

Scoil Mhuire GNS U.R. 11894 i

Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment

Ratified by the BOM on 13th September 2021 and to be reviewed by the Board of Management in September 2022.

In undertaking this risk assessment, the Board of Management of Scoil Mhuire GNS, following consultation with all members of the school community, has endeavoured to identify as far as possible, the risks of harm that are relevant to our 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 procedures reduce risk to the greatest possible extent and manage and deal with risks that may occur.

Important Note: It should be noted that risk in the context of this risk assessment is the risk of “harm” as defined in the Children First Act 2015 and not general health and safety risk.

In accordance with section 2 of the Children First Act, 2015 the defined ***threshold of “harm” in relation to a child*** is as follows: ***“harm” means***, in relation to a child-

- 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,
- 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;”

Scoil Mhuire GNS's Child Safeguarding Statement has been developed in line with requirements under the Children First Act 2015, the *Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children 2017* and Tusla's *Child Safeguarding: A Guide for Policy, Procedure and Practice*.

In addition to the procedures listed in our risk assessment, the following procedures are in place to safeguard children while they are availing of our service: Procedure for the management of allegations of abuse or misconduct against workers / volunteers of a child availing of our service

- Minor complaints about staff are managed in line with the complaint's procedure. Please contact the Principal or Chairperson.
- Allegations against staff of abuse or misconduct are managed in line with the provisions of section 5.6 of the DES Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools 2017. Procedure for the recruitment and selection of workers and volunteers to work with children
- Only teachers who can provide up to date vetting by the National Vetting Bureau are employed in Scoil Mhuire GNS.
- All temporary and permanent teachers are registered with the Teaching Council.
- All Special Needs Assistants and ancillary staff employed by the Board of Management must undergo and successfully complete vetting by the National Vetting Bureau in advance of commencing employment. This vetting will be processed through the Archdiocese of Dublin.
- References from previous employers are obtained before employment commences in the school.
- A Form of Undertaking and Statutory Declaration must be completed before commencing in the school.
- Parents and volunteers who attend the school on a regular basis to assist in school related activities will be vetted by the BOM through the Dublin Diocesan Office.
- Procedure for the provision of and access to child safeguarding training and information, including the identification of the occurrence of harm
- School staff members are given a hard copy of Scoil Mhuire GNS's Child Safeguarding Statement along with a hard copy of Scoil Mhuire GNS's Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment.
- DES Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools 2017
 - Primary Circular 0081/2017
 - Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children 2017
- School staff members are informed of school child-protection and anti-bullying procedures during staff induction and at the beginning of each school year.

- Other relevant school policies are available to all school staff as they come on stream.
- School staff will avail of online training made available by Tusla and the PDST.
- The DLP and / or DLP will engage with face to face Child Protection training as required
- School management will be updated on:
 - current Child Protection guidelines and circulars.
 - Procedure for the reporting of child protection or welfare concerns to Tusla
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- All mandated persons shall report a mandated concern to Tusla as soon as practicable in accordance with the Children First Act.
- The DLP, Donncha Cleary, or in his absence/unavailability, DDLP, Breda Nugent, shall act as a support to the mandated person to ensure that reporting procedures are followed correctly and promptly.
 - The name and contact details of the current DLP and DDLP will be displayed in the school reception area and are included on the Child Safeguarding Statement available on the school website.
- On completion by the mandated person, a report shall be forwarded to the relevant Duty Social Worker by the DLP, DDLP or Mandated Person.
- In the event the report is forwarded by the DLP or DDLP, the Mandated Person shall be informed in writing that the report has been forwarded and that s/he has been named in the report.
- In the event that the report is forwarded by a mandated person without the assistance of the DLP/DDLP, the DLP or DDLP shall be informed in writing and copies provided will be stored securely in a locked filing case in the Principal's office.

Procedure for maintaining a list of the persons in the relevant service who are mandated persons

All Members of the teaching staff of Scoil Mhuire GNS are mandated persons.

Mandated persons, as defined in the Children First Act 2015, have a statutory obligation to report those concerns which reach a particular threshold to Tusla and to cooperate with Tusla in the assessment of mandated reports.

In Scoil Mhuire GNS, we are fully committed to the implementation of our Child Safeguarding Statement and all of the procedures that are in place to support our children and safeguard them from harm while availing of any/all services provided in or by Scoil Mhuire.

All Staff members acknowledge their responsibilities to safeguard pupils while in our care.

This Risk Assessment was ratified by the Board of Management on the 13th September 2021.

It will be reviewed along with the review of the Safeguarding Policy in September 2022.

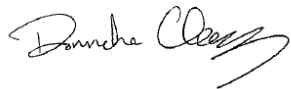
Signed:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Stephen Hagg', written over a horizontal line.

Chairperson

Date: 13th September 2021

Signed:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dorothy Clancy', written in a cursive style.

Principal

Date: 13th September 2021