CSS1

Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment

For:	**Gaelscoil Ultain**	*(School Name)*
At:	**Cnoc an Chonnaidh, Bóthar Ard Mhaca, Muineachán. H18 H263**	*(School Address)*

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):

Éilis Uí Sheanáin

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

AnnaMarie Uí Chléire

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

Name of Relevant Person

Éilis Uí Sheanáin

(In schools this person is the DLP)

Relevant Person can be contacted on:

047-39711	*eolas@ultain.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:

Brendan Ó Dufaigh

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

School Activity	Identified Risks	Procedures / Measures to Mitigate Risk
1. **Sports Activities**	Injury to children	Code of Behaviour, Bí Cinéalta Policy, Supervision Policy, Teacher/Sports teacher in charge at all times, Child Safeguarding Statement,
2. **Sports with Coaches**	Injury to children	Class teacher present, in charge and responsible for the class at all times, Garda vetting procedures, Child Safeguarding Statement, Code of Behaviour.

School Activity	Identified Risks	Procedures / Measures to Mitigate Risk
3. **School Sports Day**	Injury to children	Child Safeguarding Statement, Sports Policy, Health & Safety Statement, Code of Behaviour, Bí Cinéalta Policy, Teacher present, in charge and responsible for the class at all times, Supervision Policy.
4. **Sports events**	Injury to children	Teacher/Parent present, in charge and responsible for each station at all times, Children under teachers/ parental care.
5. **Students at school area/gate before gates open**	Injury to children	Child Safeguarding Statement, Termly reminders via Aladdin to parents that supervision begins from 8.30am only. Regular safety notices, Guidance given to children regarding behaviour at the gate in the morning.

School Activity	Identified Risks	Procedures / Measures to Mitigate Risk
6. **Students on site before 8.30am**	Injury to children, accidents, bullying	Under parental care
7. **Students in the classrooms before class time (wet day etc.)**	Injury to children, accidents, bullying	Supervision Policy, Code of Behaviour, Teacher on duty at all times, Child Safeguarding Statement.
8. **Children leaving school at 1:30/2:30 pm**	Injury from other children, from strangers, injury in school car park	Children from Infant classes attending Naíonra Ultain afterschool club will be collected from classroom door at 1:35pm. Children from Infant classes going home at 1:40pm are accompanied from the classroom door to the front door by the class teacher. Children are only allowed to leave the school when a recognised adult is seen by the class teacher. DLP and AP1 on buses and supervision every day. Staggered exits; Buses, Rang 2,4, 6 & R1,3,5
9. **Children leaving school during school hours**	Injury to child	Children leaving through the school office only.

School Activity	Identified Risks	Procedures / Measures to Mitigate Risk
10. **School Tours (any event where children leave the building or school yard)**	Injury to children, children wandering off	Code of Behaviour, Child Safeguarding Statement, Anti-Bullying Policy, Appropriate adult/SNA:child ratio.
11. **External Sports Clubs**	Injury to children	School complies with Garda Síochána vetting legislation requirements, Code of Behaviour, Anti-Bullying Policy, Supervision Policy, SNA with children with special needs, Child Safeguarding Statement.
12. **Afterschool Clubs**	Injury to children	Code of Behaviour, Anti-Bullying Policy, Supervision Policy,

School Activity	Identified Risks	Procedures / Measures to Mitigate Risk
		Child Safeguarding Statement.
13. **Swimming during the school day**	Injury to children/Child Protection	Swimming pool guidelines Child Safeguarding Statement, Code of Behaviour, Teacher present, in charge and responsible for the class at all times. Bí Cinealta Policy. SNA with children with special needs, Supervision Policy (travelling by Bus)
14. **One-to-one teaching**	Injury to children	Special Education Policy, Child Safeguarding Statement.
15. **School Photographs**	Injury to children	Teacher present, in charge and responsible for the class at all times, Child Safeguarding Statement

School Activity	Identified Risks	Procedures / Measures to Mitigate Risk
16. **Training for School Staff on Child Protection matters**	Failure to recognize or report harm quickly	Child Safeguarding Statement and Department of Education Procedures available to all staff/hung on walls around the school. Online training completed by all staff with OIDE and TUSLA Board of Management keeps a record of training for staff and the Board In-service day for DLP and deputy DLP and all staff took place during the last school year 2025/26
17. **The Toilets**	Accidents, inappropriate behaviour, injury caused by other children	Health & Safety Statement, School Code of Behaviour, One person in the toilet at all times with teacher's permission. Cannot enter from the yard without permission to the designated toilets. Children supported according to the timetable Children are not allowed to use teachers' toilets. Child Safeguarding Statement.

School Activity	Identified Risks	Procedures / Measures to Mitigate Risk
18. **Curriculum Provision – including SPHE, RSE, Misneach and Stay Safe**	Not teaching the SPHE, RSE, Misneach and Stay Safe programs	Bí Sábháilte program is taught in the second term to Naíonáin Bheaga, Rang 1, Rang 3 & rang 5. Fí na Folláine taught in R2-R6 in September Subjects are taught exactly as recommended. School SPHE plan with every teacher. Recorded in the Cúntas Míosúil
19. **LGBT students or students perceived to be LGBT**	Bullying, injury to children	Bí Cinéalta Policy, Code of Behaviour, Teaching the SPHE curriculum in the classroom.
20. **Students on School Placement**	Injury to children	The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation Teacher in charge at all times, Relevant school policies given to students.
21. **Students on Work Experience**	Injury to children	School complies with Garda Síochána vetting legislation requirements,

School Activity	Identified Risks	Procedures / Measures to Mitigate Risk
		Class teacher present, in charge and responsible for the class at all times, Relevant school policies given to students.
22. **Break time/Lunch time**	Injury to children from other children, children with special needs, children remaining in the school foyer, accidents.	Supervision Policy, School Supervision, Yard Supervision, Code of Behaviour, Bí Cinéalta Policy, Dedicated area in the yard for activity. E.g., Football zones according to the timetable. SNA's with children with additional needs
23. **Class remaining inside at Break/Lunch time**	Injury to children	Supervision Policy, Boardgames & Card Games may be permitted. Children remain seated in their classrooms, supervision rota has a wet day provision.

School Activity	Identified Risks	Procedures / Measures to Mitigate Risk
24. **Classroom Teaching**	Injury to children from other children and from school personnel	Garda vetting procedures, Code of Behaviour, Bí Cinéalta Policy, Supervision Policy, Assistant with children with special needs, Child Safeguarding Statement, Bathroom rules in place.
25. **Class Teacher absent (Shared Classes)**	Injury to children	Supervision Policy, Supervision policy for children from other classes, Assistant with children with special needs, Class arrangements: for sick days and course days. Children organized before the absence/preparation work. Class teacher to be mindful of the material being suitable for the age-group.

School Activity	Identified Risks	Procedures / Measures to Mitigate Risk
26. **Outdoor Teaching Activities**	Injury caused by school personnel, by other children, by strangers	Code of Behaviour, SNA with children with special needs, Health & Safety Statement, Supervision Policy, Stay Safe Policy
27. **Fundraising events that students participate in**	Injury to children, bullying	Bí Cinéalta Policy, Child Safeguarding Statement, Class teacher present, in charge and responsible for the class at all times.
28. **Use of facilities not on school premises**	Injury to children	Class led by a teacher at all times, Code of Behaviour, Assistant with children with special needs,

School Activity	Identified Risks	Procedures / Measures to Mitigate Risk
29. **Management of Challenging Behaviour and Use of Restraint where appropriate**	Injury to children and school personnel	Behaviours of Concern Procedures, Code of Behaviour. Teacher/SNA with the class teacher. Individual Behaviour Plans as required
30. **Distribution of Medicine and First Aid**	Injury to children	Post of Responsibility Múinteoir Fiona Yeboah First Aid and Medicine Policy, Signed parental consent letter Information meeting at the start of the year regarding children with specific medical needs. First aid and administation of medicine training for teachers and SNAs. First aid box in designated areas at all times. Annual maintenance of Defibrillator.
31. **Preventing bullying and dealing with it**	Bullying, Injury to children	Bí Cinéalta Policy, Recording templates Code of Behaviour, . Coiste na nDaltaí communicating child safeguarding statement.

School Activity	Identified Risks	Procedures / Measures to Mitigate Risk
32. **External people who contribute to the Curriculum**	Injury to children	School complies with Garda Síochána vetting legislation requirements, Teacher present and in charge at all times.
33. **Care of children who have specific vulnerabilities** Ethnic minority/immigrant students, The Traveller Community, Religious minority students, Students in State care	Injury to children	Anti-bullying Bí Cinéalta Policy, Code of Behaviour, School SPHE Plan,
34. **Recruitment of school staff** Teachers, SNAs, Caretaker, Secretary, Cleaners, Sports Coaches, External Instructors, Parents,	Injury to children (harm not recognized and reported quickly)	Department of Education Procedures and Child Safeguarding Statement made available to all staff. Online training completed by all staff with OIDE and TUSLA. Garda vetting procedures.

School Activity	Identified Risks	Procedures / Measures to Mitigate Risk
Guest speakers, Volunteers		Policies regarding Parents/Visitors entering. School complies with relevant Department of Education and Skills circulars regarding recruitment.
35. **Use of school building by other organizations during the day**	Injury to children/Child protection	Department of Education procedures and Child Safeguarding Statement made available to the organizations, Code of Behaviour, Teacher present, in charge and responsible for the class at all times.
36. **After-school use of school building by Other Organizations** Sherpa -Before & After School Care	Injury to children	Department procedures and Child Safeguarding Statement made available to the organizations, Board of Management seeks a specific risk assessment for the event, Garda vetting procedures, Code of Behaviour, First Aid and Administration of Medicine Policy.

School Activity	Identified Risks	Procedures / Measures to Mitigate Risk
37. **Use of ICT by school students**	Injury to children, bullying, contact with strangers on the internet, sharing passwords	AUP Policy, Bí Cinéalta Policy Code of Behaviour, Supervision Policy, Class teacher present, in charge and responsible for the class at all times, Implementation of sanctions as part of the Code of Behaviour
38. **Visitors on school premises during the day**	Injury to children	Teacher present, in charge and responsible for the class at all times, Child Safeguarding Statement, School complies with Garda Síochána vetting legislation requirements, Principal will inform class teachers in advance. It is the duty of the class teacher to inform parents if any visitor is coming into the class. Supervision Policy.

School Activity	Identified Risks	Procedures / Measures to Mitigate Risk
39. **Contractors on school premises during the day**	Injury to children	All Contractors must report to office and principal.
40. **Visitors on school premises after school hours**	Injury to children attending after-school classes	Visitor accompanied by School Management
41. **Contractors on school premises after school hours**	Injury to children attending after-school classes	Contractor accompanied by School Management
42. **Mobile phone**	Contact with strangers, access to inappropriate material on the internet, bullying	Mobile phone policy, Child Safeguarding Statement, Anti-Bullying Policy, Code of Behaviour.
43. **At events at the School Hall/School occasions** Halloween/Christmas Show, 6th Class Graduation	Injury to children, children arriving at school at night	High adult/SNA:child ratio, Code of Behaviour, Supervision Policy,

School Activity	Identified Risks	Procedures / Measures to Mitigate Risk
44. **Discussion in the staff room**	Injury to children	No individual child is discussed in the staff room.
45. Sacraments/Visit to the Church First Confession, Service of Light, Preparations for sacraments, Christmas Carol Service Mass /confessions	Injury to children	Assistant with children with special needs, appropriate adult/ SNA:child ratio.
46. **Work in the School Garden, Work in the outdoor classroom**	Injury to children	Teacher present, in charge and responsible for the class at all times, Appropriate adult/SNA:child ratio.
47. **Visibility of children in the classroom**	Injury to children by other children, bullying	Supervision Policy, Code of Behaviour, Bí Cinéalta Policy, One child in the toilet at any time,

School Activity	Identified Risks	Procedures / Measures to Mitigate Risk
48. **Visibility of children in the yard**	Injury to children by school personnel, by other children and by strangers	Supervision Policy, Appropriate adult/SNA:child ratio, Following playground rules
49. **Showing videos in class**	Film not suitable for the age group	Copyright checked by the class teacher at all times, AUP Policy, Teacher present, in charge and responsible for the class at all times.
50. **Supervision of children in class**	Injury to children, bullying	Supervision Policy, The class teacher present, in charge and responsible for the class at all times, Code of Behaviour, Bí Cinéalta Policy, SNA with children with special needs.
51. **Supervision of children in the yard**	Injury to children by other children, school personnel and by strangers	Supervision Policy, Playground Supervision Policy, Duty roster for yard.

School Activity	Identified Risks	Procedures / Measures to Mitigate Risk
52. **Supervision of children remaining inside at break time**	Injury to children	Supervision Policy/Supervision Zones. Children remaining indoors must remain in the open foyer area.
53. **Participating in competitions not on school premises**	Injury to children by other children, school personnel and by strangers	School Tour Policy.
54. **Children leaving school during the school day**	Injury from strangers, children wandering off	A note must be received from the parent in advance on Aladdin, Designated person collecting. .
55. **Children arriving at school late**	Injury to children	Parents are aware (note at the start of the year) that they must leave children at the main door.
56. **Toilet accidents/Intimate Care Needs**	Injury to children by school personnel	Child Safeguarding Statement, Two adults must be present at all times when a child's clothing is being changed, Intimate Needs Policy, School SPHE Plan.

School Activity	Identified Risks	Procedures / Measures to Mitigate Risk
57. **Keeping records on children**	Injury due to other people having access to your data	Data Protection Policy, Technology Policy.
58. **Teacher's computer**	Inappropriate material on the computer	Technology Policy, AUP Policy, Professional Code of Conduct, The Board of Management owns the computers.
59. **Choir / Music groups**	Injury to children	Child Safeguarding Statement, Code of Behaviour, Teacher present and in charge at all times, Health & Safety Statement

Sínithe ar son an bhoird: Éilis Uí Sheanáin (DLP) & Brendan Ó Dufaigh (cathaoirleach) 5/11/26

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