policy</p> <p>The school implements in full the Wellbeing Programme at Junior Cycle</p> <p>The school has a Code of Behaviour policy.</p> <p>The school has a Special Educational Needs policy.</p> <p>The school has a pupil mentoring programme for 1st year students.</p> |
| <p>Risk of child being harmed in the school by volunteer or visitor to the school</p> | <p>Sign in Procedure at Reception for visitors to the school.</p> <p>Visitors remain at reception area while in school to be met by appropriate person.</p> <p>The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation and relevant DES circulars in relation to recruitment and Garda vetting.</p> |
| <p>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, matches etc</p> | <p>The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation and relevant DES circulars in relation to recruitment and Garda vetting.</p> <p>The school has in place a policy and clear procedures in respect of school trips/outings.</p> <p>Parents sign <i>Terms & Conditions</i> form prior to school tours/overnight trips</p> <p>Parents sign permission slips for school activities.</p> |

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| <p>Risk of harm due to bullying of child</p> | <p>The school has a child safeguarding statement and a completed risk assessment document.</p> <p>The school has a DLP and a DDLP.</p> <p>The school has an Anti-Bullying Policy which fully adheres to the requirements of the Department's <i>Anti-Bullying Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools</i>.</p> <p>The school implements in full the Wellbeing Programme at Junior Cycle</p> <p>The school has an acceptable user policy for the use of ICT</p> <p>The school has in place a mobile phone policy in respect of usage of mobile phones by students</p> <p>The school has adopted NEPS Critical Incident Management Plan</p> <p>The school has in place a Home School Liaison policy and related procedures according to <i>DES Circular 0058/2013 Home School Community Liaison Scheme Revised 2016</i></p> <p>The school has in place a policy and procedures for one-to-one counselling</p> <p>The school has in place an active pastoral care system in place.</p> |
| <p>Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children in school</p> | <p>The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation and relevant DES circulars in relation to recruitment and Garda vetting.</p> <p>The school adheres to DES guidelines with regard to supervision and substitution.</p> <p>The school adheres to DES guidelines around pupil /teacher ratio for supervision.</p> |
| <p>Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children while attending out of school activities</p> | <p>The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation and relevant DES circulars in relation to recruitment and Garda vetting.</p> <p>The school has in place a policy and clear procedures in respect of school outings.</p> <p>The school adheres to DES guidelines around pupil /teacher ratio for supervision.</p> |

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| <p>Risk of harm due to inappropriate relationship/communications between child and another child or adult.</p> | <p>The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation and relevant DES circulars in relation to recruitment and Garda vetting.</p> <p>The school has an acceptable user policy for the use of ICT</p> <p>The school has in place a mobile phone policy in respect of usage of mobile phones by students.</p> |
| <p>Risk of harm due to children inappropriately accessing/using computers, social media, phones and other devices while at school</p> | <p>The school has an acceptable user policy for the use of ICT</p> <p>The school has in place a mobile phone policy in respect of usage of mobile phones by pupils</p> <p>The school engages in social media training for students</p> |
| <p>Risk of harm to children with SEN who have particular vulnerabilities</p> | <p>The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation and relevant DES circulars in relation to recruitment and Garda vetting.</p> <p>The school has an acceptable user policy for the use of ICT</p> <p>The school has in place a mobile phone policy in respect of usage of mobile phones by pupils</p> <p>The school has adopted NEPS Critical Incident Management Plan</p> <p>The school has in place a Home School Liaison policy and related procedures</p> <p>The school has in place a policy and procedures for one-to-one counselling</p> <p>The school has in place an active pastoral care system in place.</p> <p>The school has a Special Educational Needs policy and is implementing the new model to Support Students with Special Educational Needs.</p> |
| <p>Risk of harm to child while a child is receiving intimate care</p> | <p>The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation and relevant DES circulars in relation to recruitment and Garda vetting.</p> |

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| Cont. | <p>All school personnel are provided with a copy of the school's <i>Child Safeguarding Statement</i>.</p> <p>The <i>Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017</i> are made available to all school personnel and training is provided at staff induction day.</p> <p>The school has a Special Educational Needs policy and is implementing the new model to Support Students with Special Educational Needs.</p> <p>The school adheres to DES guidelines around the duties of SNA's</p> <p>The school has a SNA policy.</p> <p>The school has an acceptable user policy for the use of ICT</p> |
| Risk of harm due to inadequate code of behaviour | <p>The school has a code of conduct/behaviour policy.</p> <p>The school has an Anti-Bullying Policy which fully adheres to the requirements of the Department's <i>Anti-Bullying Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools</i>.</p> <p>The school has a robust pastoral care structure and student files which contain all records and communication with home.</p> |
| Risk of harm in one-to-one teaching, counselling, coaching situation | <p>School Personnel are required to adhere to the <i>Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017</i> and all registered teaching staff are required to adhere to the <i>Children First Act 2015</i>.</p> <p>The school has an Anti-Bullying Policy which fully adheres to the requirements of the Department's <i>Anti-Bullying Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools</i>.</p> <p>The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation and relevant DES circulars in relation to recruitment and Garda vetting.</p> <p>Teachers are required to adhere to the Teaching Council professional code.</p> <p>The staff handbook contains all relevant information regarding child safeguarding policies and procedures.</p> |

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| Cont. | <p>The school has a Health and Safety policy.</p> <p>The school has a robust pastoral care structure including a student support referral system.</p> |
| Risk of harm caused by member of school personnel communicating with pupils in appropriate manner via social media, texting, digital device or other manner | <p>The school has an acceptable user policy for the use of ICT</p> <p>The school has in place a mobile phone policy in respect of usage of mobile phones by pupils.</p> <p>The school has a robust pastoral care structure including a student support referral system</p> <p>The school has a teacher code of conduct which is in teacher's handbooks</p> |
| Risk of harm caused by member of school personnel accessing/circulating inappropriate material via social media, texting, digital device or other manner | <p>The school has an acceptable user policy for the use of ICT</p> <p>The school has in place a mobile phone policy in respect of usage of mobile phones by pupils</p> <p>The school has a robust pastoral care structure including a student support referral system</p> <p>The school has a teacher code of conduct which is in teacher's handbooks</p> |

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 (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*
- The school implements in full the Wellbeing Programme at Junior Cycle
- 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 a supervision policy to ensure appropriate supervision of students before and after school and during break time
- The school has in place a policy and clear procedures in respect of school outings and overnight trips
- 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
- Teachers are required to adhere to the Teaching *Council Code of Professional Conduct*.
- The school complies with the agreed code of practices for dealing with complaints (National Agreement March 2011)
- The school has a Special Educational Needs policy
- The school –
 - 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 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 an acceptable user policy for the use of ICT
- The school has in place a mobile phone policy in respect of usage of mobile phones by pupils
- The school has adopted NEPS Critical Incident Management Plan
- The school has in place a Home School Liaison policy and related procedures
- The school has in place a policy and procedures for the use of external sports coaches
- The school has in place a policy and clear procedures for one-to-one teaching activities
- The school has in place a policy and procedures for one-to-one counselling
- The school has in place a policy and procedures in respect of student teacher placements

The school has in place a policy and procedures in respect of students undertaking work experience in the school and external organisations

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 (revised 2023)*

In undertaking this risk assessment, the Bord Bainistíochta 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 Bord Bainistíochta on 09/06/2025.
It shall be reviewed as part of the school’s annual review of its Child Safeguarding Statement.

Signed _____ Date _____

Cathaoirleach, Bord Bainistíochta
Gaelcholáiste Mhuire A.G.

Signed _____ Date _____

Príomhoide/Rúnaí an Bhord Bainistíochta
Gaelcholáiste Mhuire A.G.