

# CSS1

## Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment

<b>For:</b>	<b>Clonown N.S.</b>	<i>(School Name)</i>
<b>At:</b>	<b>Clonown, Athlone, Co. Roscommon</b>	<i>(School Address)</i>

### This school is a: Primary 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):

Fiona O'Neill

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

Grainne Strumble

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

### Name of Relevant Person

Fiona O'Neill

*(In schools this person is the DLP)*

### Relevant Person can be contacted on:

090 64 00126	Or clonownns@gmail.com
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*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:

Fr. John Deignan

*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, 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.	Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils	Risk of child being harmed	The school has a yard/playground supervision policy to ensure appropriate supervision of children during assembly, dismissal and breaks.
2.	Recreation breaks for pupils	Risk of child being harmed	Timetable for breaktime supervision as above
3.	Classroom teaching	Risk of child being harmed	All school personnel are provided with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment The Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025 are made available to all school personnel The school implements in full the Stay Safe Programme The school implements in full the Social, Personal and Health Education (SPHE) Programme The school complies with the agreed disciplinary procedures for teaching staff
4.	One-to-one teaching	Risk if child being harmed	School personnel are required to adhere to the Child-Protection Procedures for Schools 2025 and all registered teaching staff are required to adhere to the best practice guidance set out in Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children 2017 and its addenda, including the Addendum to Children First 2029 and 2025 The school complies with the agreed disciplinary

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	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
			procedures for teaching staff
5.	One-to-one learning support	Risk of child being harmed	As above
6.	One-to-one counselling, play therapy or art therapy	Risk of child being harmed	The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda Vetting legislation.
7.	Outdoor teaching activities	Risk of child being harmed due to inadequate supervision of children in school	The school has in place a code of behaviour for pupils. The school has a health and safety policy.
8.	Online teaching & learning remotely	Risk of harm due to children inappropriately accessing/using computers, ipads and chromebooks during school	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.
9.	Sporting activities	Risk of harm due to bullying of a child Risk of harm due to inadequate code of behaviour Risk of child being harmed by another child	School authorities have a code of behaviour and an anti-bullying policy in place in accordance with the Department's 'Bí Cineálta' procedures to prevent and address bullying in schools and as outlined in Circular 55/2024
10.	School outings	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children while attending out-of-school activities	The school has in place a policy and clear procedures in respect of school outings.

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	<b>List of School Activities</b>	<b>Risks Identified Against Each School Activity</b>	<b>Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk</b>
11.	Use of toilet areas in schools	Risk of harm due to bullying of a child	School authorities have a code of behaviour and an anti-bullying policy in place in accordance with the Department's 'Bí Cineálta' procedures to prevent and address bullying in schools and as outlined in Circular 55/2024
12.	Annual sports day	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision	The school has in place a policy and clear procedures in respect of school outings.
13.	Fundraising events involving pupils	Risk of harm due to inappropriate communications between a child and another child/adult	The school has in place a policy and clear procedures in respect of school outings.
14.	Use of off-site facilities for school activities	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision	The school has in place a policy and clear procedures in respect of school outings.
15.	School transport arrangements including use of bus escorts	Risk of harm due to inappropriate communications between a child and another child/adult	The school has in place a policy and clear procedures in respect of school outings. The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation.
16.	Care of children with special educational needs, including intimate care where needed	Risk of harm to children with special educational needs who have particular vulnerabilities, including medical vulnerabilities.	The school has a special educational needs policy. The school has an intimate care policy/plan in respect of students who require such care.
17.	Management of challenging behaviour amongst pupils	Risk of harm due to inadequate code of behaviour.	School authorities have a code of behaviour and an anti-bullying policy in place in accordance with the department's 'Bí Cineálta' procedures to prevent and address bullying in schools and as outlined in Circular 5/2024.
18.	Management of provision of food and drink	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision.	The school has in place a policy and procedures for the administration of First Aid.

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	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
19.	Administration of medicine	Risk of child being harmed	The school has in place a policy and procedures for the administration of medication to pupils
20.	Administration of First Aid	Risk of child being harmed	The school has in place a policy and procedures for the administration of medication to pupils. The school has in place a policy and procedures for the administration of First Aid.
21	Curricular provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe	Risk of harm where members of school personnel have not received appropriate training	The school implements in full the Social, Personal, and Health Education (SPHE) curriculum.
22	Prevention dealing with bullying amongst pupils	Risk of harm due to racism	School authorities have a code of behaviour and an anti-bullying policy in place in accordance with the department's 'Bí Cineálta' procedures to prevent and address bullying in schools and as outlined in Circular 55/2024. The school implements in full the Wellbeing Programme at Junior Cycle.
23	Training of school personnel in child protection matters	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 a volunteer or visitor to the school; Risk of harm caused by a member of school personnel accessing/circulating inappropriate material via social media, texting, digital device or other manner.	All school personnel are provided with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment. School personnel are required to adhere to the Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025 and all registered teaching staff are required to adhere to the Children First Act 2025 as well as supporting the continued implementation of the best practice guidance set out in Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children

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	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
			2017 and its addenda, including the Addendum to Children First 2019 and 2015.
24	Use of external personnel to supplement curriculum	Risk of harm where members of school personnel have not received appropriate training.	The school encourages personnel to avail of relevant training. The school maintains records of all personnel and board member training.
25	Use of external personnel to support sports and other extra-curricular activities	Risk of child being harmed in the school by a volunteer or visitor to the school. Risk of harm in one-to-one teaching, counselling, coaching situations.	The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda Vetting legislation. The school has in place a policy and clear procedures in respect of school outings.
26	Care of pupils with specific vulnerabilities/needs	Risk of harm to children with special educational needs who have particular vulnerabilities, including medical vulnerabilities. Risk of harm to a child while a child is receiving intimate care.	The school has a special educational needs policy. The school has an intimate care policy/plan in respect of students who require such care. The school has in place a policy and procedures for the administration of medication to pupils.
27	Pupils from ethnic minorities/migrants	Risk of harm due to racism. Risk of harm due to bullying of a child.	The school undertakes anti-racism awareness initiatives. School authorities have a code of behaviour and an anti-bullying policy in place in accordance with the department's 'Bí Cineálta' procedures to prevent and address bullying in schools and as outlined in Circular 55/2024.
28	Lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender (LGBT) children	Risk of child being harmed	The school has in place a code of behaviour for pupils
29	Pupils perceived to be LGBT	Risk of child being harmed	The school has in place a code of behaviour for pupils

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	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
30	Pupils of minority religious faiths	Risk of harm due to racism.	The school undertakes anti-racism awareness initiatives.
31	Children with medical needs	Risk of harm to children with special educational needs who have particular vulnerabilities, including medical vulnerabilities. Risk of harm where members of school personnel have not received appropriate training.	The school has in place a policy and procedures for the administration of medication to pupils.
32	Recruitment of school personnel including teachers/SNAs, caretakers/secretaries/cleaners and sports coaches	Risk of harm where members of school personnel have not received appropriate training. Risk of harm not being recognised by school personnel	The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda Vetting legislation. The school has a code of conduct for school personnel (teaching and non-teaching staff).
33	External Tutors/Guest Speaker	Risk of child being harmed in the school by a volunteer or visitor to the school. Risk of harm in one-to-one teaching, counselling, coaching situations.	The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda Vetting legislation. The school has in place a policy and clear procedures in respect of school outings.
34	Volunteers/Parents in school activities	Risk of child being harmed in the school by a volunteer or visitor to the school. Risk of harm in one-to-one teaching, counselling, coaching situations.	The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda Vetting legislation. The school has in place a policy and clear procedures in respect of school outings.
35	Visitors/contractors present in school during school hours	Risk of child being harmed in the school by a volunteer or visitor to the school. Risk of harm in one-to-one teaching, counselling, coaching situations.	The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda Vetting legislation. The school has in place a policy and clear procedures in respect of school outings.
36	Visitors/contractors present during after-school activities	Risk of child being harmed in the school by a volunteer or visitor to the school.	The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda Vetting legislation. The school has in place a

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	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
		Risk of harm in one-to-one teaching, counselling, coaching situations.	policy and clear procedures in respect of school outings.
37	Participation by pupils in religious ceremonies/religious instruction external 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 a child is participating in out-of-school activities, e.g. School-trip, swimming lessons.	The school has a code of conduct for school personnel (teaching and non-teaching). The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda Vetting legislation.
38	Use of ICT by pupils in school	Risk of harm due to inappropriate use of online remote teaching and learning communication platform, such as an uninvited person accessing the lesson link, students being left unsupervised for long periods of time in breakout rooms.	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. The school has in place a policy governing the use of smartphones and tablet devices in the school by pupils as per Circular 38/2018 and the national guidelines.
39	Application of sanctions under the school's Code of Behaviour	Risk of harm due to inadequate code of behaviour.	The school has in place a code of behaviour for pupils. The school has a code of conduct for school personnel (teaching and non-teaching staff)
40	Students participating in work experience in the school	Risk of child being harmed in the school by a volunteer or visitor to the school.	The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda Vetting legislation. The school has a code of conduct for school personnel (teaching and non-teaching staff).
41	Student teachers undertaking training placement in school	Risk of child being harmed in the school by a member of school personnel.	The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda Vetting legislation. The school has a code of conduct for school personnel (teaching and

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	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
			non-teaching staff).
42	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.	All school personnel are provided with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment. The Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025 are made available. 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.
43	After-school use of school premises by other organisations	Risk of child being harmed in the school by a volunteer or visitor to the school	The school has a code of conduct for school personnel (teaching and non-teaching staff).
44	Use of school premises by other organisations during the school day	Risk of child being harmed in the school by a volunteer or visitor to the school	The school has a code of conduct for school personnel (teaching and non-teaching staff). The school encourages personnel to avail of relevant training. The school has in place a Critical Incident Management Plan.
45	Homework Club	Risk of harm not being recognised by school personnel.	All school personnel are provided with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment The school has a code of conduct for school personnel (teaching and non-teaching staff).

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*)

<b>Signed:*</b>		<b>Date:</b>
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*Chairperson of the board of management*

<b>Signed:*</b>		<b>Date:</b>
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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

This may be in the form of specifying the online location for the procedures (Department of Education and Youth website [www.gov.ie/childprotectionschools](http://www.gov.ie/childprotectionschools) and/or the school website), providing a link to the Children First National Guidance 2017 [Children\\_First\\_National\\_Guidance\\_2017.pdf](#), and stating the number and location of hard copies of these procedures available in the school.

1. D.L.P. Fiona O'Neill
2. In the staffroom
3. Chairperson Fr John Deignan