



Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment

Child Safeguarding Statement

Gaelscoil Riada 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 2017](#) and [Tusla Guidance on the preparation of Child Safeguarding Statements](#), the Board of Management of **Gaelscoil Riada** 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 2017 as part of this overall Child Safeguarding Statement
- 2 The Designated Liaison Person (DLP) is **Maeve Ní Fhlaithearta**
- 3 The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is **Elaine Ní Dhónaill**
- 4 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.

- 5 The Board of Management recognises that child protection and welfare considerations permeate all aspects of school life and must be reflected in the school's Covid Response Plan. In all policies, procedures, practices and activities related to our Covid Response Plan, the school will adhere the principles of best practice in child protection and welfare.
- 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 2017 and to the relevant agreed disciplinary procedures for school staff which are published on the DE 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 DE 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 2017, including in the case of registered teachers, those in relation to mandated reporting under the Children First Act 2015.
 - In this school the Board has appointed the abovenamed DLP as the "relevant person" (as defined in the Children First Act 2015) to be the first point of contact in respect of the school's child safeguarding statement.
 - 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 DE 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 www.gaelscoilriada.com, 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 in March 2020

This Child Safeguarding Statement was reviewed by the Board of Management on 05 October 2022

Signed: *Brian Ó Mháillechánáin*
Chairperson of Board of Management

Date: 05/10/22

Signed: *Maeve Ní Fhlaithearta*
Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Date: 05/10/22



Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment

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 **Gaelscoil Riada**.

List of School Activities	Risk Level	The school has identified the following Risk of Harm	The school has the following Procedures in place to address risk identified in this assessment
Training of school personnel in Child Protection matters	High	Harm not recognised or reported promptly	The school – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 • Garda Vetting
Care of Children with special needs, including intimate care needs	High	Harm by school personnel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy, protocol, and procedure in place • The school has a Special Educational Needs policy • The school has an intimate care policy/plan in respect of students who require such care
Use of toilet areas <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • During class • During breaktimes 	High	Inappropriate behaviour	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • protocol, and procedure in place

Sporting Activities	High	Harm by school personnel Harm by external coaches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supervision – two teachers from the school to attend every blitz, match, etc. • Garda Vetting completion • School’s Code of Behaviour • Teacher in charge always-Code of Behaviour
School outings	High	Harm by school personnel Harm by non-school staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supervision • Policies, protocol, and procedure in place – buddy system, etc. • Health, Safety and Welfare Policy • Principal told prior to class leaving school • Parental permission received
Administration of Medicine Administration of First Aid	High	Harm by school personnel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health, Safety and Welfare Policy • The school has in place a policy and procedures for the administration of First Aid • Code of Behaviour
Swimming	High	Harm by school personnel Harm by non-school staff Unknown adults at the leisure centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supervision – two staff members. Class teacher in charge always. • Health, Safety and Welfare Policy • Swim Policy • Procedures and protocols in place
Annual Sports Day	High	Harm by school personnel Unknown adults on school grounds Harm by other pupils	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health, Safety and Welfare Policy • Protocol and procedure in place • Supervision: Class teacher in charge at all times • School Code of Behaviour
Non-school personnel on school grounds due to the sharing the sports hall	High	Unknown adults on the school yard Harm by non-school staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supervision: Teacher in charge at all times • Buddy system in place/Children always go on messages in twos • Communication between school and Coláiste an Eachreidh.
Use of off-site facilities for school activities	High	Harm by school personnel Harm by non-school staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supervision • Protocol and procedures in place • An Cód Iompar

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health, Safety and Welfare Policy
Arrival and dismissal of pupils daily	Med	Harm from older pupils Harm by non-school staff Unknown adults on the yard	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parents responsible for children until school gate opens-parent's receive communication regarding procedures at the beginning of each school year. • Parents collect their child on time each day • Teachers walk out to the school gate with their class at home time. Teachers wait to ensure all pupils under their care have been collected • Clear written communication from parent to teacher regarding pupils walking home alone/leaving school grounds alone • Arrival and dismissal supervised by Teachers
Children in classrooms between 08:40 and 08:50	Med	Harm by school personnel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child Safeguarding Statement. • Supervision: Children walk directly to their classroom. Teacher in classroom from 08:40.
Pupils being late, leaving and returning during school hours	High	Harm by non-school staff Harm by other pupils Pupil being on their own	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parent/guardian to ring school office. • Parent must sign the Sign in/Sign Out book in the office prior to collection and drop-off. • Parent/guardian to pick up pupil from office/gate (Covid restrictions).
Classroom Supervision	Med	Harm by school personnel Harm by other pupils	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Code of Behaviour • Supervision- a teacher is always present in the classroom. Pupils are not left alone in classrooms unsupervised • Child Safeguarding Statement.
Yard Supervision	High	Harm by other pupils Harm by school personnel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy & Procedures in place • Supervision- Yard Duty Policy • The class teacher collects their class from the yard once the bell rings
Care of pupils with specific vulnerabilities/ needs such as	High	Harm by school personnel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policies in place. • SPHE Curriculum • Supervision.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pupils from ethnic minorities/migrants • Members of the Traveller community • Lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender (LGBT) children • Pupils perceived to be LGBT • Pupils of minority religious faiths • Children in care • Children on CPNS 			
Classroom teaching	Med	Harm by school personnel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child Safeguarding Statement. • Glass in window • The school has a code of conduct for school personnel (teaching and non-teaching staff)
Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst pupils	Med	Harm by other pupils	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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> • The school implements in full the SPHE curriculum
Recruitment of school personnel including - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teachers • SNA's • 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 	Med	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 Vetting Procedures

Use of school premises by other organisation during school day	Med	Harm by older students visiting school Unknown adults on school grounds	Vetting Procedures Supervision
Use of video/photography/other media to record school events	Med	Harm by school personnel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Internet AUP • The school has in place a policy governing the use of smart phones and tablet devices in the school by pupils as per circular 38/2018
Use of Information and Communication Technology by pupils in school	Med	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harm by school personnel • Bullying 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ICT policy • Anti-Bullying Policy • Code of Behaviour • Lessons based on www.webwise.ie
Remote online Teaching and Learning	Med	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harm by school personnel • Breach of GDPR • Bullying • Misuse the 'chat' facility • Harm to pupils due to lack of adequate online supervision 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ICT policy • The school has an Acceptable Use Policy in place, to include provision for online teaching and learning remotely, and has communicated this policy to parents • Anti-Bullying Policy • Code of Behaviour • Permission from parents to access Teams platform • Protocols and procedures in places • Home-school link • IT co-ordinator available to assist teachers/parents access Teams platform. • CLASS hours to reduce the negative effect Covid-19 had on teaching and learning
Students participating in work experience in the school	Med	Harm by students on work experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supervision- Class teacher in charge and present always. • The School's Code of Behaviour • Vetting procedures

Student teachers undertaking training placement in school	Med	Harm by student teachers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The school has in place a policy and procedures in respect of students undertaking work experience in the school • Supervision-Class teacher in charge and present always. • The school has in place a policy and procedures in respect of student teacher placement • Vetting procedures • School policies provided
One to one teaching	Med	Harm by school personnel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The school has in place a policy and clear procedures for one-to-one teaching activities • Parental permission received • Glass in door/ door open/windows
Curricular Provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay safe.	Med	Non-teaching of same	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The school implements SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe programmes in full
After school use of school premises by other organisations	Med	Harm by non-school personnel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organisations have adequate insurance and policies in place. • BOM approval • Supervision • Vetting procedure
Fundraising events involving pupils	Low	Bullying: Insulting clothes on non-uniform day	Anti-Bullying Policy.
Pupils on errands around school		Harm by school personnel	Protocols in place-pupils go on errands in two's
School transport arrangements	Med	Harm by non-school staff	Supervision
Mobile Phone	Low	Unsuitable material Bullying Contact by non-school staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The school has in place a policy governing the use of smart phones and tablet devices in the school by pupils as per circular 38/2018



			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mobile Phone Policy • Cód Iompar na Scoile
Managing challenging behaviours and use of appropriate sanctions		Harm by school personnel Bullying	School Code of Behaviour
Application of sanctions under the school's Code of Behaviour- by a teacher and/or Principal	Low	Harm by school personnel Bullying	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Code of Behaviour. • Croí na Scoile • Procedures and protocols in place- Principal leaves door open when dealing with individual pupils
Showing videos in class	Low	Film that is unsuitable for specific age-group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Procedures and protocols in place • Ag- appropriate material • Principal informed prior to showing film

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*

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.

Signed *Brian Ó Maoilechlainn* Date 05/10/2022

Chairperson, Board of Management

Signed *Maere Ní Fhlaithearta* Date 05/10/2022

Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Athbheithnithe 05/10/2022