

# CSS1

## Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment

<b>For:</b>	<b>Scoil Mhuire Gan Smál</b>	
<b>At:</b>	<b>Tyrconnell Road, Inchicore, Dublin 8. D08Y9T4</b>	

**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):**

David Gough

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

Paul Davis

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

**Name of Relevant Person**

David Gough

*(In schools this person is the DLP)*

**Relevant Person can be contacted on:**

(01) 4541641	principal@smgs.ie
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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, or in an ETB school the Chief Executive or their delegate:**

Mary O' Brien

*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 (available at <https://smgs.ie/our-school/policies/>).
  - ~ 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.

**> In addition in Scoil Mhuire Gan Smál**

- The school implements in full the Stay Safe Programme
- The school implements in full the SPHE curriculum
- The school has a Bí Cineálta (Anti-Bullying) Policy which fully adheres to the requirements of the Department's Bí Cineálta Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools
- The school has a yard/playground supervision procedure to ensure appropriate supervision of children during assembly, dismissal and breaks and in respect of specific areas such as toilets, changing rooms (swimming pool) etc.
- The school has in place clear procedures in respect of school outings
- The school has a Health and safety policy
- The school follows the code of conduct for school personnel (teaching and non-teaching staff) based on the recommendations of the Teaching Council of Ireland
- The school has a Special Educational Needs policy
- The school has a Positive Handling policy
- The school has an intimate care plan in respect of students who require such care
- The school has in place procedures for the administration of First Aid
- The school has in place a Code of Behaviour for pupils
- 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 procedures governing the use of smart phones and tablet devices in the school by pupils as per circular 38/2018
- The school has in place a Critical Incident Management Plan
- The school has in place procedures for the use of external persons to supplement delivery of the curriculum
- The school has in place procedures for the use of external sports coaches
- The school has in place clear procedures for one-to-one teaching activities
- The school has in place clear procedures in respect of student teacher placements
- The school has in place clear procedures in respect of students undertaking work experience in the school

### **Child Protection and Safeguarding Staff Training**

Training was completed in the *Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025* by the DLP David Gough and the DDLP Paul Davis at DWEC on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> September 2025. Training was completed by all other staff (40 people) in Scoil Mhuire Gan Smál on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> November 2025.

### **Student Friendly Child Safeguarding Statement**

On display at the entry points to the school since November 2025.

A Student Council meeting took place on 26/02/2026 where the representative pupils brought concerns and possible risks to the attention of the facilitators Paul Davis and Serena Bourke.

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.

<https://smgs.ie/our-school/policies/>

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	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
Recruitment of school personnel including teachers, SNAs, caretaker, secretary, cleaners, etc.	Low	Risk of child being harmed by a member of school personnel	Policy & Procedures in place Garda vetting Child Safeguarding Statement
Training of school personnel in Child Protection matters	Low	Harm not recognised or reported promptly	Child Safeguarding Statement & DE procedures made available to all staff All Staff requested to view Tusla training module (Children First) & any other online training offered by PDST Principal to inform staff members when their training has expired and is due for renewal BOM to check at every meeting BOM records all records of staff and board training
One to one teaching One to one learning support	Med	Harm by school personnel (risk when pupil(s) absent from group)	School has procedures in place for one-to-one teaching New personnel to be made aware of the 1:1 policy

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			<p>If a pupil(s) is absent, thus resulting in 1-1 teaching of attending pupil, then remain in class as support (option)</p> <p>Open doors</p> <p>Cabin windows uncovered</p>
Care of children with special needs, including intimate care needs	Low	Harm by school personnel	<p>Procedures clearly laid out on intimate care</p> <p>Two school adults present where a pupil needs to be changed</p> <p>Toileting accidents to be recorded in an intimate care notebook; parents/guardians to be informed of toileting accident</p>
Toilet areas	High	Inappropriate behaviour	<p>Usage and supervision procedures</p> <p>Identify pupils who might resort to inappropriate behaviour, limit visits to toilet and remind pupils of acceptable behaviour</p> <p><b>Only</b> downstairs toilets to be used during yard times; pupils may not access the toilets without a school adult present with them</p>
Use of stairs by pupils (arrival to and dispersal from class)	Low	<p>Rushing while ascending/ descending</p> <p>Not paying attention on the stairs</p>	<p>Monitoring of the stairs by the leadership team, by staff and by SNAs</p> <p>KOAR value class points incentive for using the stairs in a safe way</p>

			'Care on the Stairs' power point available on the Aladdin platform for all teaching staff to bring to the attention of the pupils
<b>List of School Activities</b>	<b>Risk Level</b>	<b>The School has identified the following Risk of Harm</b>	<b>The School has the following Procedures in place to address risk identified in this assessment</b>
Curricular Provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe.	Low	Non-teaching of same	School implements SPHE, RSE and (the mandatory) Stay Safe programme at all class levels  Teacher tick-able checklist of Stay Safe topics taught to ensure the pupils are familiar with the curriculum content  Regular updates at staff meetings regarding upcoming Stay safe topics; parents notified of that month's topic by Aladdin message
Managing of challenging behaviour amongst pupils, including appropriate use of restraint	High	Injury to pupils and staff	Health & Safety Policy  Code Of Behaviour: available to all staff  Several staff members trained in Positive Handling  School Positive Handling Policy  Restraint used only as a last resort and following health and safety procedures, acting in a way to avoid causing injury. Constraint if possible.

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Flight risk pupils	Low	Injury to pupil	<p>Several staff members trained in Positive Handling</p> <p>Fob operated doors on the downstairs corridor</p> <p>Gates and railings ensure containment in the school yard</p>
Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils	Med	<p>Harm from other pupils, unknown adults on the playground</p> <p>Traffic</p> <p>Inappropriate behaviour</p>	<p>Arrival and Dismissal Procedures – one way system for pedestrians and those travelling by car communicated to staff, pupils and parents – must use Tyrconnell road school gate</p> <p>Supervision Policy</p> <p>Health &amp; Safety Policy</p> <p>Lower gate closed over halfway at 9am; large signage on display indicating no vehicular traffic to enter the yard during school hours</p>
Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils – dogs on yard	Med	Harm to the pupil by the animal	<p>Adequate supervision by staff</p> <p>Parent/ dog owner to be approached by a member of staff and reminded that no dogs are allowed on the school yard</p> <p>No dogs on yard policy communicated to parents by Aladdin message</p>

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Daily dismissal of infant class pupils	Med	Pupils not collected by an adult or an appropriate adult	At 1.30, pupils from the Junior Infant and Senior Infant classes remain in class and do not leave it until they are collected by a parent or guardian  Parents/ guardians enter the school by the main entrance and exit by the end door  Crèche staff have a list of pupils that they are taking  Exit door monitored by a member of staff
Pupils entering and exiting the school building in the morning, during breaktimes and at home time	High	Main door entrance swinging closed on a pupil	Hall doors to be used for entering and exiting
<b>List of School Activities</b>	<b>Risk Level</b>	<b>The School has identified the following Risk of Harm</b>	<b>The School has the following Procedures in place to address risk identified in this assessment</b>
Recreation breaks for pupils	High	Injury to pupils/ Bullying  Harm not recognised or properly or promptly reported	Policy & Procedures in place  Health & Safety Policy  Code Of Behaviour  Adequate yard supervision
Use of the Infant yard playground	High	Injury to pupils while using	Health & Safety Policy  Adequate yard supervision

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			Dry down of the playground surfaces including slide and firefighter pole after a period of rain
Use of the Infant yard playground e.g. Friday infant outdoor play	High	Gate left open by parents entering the grounds of the school building after 9am; flight risk pupils	Teacher and SNA supervision  Junior Infant pupils to engage in Friday outdoor play at 10am – less likely that parents will be entering the school grounds
Wet mornings – pupils entering the school at 8.40	Low	Pupils slipping  Pupils hurting themselves in the classroom	Infant to 1 <sup>st</sup> pupils go straight to class; 2 <sup>nd</sup> to 6 <sup>th</sup> pupils go to the hall. SNA staff and one member of the leadership team supervising the downstairs corridor; remaining members of the leadership team supervising the hall  Pupils reminded to go to their seats and to remain seated (Junior infants – 1 <sup>st</sup> classes)
Pupils arriving on the school premises prior to 8.40 (prior to staff supervision)	High	Harm from other pupils, unknown adults on the yard	Inform the parents of the pupil(s) that school supervision only commences at 8.40. Keep a record in the pupil's running record that the parents have been informed of this
Pupils/Parents and Guardians arriving at/ leaving the school on electric scooters or electric bicycles	Med	Pupils being hurt by collision with an electric scooter/ electric bicycle	Morning supervision on yard by members of the Leadership team and SNAs; teacher supervision at home time  Pupils reminded that they must walk the electric scooter/ bicycle across the yard; may not be mounted until outside the school gates.

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			Aladdin message sent out to parents/ guardians April 2026
Classroom teaching	Low	Bullying/exclusion in class	Health & Safety Policy  Bí Cineálta Policy  Classroom management strategies/code of behaviour  SNA assistance  SPHE curriculum
Outdoor teaching activities	High	Encountering strangers or animals (dogs)  Pupils not adhering to instructions	Health & Safety Policy  Code of Behaviour  SNA/SET support and assistance
Daily Mile (Rosary Way)	High	Encountering strangers or animals (dogs)  Pupils encountering traffic entering the church grounds	Health & Safety Policy  Code of Behaviour  SNA/SET support and assistance  Teacher/ SNA to stand at the gateway entrance to the Rosary Way and to stop pupils running if traffic arrives

Adults crossing school yard during breaks/ while classes are engaging in sports activities	Low	Risk of child being harmed by an unknown adult during school hours	Teacher/ SNA presence and vigilance  Interception by teacher/SNA to ask the adult to use an alternative route  Crèche/ basketball hall can only be accessed through the church grounds
Retrieving ball/ toys from the Rose Garden	Low	Risk of child being harmed when exiting the school yard	Pupils to ask for permission to leave the school yard to retrieve the ball/ toy  Teacher/ SNA presence and vigilance
Pupils from classes exiting the school building for break time from the rear door	High	Risk of child being harmed exiting; risk of junior or senior infant pupil absconding from the junior/senior infant play area	SNA to monitor the exit door; door locked upon last pupil's exit
<b>List of School Activities</b>	<b>Risk Level</b>	<b>The School has identified the following Risk of Harm</b>	<b>The School has the following Procedures in place to address risk identified in this assessment</b>
General PE & gymnastics	Med	Insufficient warm-up/carrying out instructions in unsafe manner  Accidents, collisions, not participating safely in paired/group work	Health & Safety Policy  Code of Behaviour  Extra adult essential during gymnastics activities
Swimming	High	Changing room areas/cubicles: privacy concern  Harm to children by member of staff or general public	Pool's Health & Safety Policy  Teacher presence & vigilance  SNA support

Sports Coaches	Low	Harm to pupils	<p>Policy &amp; Procedures in place</p> <p>Teacher presence &amp; vigilance</p> <p>Garda vetting</p> <p>Child Safeguarding Statement</p>
Visitors/ Contractors in school during school hours	Low	Risk of child being harmed by a member of staff of an external organisation or other person during school hours	<p>Work space parameters recognised</p> <p>Visitors/ contractors to sign in upon arrival</p> <p>Visitors/ contractors to wear lanyards of identification</p> <p>Visitors/ contractors to be asked to use the disabled toilet in the hall</p> <p>Teacher presence and vigilance</p>
Visitors/ Contractors in school during after-school activities	Low	Risk of child being harmed by a member of staff of an external organisation or other person while participating in after school activities e.g. homework club	<p>Work space parameters recognised</p> <p>Visitors/ contractors to sign in upon arrival</p> <p>Visitors/ contractors to wear lanyards of identification</p> <p>Visitors/ contractors to be asked to use the disabled toilet in the hall</p> <p>Teacher presence and vigilance</p>

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Active Week and Annual Sports Day	Low	<p>Risk of harm not being recognised or reported by school personnel</p> <p>Risk of child being harmed by another child</p> <p>Risk of child being harmed by a member of school personnel or by a visitor to the school</p> <p>Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children in the school</p>	<p>Garda vetted coaches</p> <p>Teacher accompanying the class</p> <p>Extra adults present</p>
Secondary school students participating in work experience	Low	Harm by/ to student	<p>Work experience guidelines as agreed by staff</p> <p>Child Safeguarding Statement.</p> <p>Teacher presence and vigilance</p> <p>Students' phones (and other smart devices) turned off during teaching hours (otherwise confiscated)</p>
<b>List of School Activities</b>	<b>Risk Level</b>	<b>The School has identified the following Risk of Harm</b>	<b>The School has the following Procedures in place to address risk identified in this assessment</b>
Pupils requiring medication	High	Staff unaware that the child has a medical condition requiring medication	<p>Parents/ guardians to indicate medical condition and necessitated medication on enrolment forms</p> <p>Health and Safety staff member to inform staff of individual pupils with medical conditions and required medications</p>

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Educational Trips/ Matches	High	<p>Risk of child being harmed by other child, school personnel or member of the public</p> <p>Risk of child requiring urgent medication</p>	<p>Health &amp; safety policy</p> <p>Adequate staff to accompany</p> <p>First aid kit and child-specific medication to be brought along (e.g. inhalers and epipens)</p> <p>Pupils required to wear high-viz vests (appropriate to age).</p> <p>Consideration given to certain pupils wearing a reins backpack.</p>
Visits to local library/ other venues	Med	<p>Risk of child being harmed by another child/ member of the public</p> <p>Risk of child requiring urgent medication</p>	<p>Adequate staff to accompany</p> <p>First aid kit and child-specific medication to be brought along (e.g. inhalers and epipens)</p> <p>Pupils required to wear high-viz vests (appropriate to age)</p> <p>Consideration given to certain pupils wearing a reins backpack</p> <p>Teacher presence and vigilance</p>
Changing for sport activities	High	Risk of child being harmed by other child or member of the public	Teacher presence and vigilance
Carol service	Med	Risk of child being harmed by inappropriate use of devices by members of the public	Public announcement requesting that performances not be recorded or shared on any social media sites.

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			Vigilance by all staff members
Carol Service	High	Crowds of visitors attending the church service gathering in the church grounds	Monitored queuing system enacted
Carol Service	High	Junior and Senior Infant pupils not returning to their parental guardians	Junior and Senior Infant pupils no longer seated in the upper pews of the church – they remain with their parents/ guardians.
Carol service	Med	Risk of child being harmed by other child, member of the public while using the toilets	Children accompanied by an adult (teacher or designated adult) when using the church toilets.  Teacher/ designated adult to remain physically outside the toilets on the Sacristy corridor.
Carol service	High	Risk of child not following teacher back to the school or risk of being struck by moving traffic	Staff allocated to oversee and act as marshals and to monitor children's movement; staff wearing high viz vests
Practices in church for sacraments	Low	Risk of harm from traffic or members of the public	Vigilance by teachers and SNAs
Homework clubs	Med	Risk of harm from another child  Not reporting promptly	Teacher's presence and vigilance
After School Clubs	Med	Children not showing up for the club	The facilitating teacher gives a list of pupils attending the club to the teacher of the class; the teacher of the class to inform the facilitating teacher if the child is absent on the day. If not done, the facilitating teacher to call the parents/

			guardians of the child to establish their whereabouts.
Holiday camps e.g. Hallowe'en, Summer camps	High	Risk of child being involved in an accident  Risk of child being harmed by another child	Adequate supervision by the staff facilitating the holiday camp  Health and safety policy
School led Summer Camps such as SCP, Primary School Scheme and DEIS camps.	High	Risk of child being involved in an accident  Risk of child being harmed by another child/ adult	As far as is possible, camps staffed by existing members of staff of the school and familiar with existing policies and procedures on Child Safeguarding, Code of Behaviour, supervision, health and safety, arrival and dismissal of pupils, etc.  Where it is necessary to recruit staff from outside the current school staff, they will be provided with copies of the above relevant policies and procedures  Adequate supervision by the staff facilitating the holiday camp
Use of off-site facilities for school activities	High	Risk of child being harmed by inadequate supervision or member of staff of other organisation	Health & Safety policy  Teacher presence and vigilance
School tour transport arrangements (and other transport arrangements e.g. sporting events)	High	Harm to pupils  Harm not recognised or properly or promptly reported	Health & safety policy  Teacher(s) accompanying the pupils on the bus

Volunteers/ Parents in school activities	Low	Harm to pupils	Vetting Procedures Procedures for Parents/Volunteers Teacher supervision
<b>List of School Activities</b>	<b>Risk Level</b>	<b>The School has identified the following Risk of Harm</b>	<b>The School has the following Procedures in place to address risk identified in this assessment</b>
Administration of First Aid	Low	Infection risk Risk of reaction to plaster	Health & Safety Policy
Administration of Medicine	Low	Incorrect dose given	General rule <b>not</b> to administer medication Exceptions are life-saving interventions i.e. Epi-pen or diabetes medication Staff training in use of Epi-pen (most recently December 2024)
Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst pupils	Med	Risk of not being promptly reported	Code of Behaviour Bí Cineálta Policy
Training of school personnel in child protection matters	Low	Latest up-to-date training not brought to the staff's attention	Regular monitoring by post-holder

			<p>Training was completed in the Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025 by the DLP David Gough and the DDLP Paul Davis at DWEC on Tuesday 16th September 2025. Training was completed by all other staff (40 people) in Scoil Mhuire Gan Smál on Thursday 6th November 2025.</p> <p>Most recent informing of staff of the Tusla Children First online training – March 2026</p> <p>Information and procedures communicated at staff meetings</p>
Use of external personnel to supplement curriculum, sporting activities and extra-curricular activities	Low	Risk of harm from non-school personnel	<p>Garda vetting of coaches</p> <p>Supervision by teacher</p> <p>Safeguarding Statement</p>
Use of the school premises by other organisations	Low	Risk of harm by a member of staff of another organisation	Teacher presence and vigilance
After school use of the school premises by other organisations	High	Risk of child being harmed by a member of staff of an external organisation or other person while participating in after school activities e.g. homework club	<p>Health and Safety policy</p> <p>Procedures for visitors coming to the school</p>
Children opening doors for visitors/strangers	Low	Risk of harm by visitor to school	Procedure in place: children instructed not to open the external door for anybody

			Fob operated entry doors to the building
Children collected late/ returning from appointments	Med	Risk of harm from member of the public	Procedure in place: told to come back to school and wait for the secretary at the school office  Member of staff (not parent) to stay with the child and drop the child to their class
Care of pupils with specific vulnerabilities/ needs such as <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pupils from ethnic minorities/migrants</li> <li>• Members of the Traveller community</li> <li>• Lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender (LGBT) children</li> <li>• Pupils perceived to be LGBT</li> <li>• Pupils of minority religious faiths</li> <li>• Children in care</li> <li>• Children on CPNS (Child Protection Notification System)</li> <li>• Children with medical needs</li> </ul>	Low	Risk of harm not being recognised or reported promptly by school personnel  Risk of child being harmed by a member of school personnel, by another child or by a visitor to the school  Risk of harm due to bullying of child  Risk of harm due to inadequate Code of Behaviour	Reviewed and up to date Code of Behaviour (February 2024)  School ethos  Bí Cineálta policy  Child Safeguarding policy  RSE policy
<b>List of School Activities</b>	<b>Risk Level</b>	<b>The School has identified the following Risk of Harm</b>	<b>The School has the following Procedures in place to address risk identified in this assessment</b>
Toilet access before school begins	Med	Risk of harm from other child or parent of other child	Staff member or parent to accompany child  Downstairs toilets only to be used

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			Fob operated access to the school building
Management of provision of hot food	Low	Risk of harm from other child Risk of harm by member of school personnel	Food is distributed by the teachers/ SNAs/ older pupils Pupils encouraged to remain seated when eating Pupils reminded no forks on yard
Movement in class during lunchtime	Med	Risk of harm from other child	Supervision by teacher on duty (roaming teachers to monitor all classes) Classroom rules
Movement on corridor during lunch for extra food	Med	Risk of harm from other child Risk of accident on stairs	Supervision by teacher on duty (roaming teachers to monitor all classes) No pupils allowed down to the hall for food – food containers left on the school corridor Pupils <i>not</i> to be sent to the hall with finished food containers
Movement on the corridor/ stairs during green bin dispersal	Med	Risk of harm from other child Risk of accident on stairs	At least 2 pupils per green bin when delivering/ returning Supervision by a school adult on the stairs
Use of sensory room with door closed	High	Risk of harm from member of school personnel	One adult present with at least two pupils

			At least two adults present with one pupil
Use of Information and Communication Technology by pupils in school, including social media	Med	<p>Risk of harm by school personnel communicating with pupils via social media</p> <p>Access to inappropriate material</p> <p>Inadequate supervision</p>	<p>ICT Policy (safe usage)</p> <p>Pupils not allowed phones or personal devices (including any smart devices e.g. smart watches) in school (during school hours) – must be handed up to teacher</p> <p>Internet Safety lessons and resources for parents and children</p> <p>Activities during Internet Safety Week</p>
Online teaching and learning remotely	Low	<p>Risk of harm due to inappropriate use of online remote teaching and learning platform such as an uninvited person accessing the link, students being left unsupervised for periods of time in breakout rooms</p> <p>Risk of harm by member of school personnel communicating with pupils in an inappropriate manner via online teaching and learning</p>	<p>Online learning policy</p> <p>Accepted Usage policy</p> <p>New link posted for each (home learning) Google Meet class activity, previous link defunct</p>
School website	Med	Risk of identifiable information accompanying pictures of the students on the school website	No names or identifiable information to be included (e.g. school assemblies – one group photo of award winners to be taken at the end without award certificates present)

<p>Use of social media and online communicating links</p>	<p>Med</p>	<p>Risk of harm caused by a member of school personnel accessing/ circulating inappropriate material via social media, texting, digital device or other manner</p> <p>Risk of child being bullied by another child</p>	<p>Online learning policy</p> <p>Accepted Usage policy</p> <p>Secondary school (work experience) students' phones and smart devices turned off during teaching hours</p>
<p>Application of sanctions under the school's Code of Behaviour including detention of pupils for part of lunchbreak, confiscation of phones etc.</p>	<p>High</p>	<p>Bullying</p> <p>Staff not following policies and procedures or being unfamiliar with them</p>	<p>ICT Policy</p> <p>Bí Cineálta Policy</p> <p>Code of Behaviour</p> <p>Pupils no longer kept in the H/S/C/L room – instead the pupil is placed on a yard with younger children for the duration of the withdrawal period.</p> <p>The onus is on the teacher making the withdrawal to ensure that all staff on yard supervision are informed daily.</p>
<p>Pupil feeling unwell during a break-time period</p>	<p>High</p>	<p>Pupil being left alone in the H/S/C/L room</p>	<p>Pupil left in the H/S/C/L room with the door open; door of secretary's office also to be left open</p> <p>Regular monitoring by a member of the school staff</p>
<p>Secondary school students participating in work experience in the school</p>	<p>Med</p>	<p>Risk of child being harmed by visitor to school</p>	<p>Student never left alone with class, constant vigilance by class teacher</p>

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		<p>Increased risk of bullying by other child</p> <p>Risk of harm by inadequate code of behaviour</p>	<p>Liaising with student's base school</p> <p>Students' phones (and other smart devices) turned off during teaching hours</p>
Student teachers/ SNAs undertaking training placement in school	Low	Risk of child being harmed by visitor to school	<p>Garda vetting required</p> <p>Student teacher/ SNA trained</p> <p>Class teacher present throughout</p>
Use of video/photography/other media to record school events such as assemblies, carol service, prize-giving,	High	Risk of harm caused by school personnel or member of public accessing/circulating inappropriate material via social media, texting, digital device or other manner	<p>Internet acceptable use policy signed by parents</p> <p>Parents sometimes required to sign a document specific to the event</p> <p>Parents requested not to share any digital content relating to school activities on any social media platforms</p>
Use of porta cabin rooms	High	Risk of pupil being harmed by non-school personnel	Teacher accompanies children to and from the cabin
After school activity where only one teacher present	High	Risk of harm not being recognised by school personnel	<p>Contact numbers with the teacher and teacher has mobile with them.</p> <p>Other school personnel in building until 4.00.</p>
Pupils not collected following school closure time	High	Risk of child being harmed by unknown visitor to school	At least two members of staff present in the school building with the pupil

		Risk of harm by staff member	If a significant amount of time has passed and the pupil has still not been collected, a taxi to be called and, if all reasonable measures have been taken and still no adult known to the pupil has picked them up, one staff member to accompany the pupil and taxi driver to the garda station.
Children injured on yard	Low	Unsupervised by adult/ risk of harm from other pupil	Health & Safety policy  All staff aware of yard supervision duties  Sufficient staff numbers on yard
Risks brought to attention from the Students' Council – Student Council Risk Assessment Meeting – 26/02/2026			
Pupils swinging on their chairs in the classroom	Med	Risk of harm to pupil through falling	Staff vigilance  Pupils to be reminded of the motto '4 to the floor' (i.e. all four chair legs on the floor)  Peer reminders
Sensory room	Med	Pupils ascending or descending the Variety Group storage area staircase	Staff supervision  Stairgate in place
Railings of infant playground	High	Harm to pupils by climbing the railings	Pupils forbidden from climbing the railings  Adequate staff personnel assigned to infant yard supervision
Toilet cubicles	Low	Pupils getting locked into the cubicles	Child friendly locking clasps on the cubicle doors

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			School has applied for refurbishment of the pupil toilets
Yard play boxes	Low	Harm to pupils by toys contained in the yard boxes	Audit of yard boxes to be carried out; appropriate and safe toys included
Damp days	Med	Pupils walking wet footprints up and down the stairs	Adequate stairs supervision by staff members Mats placed at the foot of the stairwells for pupils to wipe their feet on 'Care on the Stairs' PowerPoint to be shown to classes
Cars on yard	High	Pupils or parents being struck by a car	Supervision Policy Health & Safety Policy Lower gate closed over halfway at 8.50am; large signage on display indicating no vehicular traffic to enter the yard during school hours
Buddy Benches	Low	Pupils sitting on the top of the bench; pupils overcrowding the benches	Intercom message to all classes indicating appropriate use (i.e. not a 'hang out' zone)
Upper corridor toilets flooding	Med	Pupils slipping on spilled water	School application for toilet refurbishments Visit by plumbing team on 24/02/2026 – water supply to the upstairs boys' toilet urinals turned off and discontinued

Fobbed doors	Low	Pupils being given fobs by teaching staff and leaving doors open; flight risk pupils	Once message delivered, teacher to seek immediate return of the fob from the designated pupil(s)
Movement breaks in the corridors	Med	Pupils being injured by ball and other movement breaks in the corridors	Ball movement breaks on school corridors disallowed  Sensory kit movement break accessory kits available on the upper and lower school corridors
Wads of toilet paper stuck to pupil toilet walls	Low	Unhygienic environment for pupils	Observations to be reported to staff member  Toilet rolls not left in pupil toilets; pupils bring amount with them from the classroom as required  School has applied for refurbishment of the pupil toilets
Thumbtacks on the floors	Med	Thumbtack entering pupil's body or clothing	Staff vigilance – stray thumbtacks to be removed
Pupils' belongings (e.g. bags, coats, lunchboxes) on floor of classroom	High	Risk of pupil tripping over the items	Class teacher and SNA to promote organisational skills  Bag boxes (if sufficient space in the classroom)  Peer reminders to zip up bags
Availability of ice packs	Low	Ice pack not available in case of injury	Storage area – H/S/C/L room. If room unavailable to enter (e.g. meeting taking place), spare ice packs in principal's office

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			<p>New mini fridge (for ice packs) to be placed on lower corridor outside Mr. Davis's room</p> <p>Instant ice packs stocked in First Aid bags if class are on a school trip</p>
Whole school astroturf	Low	Injury to pupils if a fall occurs on a part of the yard that doesn't have astroturf	<p>Health &amp; Safety Policy</p> <p>Code Of Behaviour</p> <p>Adequate yard supervision</p> <p>Infant yard and playground area prioritised for astroturf</p>
Windows on upper corridor opening out too far	Low	Fall from the window	<p>Teacher and SNA supervision and vigilance</p> <p>Locks on windows to allow them to open out to a defined extent</p> <p>School application for replacement of windows</p>
Fire drill – pupil toilets	Low	Pupils in the toilets during a fire drill and unaware that an evacuation procedure is in place	<p>Fire drill regularly enacted</p> <p>Designated staff members nominated to check that the pupil toilets are evacuated</p>
Equipment used by the school caretaker	Med	Harm to the pupil through mishandling	Caretaker to store away the equipment upon completion of use

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Infant playground – loose barrier	Med	Injury to pupils through interaction with	Repair by school caretaker Vigilance by teacher and SNA staff
Inadequate/ out of date pupil medication	Med	Essential medication unavailable for pupils if needed	Teacher vigilance Medication available in classroom and supplementary medication available in the H/S/C/L room Monitoring by teacher with Health and Safety role Parents/ guardians informed if medication has reached its expiry date
Yard balls	Low	Unsuitable balls for break time yard play – injury to pupils	Sponge balls to be primarily used Balls not allowed on yard on damp days (absorb water)
Dogs on yard	Med	Harm to the pupil by the animal	Adequate supervision by staff Parent/ dog owner to be approached by a member of staff and reminded that no dogs are allowed on the school yard No dogs on yard policy communicated to parents by Aladdin message (January 2026)
Pipes leaking in Room 10 and in the upper corridor following heavy rain	Med	Injury to pupils by slippage	Staff vigilance

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			Caretaker to be informed and spilt water to be removed
Pupils arriving at school feeling upset/ following a difficult morning at home	Med	Harm to the pupils' Wellbeing	<p>Yard supervision by school staff – 'Meet and Greet'</p> <p>Morning feelings check in in classrooms and with SET teachers</p> <p>Wellbeing Policy</p> <p>H/S/C/L teacher to contact parent(s) as appropriate</p>

*Additional pages may be added as required*

## Examples of Activities, Risks and Procedures

The examples listed in this document are provided to assist schools in undertaking their risk assessment under the Children First Act, 2015. Schools should note that this list of examples is not intended to be exhaustive, and that the inclusion of an example of a policy or procedure on these lists does not make it mandatory. It is the responsibility of each school to ensure, as far as possible, that any other risks and procedures that are relevant to its own particular circumstances are identified and specified in the written risk assessment and that adequate procedures are in place to address all risks identified.

It is acknowledged that schools already have in place a range of policies, practices and procedures to mitigate the risk of harm to children while they are participating in the activities of the school and that some school activities will carry low or minimal risks of harm compared to others. In the context of the risk assessment that must be undertaken by schools, the Children First Act, 2015 refers to risk as 'any potential for harm'.

Therefore, it is important that, as part of its risk assessment process, each school lists and reviews all of its various activities (which shall include identifying those that may carry low risk of harm as well as those that carry higher risks of harm). Doing so will help the school to:

- > Identify, as required under the Children First Act, 2015, any risks of harm that may exist in respect of the school's activities.
- > Identify and assess the adequacy of the various procedures already in place to manage those risks of harm.
- > Identify and put in place any such additional procedures as are considered necessary to manage any risk identified.

## Online Safety

The *Addendum to Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children 2017* published in January 2019 clarifies that organisations providing relevant services to children should consider the specific issue of online safety when carrying out their risk assessment and preparing their Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment.

The Guidance on Continuity of Schooling for primary and post-primary schools (April 2020) advises of the importance of teachers maintaining the safe and ethical use of the internet during distance learning and assisting parents and guardians to be aware of their role also. Schools should ensure that their Acceptable Use Policy (AUP) informs and guides remote or distance learning activity.

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.

Examples of School Activities which schools may draw from, as appropriate

1. Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils
2. Recreation breaks for pupils
3. Classroom teaching
4. One-to-one teaching
5. One-to-one learning support
6. One-to-one counselling
7. Outdoor teaching activities
8. Online teaching and learning remotely
9. Sporting activities
10. School outings
11. School trips involving overnight stay
12. School trips involving foreign travel
13. Use of toilet/changing/shower areas in schools
14. Provision of residential facilities for boarders
15. Annual Sports Day
16. Fundraising events involving pupils
17. Use of off-site facilities for school activities
18. School transport arrangements including use of bus escorts
19. Care of children with special educational needs, including intimate care where needed
20. Care of any vulnerable adult students, including intimate care where needed
21. Management of challenging behaviour amongst pupils, including appropriate use of restraint where required
22. Management of provision of food and drink
23. Administration of medicine
24. Administration of First Aid
25. Curricular provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe
26. Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst pupils
27. Training of school personnel in child protection matters
28. Use of external personnel to supplement curriculum
29. Use of external personnel to support sports and other extra-curricular activities
30. Care of pupils with specific vulnerabilities/needs
31. Pupils from ethnic minorities/migrants
32. Members of the Traveller community

33. Lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender (LGBT) children
34. Pupils perceived to be LGBT
35. Pupils of minority religious faiths
36. Children in care
37. Children on Tusla's Child Protection Notification System (CPNS)
38. Children with medical needs
39. Recruitment of school personnel including teachers/SNAs, caretakers/secretaries/cleaners and sport coaches
40. External Tutors/Guest Speakers
41. Volunteers/Parents in school activities
42. Visitors/contractors present in school during school hours
43. Visitors/contractors present during after-school activities
44. Participation by pupils in religious ceremonies/religious instruction external to the school
45. Use of Information and Communication Technology by pupils in school, including social media
46. Application of sanctions under the school's Code of Behaviour including detention of pupils, confiscation of phones etc.
47. Students participating in work experience in the school
48. Students from the school participating in work experience elsewhere
49. Student teachers undertaking training placement in school
50. Use of video/photography/other media to record school events
51. After-school use of school premises by other organisations
52. Use of school premises by other organisations during school day
53. Breakfast club
54. Homework club/evening study
55. Children attending boarding schools or living away from home

### Examples of Risks of Harm

1. Risk of harm not being recognised by school personnel
2. Risk of harm not being reported properly and promptly by members of school personnel
3. Risk of harm where members of school personnel have not received appropriate training
4. Risk of child being harmed in the school by a member of school personnel
5. Risk of child being harmed in the school by another child
6. Risk of child being harmed in the school by a volunteer or visitor to the school

7. 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
8. 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
9. Risk of harm due to bullying of a child
10. Risk of harm due to racism
11. Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children in school
12. Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children while attending out-of-school activities
13. Risk of harm due to inappropriate relationship/communications between a child and another child or adult
14. Risk of harm due to children inappropriately accessing/using computers, social media, phones and other devices while at school
15. Risk of harm to children with special educational needs who have particular vulnerabilities, including medical vulnerabilities
16. Risk of harm to child while a child is receiving intimate care
17. Risk of harm due to inadequate code of behaviour
18. Risk of harm in one-to-one teaching, counselling, coaching situations
19. Risk of harm caused by a member of school personnel communicating with pupils in an inappropriate manner via social media, texting, digital device, or other manner
20. Risk of harm caused by a member of school personnel accessing/circulating inappropriate material via social media, texting, digital device or other manner
21. Risks where children are living away from home or attending boarding facilities

### These are examples of policies and procedures that may be used to address Risks of Harm

1. All school personnel are provided with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment (available at <https://smgs.ie/our-school/policies/>).
2. The Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025 are made available to all school personnel (available on Aladdin; hard copy available in principal's and deputy principal's office).
3. 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 2015 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 2017 and its addenda, including the Addendum to Children First 2019 and 2025
4. 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
5. The school implements in full the Stay Safe Programme
6. The school implements in full the Social, Personal, and Health Education (SPHE) curriculum

7. The school implements in full the Wellbeing Programme at Junior Cycle
8. 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
9. The school has complied with the Understanding Behaviours of Concern and Responding to Crisis Situations developed by the Department of Education and Youth to address uncertainty for staff on how to respond when facing crisis situations where there are concerns regarding physical safety
10. The school undertakes anti-racism awareness initiatives (SMGS Culture Day – 27<sup>th</sup> February 2026).
11. The school has a yard/playground supervision policy to ensure appropriate supervision of children during assembly, dismissal and breaks and in respect of specific areas such as toilets, changing rooms etc.
12. The school has in place a policy and clear procedures in respect of school outings
13. The school has a health and safety policy
14. The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation
15. The school adheres to the relevant Department of Education and Youth circulars in respect of recruitment
16. The school has a code of conduct for school personnel (teaching and non-teaching staff)
17. The school complies with the agreed disciplinary procedures for teaching staff
18. The school has a special educational needs policy
19. The school has an intimate care policy/plan in respect of students who require such care
20. The school has in place a policy and procedures for the administration of medication to pupils
21. The school has provided each member of school staff with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment
22. The school ensures all new personnel are provided with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment
23. The school encourages personnel to avail of relevant training
24. The school encourages board of management members to avail of relevant training
25. The school maintains records of all personnel and board member training
26. The school has in place a policy and procedures for the administration of First Aid
27. The school has in place a code of behaviour for pupils
28. 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
29. 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
30. The school has in place a Critical Incident Management Plan
31. The school has in place a Home School Liaison policy and related procedures

32. The school has in place a policy and procedures for the use of external persons to supplement delivery of the curriculum
33. The school has in place a policy and procedures for the use of external sports coaches
34. The school has in place a policy and clear procedures for one-to-one teaching activities
35. The school has in place a policy and procedures for one-to-one counselling
36. The school has in place a policy and procedures in respect of student teacher placements
37. The school has in place a policy and procedures in respect of pupils undertaking work experience in the school
38. The school has in place a policy and procedures in respect of pupils of the school undertaking work experience in external organisations
39. The school has in place a policy in relation to assisting members of school personnel in respect of disclosures of retrospective abuse
40. The school has considered the questions in Appendix 1 of the Child Protection and Safeguarding Procedures for Boarding Facilities Associated with Recognised Schools 2023 and implemented the necessary risk mitigation measures

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 staff of Scoil Mhuire Gan Smál on 02/03/2026

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 in March 2027 or as required.

*\* 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.

