

Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment

For:	Scoil an Athar Tadhg	
At:	Carraig na bhFear, Co. Cork, T34 PP30	

This school is a: (tick appropriate) ☒ primary ☐ post-primary ☐ special school

Scoil an Athar Tadhg is a primary school providing education from Junior Infants, including its Autism classes An Neidín (Early Intervention to Sixth Class).

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):

Cormac Duggan

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

Philip O'Brien

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

Name of Relevant Person

Cormac Duggan

Relevant Person can be contacted on:

(021) 488 4509

principal@athartadhg.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:

Dan Crowley

In the event that both DLP and DDLP are absent and unavailable, and where there is no staff member formally acting in their role, the chairperson of the board of management, or in an ETB school the chief executive or their delegate, assumes the role of DLP.

The board of management recognises that child protection and safeguarding permeate all aspects of school life and must be reflected in all of the school's policies, procedures, practices and activities. In all of these, the school will adhere to the following principles of best practice in child protection and welfare. The school will:

- ☒ Recognise that the protection and welfare of children is of paramount importance, regardless of all other considerations.
- ☒ Fully comply with its statutory obligations under the Children First Act 2015 and other relevant legislation relating to the protection and welfare of children.
- ☒ Fully co-operate with the relevant statutory authorities in relation to child protection and welfare matters.
- ☒ Adopt safe practices to minimise the possibility of harm happening to children and protect members of school personnel from the necessity to take unnecessary risks that may leave themselves open to accusations of child abuse.
- ☒ Develop a practice of openness with parents and encourage parental involvement in the education of their children.
- ☒ Fully respect confidentiality requirements as set out in the Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025 in dealing with child protection matters.
- ☒ Adhere to the above principles in relation to any vulnerable adult.

Procedures and Measures in Place

Our Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment has been developed in line with requirements under the Children First Act 2015, the *Children First: National Guidance 2017*, and *Child Safeguarding: A Guide for Policy, Procedure and Practice, 2nd ed. (Tusla, 2024)*, and the *Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025*. In addition to the procedures listed in our risk assessment, the following procedures support our intention to safeguard children while they are availing of our service:

> Procedure for the Management of Allegations of Abuse or Misconduct against School Personnel Relating to a Child Availing of Our Service

~ Where any member of school personnel is the subject of any investigation in respect of any act, omission or circumstance in relation to a child attending the school, the school is required to adhere to the relevant procedures set out in Chapter 7 of *the Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025* and to the relevant agreed disciplinary procedures for school staff which are published on the gov.ie website.

> Procedure for the Safe Recruitment and Selection of School Personnel to Work With Children

~ The school is required to adhere to the requirements of the Vetting Act. The selection or recruitment of staff and their suitability to work with children, requires the school to adhere to the statutory vetting requirements of the National Vetting Bureau (Children and Vulnerable Persons) Acts 2012 to 2016, and to the wider duty of care guidance set out in relevant Garda vetting and recruitment circulars published by the Department of Education and Youth and available on the gov.ie website and as outlined in Chapter 10 of the procedures.

~ A written protocol is in place authorising immediate action for cases which require an employee to be immediately absented from school for child safeguarding reasons.

> Procedure for Provision of and Access to Child Safeguarding Training and Information, Including the Identification of the Occurrence of Harm

~ The school provides information and training to members of school personnel in relation to the identification of the occurrence of harm (as defined in the 2015 Act) as follows:

~ The school has provided each member of school personnel, including any new members of school personnel, (employees and volunteers, board of management members, student teachers and those on work experience) with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment.

~ The school ensures that members of school personnel have availed of relevant training and completed child protection training.

~ The school encourages board of management members to avail of any relevant training and complete child protection training.

~ The board of management ensures that records of all staff and board member child protection training are maintained.

> Procedure for the Reporting of Child Protection or Welfare Concerns to Tusla

~ All members of school personnel are required to adhere to the procedures set out in the *Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025*, in relation to reporting of child protection concerns to Tusla. Mandated reporting applies to all registered teachers and any other mandated person who may be employed by the school, for example a

chaplain or nurse. A full list of those people who are mandated persons is set out in Appendix 1 procedures.

> Procedure for Maintaining a List of the Persons (if any) in the Relevant Service Who Are Mandated Persons

~ There is a procedure in place to maintain a list of mandated persons. Schools may on occasion employ additional staff who are mandated by virtue of their profession. This list will include all registered teachers and identify additional employees that are not registered teachers.

> Procedure for Appointing a Relevant Person (In schools this person is the DLP)

~ There is a procedure in place for appointing a relevant person.

The various procedures referred to in this Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment can be accessed via the school's website, the gov.ie website or will be made available on request by the school.

In accordance with the Children First Act 2015, the Addendum to Children First 2019 and 2025, and the *Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025*, the board of management carried out an assessment of any potential for harm to a child while attending the school or participating in school activities. A written assessment setting out the areas of risk identified and the school's procedures for managing those risks is included with the Child Safeguarding Statement.

Note: The procedures and measures in place outlined above, are not intended as exhaustive list. Individual boards of management shall also include in this section such other procedures and measures that are of relevance to the school.

This statement has been published on the school's website or will be made available on request by the school. It has been provided to all members of school personnel, the parents' association (if any), the patron and parents. A copy of this statement and risk assessment will be made available to Tusla and the department if requested.

This Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment will be reviewed annually or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which this statement refers.

Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
1.	Daily arrival, dismissal and school transport arrangements, including bus escorts	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision; inappropriate adult/child contact or communication; a pupil leaving or being collected without appropriate safeguards.	Arrival/dismissal supervision arrangements; agreed collection and transport procedures; pupil handover arrangements where required; Child Protection Procedures 2025; Code of Behaviour; clear communication with parents/guardians.
2.	Recreation breaks, yards/playgrounds and access to toilets during the school day	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision; bullying, racism or peer-to-peer harm; inappropriate behaviour in less-visible areas such as toilets.	Yard/playground supervision arrangements and rotas; designated supervision areas; toilet supervision procedures consistent with privacy and dignity; Bí Cineálta Policy and reporting procedures; Code of Behaviour.
3.	Classroom teaching, team teaching and general in-school learning activities	Risk of harm by a member of school personnel or another pupil; harm not being recognised or reported; inappropriate communications or boundaries.	Child Protection Procedures 2025; staff code of conduct/professional boundaries; mandated-person responsibilities; safeguarding training; classroom supervision and open, observable working practices.

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
4.	One-to-one teaching, learning support, counselling and individual interventions	Risk of harm in one-to-one situations; inappropriate relationship/communication; allegations or concerns arising where work is not sufficiently visible or accountable.	Clear one-to-one procedures; use of appropriate rooms/visibility where practicable; records and timetables; professional boundaries; parent communication where appropriate; Child Protection Procedures 2025.
5.	Outdoor teaching, sporting activities, annual Sports Day and use of off-site facilities	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision; injury-related vulnerability; inappropriate contact by adults or peers; harm by external personnel.	Appropriate pupil/staff ratios and supervision; risk-aware organisation; Garda vetting/agreements for relevant external personnel; Code of Behaviour; child safeguarding procedures; first-aid arrangements.
6.	School outings, swimming, religious ceremonies and trips, including overnight or foreign travel where applicable	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision away from school; inappropriate adult/child contact; pupils becoming separated; accommodation or transport-related safeguarding risks.	School outings/trips procedures; parental consent and emergency contacts; appropriate supervision and rooming arrangements; vetted/approved personnel where required; clear pupil conduct expectations; Child Protection Procedures 2025.
7.	Use of toilet, changing and intimate-care facilities	Risk of harm to a pupil while receiving intimate care; loss of dignity/privacy; inappropriate adult or peer contact; allegations arising from care tasks.	Individual intimate-care plans/procedures where required; minimum necessary assistance; dignity and privacy; agreed staffing arrangements; records where appropriate; consultation with parents/guardians and relevant professionals.

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
8.	Care of pupils with special educational needs and other specific vulnerabilities, including children in care/CPNS and pupils with medical needs	Increased vulnerability to abuse, neglect, bullying, communication difficulties, inadequate supervision or failure to recognise/report concerns.	SEN/support planning; appropriate supervision and care arrangements; accessible communication supports; Child Protection Procedures 2025; Bí Cineálta procedures; liaison with parents/guardians and relevant agencies in accordance with legal and professional requirements.
9.	Management of behaviours of concern and crisis situations, including physical restraint where required for safety	Risk of harm to the pupil or others during crisis; inappropriate, disproportionate or disciplinary use of physical intervention; inadequate supervision, recording or reporting.	Understanding Behaviours of Concern and Responding to Crisis Situations guidance; prevention, early intervention and de-escalation; physical restraint only as a last-resort safety response and never as discipline; incident recording, reporting and oversight in line with current Department/NCSE requirements.
10.	Provision of food and drink, including school meals and management of allergies/specific dietary needs	Risk of harm arising from food allergies, cross-contamination, unsafe provision or inadequate supervision of pupils with identified vulnerabilities.	Recorded medical/allergy information and individual care arrangements; parent/guardian communication; staff awareness; safe food handling/provider procedures; emergency medication arrangements where prescribed; supervision appropriate to pupil need.

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
11.	Administration of medication and First Aid	Risk of harm through incorrect administration, delay, unauthorised access to medication, inadequate records, or failure to respond appropriately to a medical emergency.	School medication and First Aid procedures; written parental/medical instructions where required; secure/access-appropriate storage; nominated trained personnel as appropriate; administration records; emergency contact procedures.
12.	Curricular provision in SPHE, RSE and Stay Safe	Risk that pupils do not receive appropriate safeguarding education or that disclosures/concerns arising during lessons are not recognised or handled correctly.	Full implementation of SPHE/RSE/Stay Safe in accordance with curriculum and school policy; age-appropriate teaching; staff safeguarding training; disclosures managed under Child Protection Procedures 2025.
13.	Prevention and response to bullying, racism, discriminatory behaviour and identity-based harm	Risk of bullying, cyberbullying, racism, sexist/sexual harassment, homophobic/transphobic or other discriminatory harm; harm not being reported or addressed promptly.	Bí Cineálta Policy and procedures; child-rights and restorative/preventive approaches; anti-racism and inclusion measures; reporting and follow-up procedures; supervision; parent and pupil engagement.

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
14.	Use of ICT, internet, social media, smartphones/tablets, online learning and school digital platforms	Risk of exposure to inappropriate content or contact; cyberbullying; unauthorised recording/sharing; inappropriate staff-pupil communication; an uninvited person accessing online learning.	Acceptable Use Policy; filtering/monitoring and supervised access; school rules on personal devices; approved communication channels; online-learning safeguards; data protection and image-consent procedures; Bí Cineálta procedures.
15.	Photography, video and other media used to record or publicise school events	Risk of inappropriate or unauthorised recording, storage, circulation or identification of pupils; images being used in a harmful manner.	Parent/guardian consent arrangements; school-approved devices/accounts; limited and appropriate publication; secure storage; no unauthorised staff-pupil sharing; AUP and data-protection procedures.
16.	Recruitment, vetting, induction, conduct and child-protection training of school personnel	Risk of unsuitable persons working with children; staff not recognising or reporting harm; inappropriate conduct or boundaries.	National Vetting Bureau requirements; Department recruitment circulars; agreed disciplinary procedures; written protocol for immediate safeguarding action where required; staff code of conduct; provision of CSS1 and Child Protection Procedures 2025; training records.

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
17.	External tutors, guest speakers, sports coaches, volunteers and parents assisting with school activities	Risk of harm by an external adult; unclear responsibility or supervision; inappropriate communications/contact with pupils.	Approval and vetting requirements as applicable; external-person/sports-coach procedures; clear role and supervision arrangements; school personnel remain responsible for pupils; safeguarding expectations communicated in advance.
18.	Visitors/contractors and use of the school premises by other organisations during or after the school day	Risk of unauthorised or inadequately supervised access to pupils; inappropriate contact; unclear safeguarding responsibility when third parties use the premises.	Visitor sign-in/access controls; supervision/escorting where appropriate; contractor arrangements; restricted access to pupil areas; written agreements/conditions for third-party use; safeguarding responsibilities communicated.
19.	Student teachers and persons undertaking work experience in the school	Risk of harm where placement participants are not appropriately vetted, inducted, supervised or aware of child-protection obligations.	Placement/work-experience procedures; vetting where required; induction in school safeguarding arrangements; supervision by designated staff; clear professional boundaries and reporting routes.

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
20.	Application of the Code of Behaviour, sanctions, fundraising events and other whole-school/after-school activities involving pupils	Risk of harm through inappropriate or disproportionate sanctions; inadequate supervision; bullying/peer harm; inappropriate adult contact during events or activities.	Code of Behaviour; Bí Cineálta procedures; appropriate supervision; safeguarding procedures for events/activities; clear roles for staff/volunteers; sanctions applied in a manner consistent with pupil dignity, welfare and Department guidance.
21.	Climbing Walls	Risk of Harm	Walls at recommended safety height Appropriate Supervision
22.	Pupil Emotional wellbeing and mental health	Emotional harm not recognised (anxiety, distress, self-harm indicators)	SPHE/Wellbeing Programmes Staff Training on Child protection Procedures delivered by Oide
23.	Safeguarding	Children disclosing sensitive information regarding abuse	Staff Training on Child protection Procedures delivered by Oide.
24.	Smartphones/Watches/Devices that can record	Risk of recording of children or staff and sharing and manipulation of images	Code of Behaviour AUP Mobile Phone and Devices Policy

Additional pages may be added as required

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/adopted by the board of management on 05/10/2026

Signed:*	<i>Cormac Duggan</i>	Date: 05/10/2026
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Chairperson of the board of management

Signed:*	<i>Dan Crowley</i>	Date: 05/10/2026
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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 Term 3 2027.

Appendix - Location of copies of the Child Protection Procedures and Children First Guidance

Online copies: Department of Education and Youth child-protection page
(gov.ie/childprotectionschools)

Hard-copy locations in school: Principal's Office & Secretary's Office