



Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment

St. Ailbe's NS Emly 2026



For:	St. Ailbe's NS	(School Name)
At:	Emly, Co. Tipperary	(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):

Michelle O'Brien

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

Paula Hartigan

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

Name of Relevant Person

Michelle O'Brien

(In schools this person is the DLP)

Relevant Person can be contacted on:

083 1248949

Michelle.obrien@emlyns.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:

Pat Hennessy

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 (of any potential harm)

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.

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
Training of school personnel in Child Protection matters	High	Harm not recognised or reported promptly	- Child Safeguarding Statement & DES procedures made available to all staff - School Personnel are required to adhere to the Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2023 and all registered teaching staff are required to adhere to the Children First Act 2015 - DLP& DDLP have attended specific PDST training - All Staff to view Túsla Children First training module & any other online training offered by PDST at least every 3 years - BOM members to view Tusla training module. - Child Protection guidelines remain in place until Child Safety Statement is completed. - Staff to revisit PDST website to do online training during the 2024-2025 school year - BOM records all records of staff and board training
One to one teaching	Med	Harm by school personnel	- School has policy in place for one to one teaching - Table between teacher and pupil - Glass in doors. - Timetables showing times of one to one teaching is available in the office.
Care of Children with special needs, including intimate care needs and Flight Risk.	High	Harm by school personnel Risk of Flight.	- Policy on intimate care for students who require such care. - Individual intimate care Plans developed when necessary. These are signed and copied to parents/guardians. They are retained in their individual files. Relevant teacher and Principal only to have access to these files. - In cases of Flight risk parents are made aware of such risk. Adequate supervision is provided. Environment alterations are put in place when and where it is necessary. All staff are made aware of such risk. It is recorded on School Support Plan.
Toilet areas	High	Inappropriate behaviour	- Supervision policy. - Code of Behaviour and Code of Discipline. - Bí Cineálta Policy.
Curricular Provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay safe.	Med	Non-teaching of same	- School implements SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe in full. - Regular Staff CPD. - Principal monitoring Cúntais Míosúil to oversee teaching
LGBT Children/Pupils perceived to be LGBT	Low	Bullying	- Bí Cineálta Policy - Code of Behaviour - Implementation of Stay Safe Policy. - Wellbeing initiatives
Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils	Med	Harm from older pupils, and others on the school grounds	- Children are supervised by teachers in their classrooms from 8.40am. Parents/Visitors are not permitted in the building without appointment. - A drop off and collection plan has been drawn up and circulated to all parents. All children are met at their designated gate by a staff member every morning and escorted to their classroom. - All children are escorted from and to the yard for collection by parent/guardian. Parents /guardians are responsible for the safe collection of their child/children from the schoolyard. - Staff will meet all children from Spraoi, Realtai and Iontas as the bus approaches. - Parents bringing children to Autism class come to Gate 4 and staff accompany children into their respective classrooms. - The SNAs will escort children to the bus/taxi in the evening ensuring that they are safely on the bus.
Managing of Behaviours of Concern amongst pupils.	High	Injury to pupils and staff	- Health & Safety Policy - Code of Behaviour - Psychological reports to inform staff action. - Staff training where relevant- CPI training undertaken - NEPS advice where necessary
Sports Coaches	Med	Harm to pupils	- All Sports Coaches are garda vetted. - Class teachers are always present with the children when coaching is taking place.
Students participating in work experience	Low	Harm by student	- Child Safeguarding Statement available. - Student is always under the supervision of the teacher.
Recreation breaks for pupils	High	Harm to pupils	- Supervision policy strictly adhered to. The school has a yard supervision policy to ensure appropriate supervision of children during playtime. - Class teacher to supervise in the playground when their class grouping is scheduled to be in there.

			Supervision timetable in place for each break ensuring appropriate supervision of children.
Classroom teaching including Summer Programme	Low	Harm to pupil/teacher	Assumed adherence to Teaching Council Code of Conduct. The school complies with the agreed disciplinary procedures for teaching staff.
Outdoor teaching activities Including Summer Programme	Med	Harm to pupil/ teacher	Supervision Policy strictly adhered to.
Sporting Activities including Swimming Including Summer Programme	Med	Harm to pupil/ teacher	As above.
School outings Including Summer Programme	High	Harm to pupils and teacher	- Supervision Policy. - Code of Behaviour. - Health and Safety Statement. - Administration Of Meds Policy - Bí Cinealta Policy.
Use of toilet/changing/shower areas in schools	High.	Inappropriate Behaviour	As For Toilet Areas. Refer Back. Intimate Care policy where required.
Annual Sports Day	High	Harm to pupils	- Supervision Policy. - Code of Behaviour. - Health and Safety Statement. - Administration Of Meds Policy. - Bí Cineálta Policy.
Fundraising events involving pupils	High	Harm to pupils	Same as above.
Use of off-site facilities for school activities	High	Harm to Pupils	- Ensure all adults in contact with children are garda vetted. - Ensure that adequate supervision is provided by the group. - Ensure that any group using the premises have their own Child Protection policy in place. Provide the school with a copy of same.
Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst pupils	High	Harm to Pupils	- Bí Cinealta policy - Code of Behaviour. - Acceptable Use Policy - Wellbeing Initiatives - SPHE lessons to focus on Bullying and online safety.
Training of school personnel in child protection matters	low	Harm to pupils	- Regular updating of Child Protection policy/ Statement. - Regular CPD to be advised and encouraged. - All new staff to be given copy of Child protection guidelines and encouraged to do online PDST training, Children First Certificate requested
Use of external personnel to supplement curriculum	Low	Harm to pupils	- All External teachers/facilitators are garda vetted. - Class teachers always present when external teachers are in their classrooms.
Care of pupils with specific vulnerabilities/ needs such as - Pupils from ethnic minorities/migrants - Members of the Traveller community - Lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender (LGBT) children - Pupils perceived to be LGBT - Pupils of minority religious faiths - Children in care - Children on CPNS	Low	Bullying	- The school has a Bí Cinealta policy which strictly adheres to the requirements of the Dept 's Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools. - Code of Behaviour. - All members of school staff strictly adhere to Child Protection guidelines. - The School has an SEN policy. - SPHE lessons. - Wellbeing initiatives
Recruitment of school personnel including - - Teachers - SNA's - Summer Programme Staff - Caretaker/Secretary/Cleaners - Sports coaches - External Tutors/Guest Speakers - Volunteers/Parents in school activities - Visitors/contractors present in school during school hours - Visitors/contractors present during after school activities	High	Harm not recognised or properly or promptly reported	- Child Safeguarding Statement & DES procedures made available to all staff. - All new staff are given a copy of Child Safe Guarding Statement. They sign for it as they receive it. - Regular reviews of Child Protection Protocols. - Staff to view Tusla training module & any other online training offered by PDST - Vetting Procedures in line with Diocesan requirements
Use of school premises by other organisation during school day	low	Harm to pupils	Children not present if school is being used for any other activity e.g. Voting for referenda /elections.
Use of Information and Communication Technology by pupils in school, including social media	High	Bullying Risk of harm caused by member of school personnel communicating with pupils in appropriate manner via social media, texting, email, use of online platforms, digital device or other manner. Risk of harm caused by member of school personnel accessing/circulating inappropriate material via social media, texting, digital device or other manner. Risk of harm due to children inappropriately accessing/using computers, Ipads, social media while at school .	- ICT policy - Bí Cineálta policy - Code of Behaviour - Wet Days. Teacher chooses appropriate viewing material for children. - Implementation of Stay Safe programme. - Responsible digital citizenship Webwise. - AUP policy has been updated to include use of Ipads. - All children to be supervised when using computers and Ipads at school. - Safe filters on school wifi to disable access to social media etc
Use of Information and Communication Technology by	High	Bullying	- ICT policy - Bí Cineálta Policy

pupils for remote learning, including social media		Risk of harm caused by member of school personnel communicating with pupils in appropriate manner via social media, texting, email, use of online platforms, digital device or other manner. Risk of harm caused by member of school personnel accessing/circulating inappropriate material via social media, texting, digital device or other manner. Risk of harm due to children inappropriately accessing/using computers, Ipads, social media while engaging in remote learning	• Code of Behaviour • Responsible digital citizenship -Webwise. • Specific contact and communication made with parents surrounding the need for children to be supervised while working/ learning online
Application of sanctions under the school's Code of Behaviour.	Low	Harm to children and staff.	All staff members to follow appropriate procedures in line with Bí Cinealta policy, Code of behaviour The school has codes of conduct for school personnel (teaching and non-teaching staff)
Students participating in work experience in the school	low	Harm to children	Students never alone with a child. Students to have approval from their schools prior to participating in work experience.
Student teachers undertaking training placement in school	Low	Harm to pupils	• All recommended guidelines to be followed. • Vetting assurances in place from Third Level Institution
Use of video/photography/other media to record school events	low	Harm to pupils	• ICT policy in place. GDPR Policy. CCTV Policy in operation. Parental permission sought .
After school use of school premises by other organisations	high	Harm to pupils	• Ensure that all adults are garda vetted. • Ensure that adequate supervision is provided. • Child protection statement to be provided to the BOM.

This Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment was reviewed by the board of management on 15th June 2026 (most recent review date)

Signed:*		Date:
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Chairperson of the board of management

Signed:*		Date:
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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 June 2027 (expected review date)

* Document to be printed and signed with original signatures