



Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment

Ardrahan National School

Labane, Ardrahan, Co Galway H91CY67

This school is a primary school, with seven mainstream classes. We have no special classes.

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):

Fidelma Hughes

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

Olivia Flynn

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

Name of Relevant Person

Fidelma Hughes

(In schools this person is the DLP)

Relevant Person can be contacted on:

Phone: 091 635466 Email: fidelma@andrahanns.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 to manage and provide oversight of child protection concerns/allegations of child abuse.

Name of Chairperson of the board of management, or in an ETB school the Chief Executive or their delegate:

Martin Murphy

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, or in an ETB school the chief executive or their delegate, 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 at ardrahannis.ie, 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 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.

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 refer

Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
1.	Training of school personnel in Child Protection matters.	Risk of harm not being recognized or reported properly and promptly by members of school personnel	Child Safeguarding Statement & DEY Procedures made available to staff. DLP & DDLP have up to date Oide training. All staff to view Túsla training module & any other online training offered by Tusla and Oide. BOM record all records of staff and board training. All school personnel are provided with a copy of the schools "Child Safeguarding Statement" and it is also available on the school website and Aladdin All staff attended training in November 2025. Absent staff to be offered training at a date agreed with Oide. The Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools (revised 2025) are made available to all school personnel. Child Protection folder opened and shared with all staff on Aladdin with ready access to necessary mandatory templates.

			Record on file of training
2.	Recreation Breaks	Risk of child being harmed in the school by another child Risk of harm due to bullying of a child	Supervision policy Bí Cineálta Policy
3.	One-to-one teaching	Risk of child being harmed in the school by a member of school personnel	Open doors / Glass in window. Pupil collected and returned to class. Special Education Needs Policy reviewed
4.	Sensory room	Risk of child being harmed in the school by a member of school personnel	Special Education Needs Policy reviewed and shared with all staff Glass in doors
5.	Care of children with special educational needs, including intimate care where needed	Risk of child being harmed in the school by a member of school personnel	Special Educational Needs Policy Policy on Intimate Care Needs
6.	Use of toilets during break times	Risk of child being harmed in the school by another child Risk of inappropriate behaviour due to lack of supervision	Supervision policy Children will be encouraged to use the toilet before going out to yard and must ask permission to leave yard.
7.	Curricular Provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe	Risk of child being harmed due to ineffective /non-Teaching of same	School implements SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe in full. Revised and reviewed SPHE Policy Whole school approached to teaching of Stay Safe with set 10 week period for whole school as per school plan

8.	Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils	Risk of harm from other pupils, unknown adults on the playground	Arrival and dismissal by teachers / SNA's/ Principal/ Deputy Principal Doors open at 9:10am. Children are asked not to be in the yard before this time. One-to-one handover of children in Infant pupils and 1st / 2nd class pupils Pupils who arrive late/depart early signed in/out by Parent/guardian in the office, including reason for same Parents to notify school on Aladdin if unknown adult is collecting their child Late arrivals and early departures recorded on Aladdin and monitored by Principal
9.	Management of challenging behaviour amongst pupils, including appropriate use of restraint where required	Risk of child being harmed in the school by a volunteer or visitor to the school Risk of harm to staff member	Health and Safety Policy Code of Behaviour Policy Bí Cinéalta Policy Support from Behaviour Support team NCSE as appropriate
10.	Sports Coaches/visiting teachers	Risk of child being harmed in the school by a volunteer or visitor to the school	Policy and procedures in place The school adheres to Garda vetting legislation and relevant DEY circulars in relation to recruitment and Garda Vetting. Teacher is present when coach is working with children

Additional pages may be added to the Risk Assessment as required.

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
11.	Students participating in work experience	Risk of harm by visiting students Confidentiality	Work Placement & Teaching Practice Policy Child Safeguarding Statement The school adheres to the requirements of Garda vetting legislation and relevant DEY circulars in relation to recruitment and Garda Vetting. Supervised by teachers and staff
12.	Classroom teaching	Risk of harm by school personnel	Vetting by Teaching Council/College. The school personnel adhere to code of conduct. Glass in classroom doors
13.	Outdoor teaching activities/nature walks	Risk of harm to pupils due to inadequate supervision Risk of harm due to bullying Risk of harm due to accident on the road	Supervision Policy Road Safety- Children are familiar with the Safe Cross Code
14.	Swimming lessons	Inadequate supervision Risk of harm to pupils by coaches/swimming instructors, Risk of harm from other adults in the pool area/changing rooms	Swimming Policy Code of Behaviour SNA assistance for individual children with significant additional needs in swimming cubicle area, if

		Risk of harm due to leaving the changing room without a student	needed and as discussed with parents Adequate supervision by school staff on bus, entering and leaving pool and in swimming changing area Designated changing rooms for children only All children to be accounted for (changing rooms checked) before leaving the building
15.	School Matches	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision Risk of harm to pupils by coaches Risk of harm from other adults/spectators Risk of harm to children by other parents taking children to/from matches	Adequate supervision Lifts organised with parent's consent Children to remain with teachers/coaches for the duration of the day even when not playing matches Children not permitted to go to the toilets area without being accompanied by at least one other child/adult if appropriate
16.	Use of local community hall for school activities	Risk of harm to children from unknown adults in the hall area Risk of harm due to slips/falls going to/from hall on steps /around hall area	Hall to be used when other adults not present /classes not ongoing Adequate supervision for classes attending the hall Pathway to be used when going to/from the hall During icy weather, route to be checked for icy patches which might be a slip hazard

17.	Use of Changing rooms before and after break	Risk of child being harmed in the school by another child Risk of inappropriate behaviour	Class teachers to supervise dressing rooms when in use Code of behaviour Sanctions for poor behaviour Class teachers have keys to dressing rooms and are responsible for opening and locking rooms daily
18.	Administration of medicine Administration of First Aid	Harm to pupils from misuse of medicine Harm to pupils from falls/accidents in the yard and on sports field	First Aid Policy Supervision policy Administration of Medicines Policy First Aid kits replenished regularly and readily available and taken on school outings/games
19.	Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst pupils	Risk of harm due to bullying of a child	Code of Behaviour Bí Cinéalta Policy Child friendly Bí Cineálta policy shared with all children
20.	School Transport	Risk of child being harmed by a member of staff of another organisation	Bus Eireann to confirm that they have followed all appropriate Garda Vetting for drivers in their employment
21	Management and Provision of hot school meals	Risk of harm to children due to poor controls on food safety and temperatures and food distribution	Contract signed with Hotmeals.ie confirming their compliance with supervision and monitoring of food safety measures Teachers to distribute meals in given timeframe

22	Recruitment of school personnel including teachers/SNAs, caretakers/secretaries/cleaners and sport coaches	Risk of harm where members of school personnel have not received appropriate training	All staff are Garda Vetted and suitably qualified for their role within the school
23	Visitors/contractors present in school during school hours	Risk of child being harmed in the school by a volunteer or visitor to the school	Building area to be cordoned off during school hours Contractors not to enter the school building without prior notice
	Use of Information and Communication Technology by pupils in school, including social media	Risk of harm due to inappropriate use teaching and learning communication platforms	AUP updated and reviewed regularly Pupils not permitted unsupervised access to iPads/laptops Activity on Google Classroom supervised by class teacher Mobile phone policy in place Parental permission for engagement with learning platforms Internet Safety taught as part of SPHE Resources available for staff and staff CPD in the use of devices Internet safety talks organised for pupils and parents/teachers
25	Sports Day	Risk of injury to children while taking part in sports and risk of injury while on bouncy castle Risk to children with asthma/other such illnesses	Adequate supervision during sports Medicines to be accessible from the office as necessary Bouncy Castle to be supervised at all times and numbers allowed onto

			the castle limited to ensure safety
26	Homework Club	Risk to children while attending the after school homework club	Insurance policy provided by providers Children supervised at all times while on the premises

Activities, Risks and Procedures.

Risk in the context of this Child Safeguarding Statement and 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 the Children First Act 2015: "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.

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 28/03/2026.

Signed:*



Date:

26/03/2026

Chairperson of the board of management

Signed:*

Fidelma Hughes

Date:

26/03/2026

Principal/Secretary to the board of management

This Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment is expected to be reviewed again on 28/03/2027..

* Document to be printed and signed with original signatures