



CSS1

Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment

For:	Ballyvary Central NS	
At:	Ballyvary, Castlebar, Co. Mayo, F23TP65	

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):

Carmel Heaney

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

Teresa Walsh

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

Name of Relevant Person

Carmel Heaney

(In schools this person is the DLP)

Relevant Person can be contacted on:

(094) 903 1007

principal@ballyvaryns.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:

Vincent McHale



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, 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.	Training of school personnel in Child Protection matters	Harm not recognised or reported promptly	Child Safeguarding Statement & DES procedures made available to all staff DLP& DDLP to keep fully compliant with required training. All Staff to keep fully compliant with required training. BOM records all records of staff and board training
2.	One to one teaching	Harm by school personnel	There is glass in all classroom doors which ensures visibility to anybody passing on the corridor. Where one-to-one teaching is deemed to be in the best interest of a pupil, teachers will endeavour to enhance visibility by leaving the door open or teaching in a high visibility location within the room. It is recognised that at times it may be necessary for a one to one meeting between an adult in charge and a pupil. As a minimum



	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
			precaution, ensure that the meeting takes place in a high visibility location e.g. outside the classroom door and in areas where there is “traffic” from other children and adults.
3.	Care of Children with special needs, including intimate care needs	Risk of harm to child while a child is receiving intimate care	Policy on Intimate Care and Toileting
4.	Toilet areas	Inappropriate behaviour Risk of harm to child while a child is in a vulnerable state	Staff should avoid being one on one with a child in toilet areas — if necessary, call another member of staff. At breaktimes pupils have to request permission from the supervising adult before they are permitted back into the school building. A pupil will not enter the school building alone, two pupils are permitted inside at a time. There are individual toilets available for each classroom for boys and girls. Only one child is permitted to go to the toilets at any time.
5.	Curricular Provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay safe.	Non-teaching of same	School implements SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe in full in accordance with the SPHE Policy.
6.	LGBT Children/Pupils perceived to be LGBT	Bullying	Bí Cineálta / Anti-Bullying Policy



	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
			Code of Behaviour
7.	Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils	Harm from older pupils, unknown adults on the playground	Arrival of pupils is supervised by SNAs and Teachers for ten minutes prior to school opening time. Parents notified in September that there is no supervision prior to this time even though the school is open to facilitate staff to prepare for the day. Pupils go directly to playgrounds on dry mornings. On wet mornings, pupils should go directly into the school foyers where there is adult supervision. The BOM encourages parents to 'Drop and Go' to minimise the risk of potential unknown adults around the school at daily arrival. Pupils are greeted by a minimum of two staff members at the Drop and Go point. Pupils who leave during the school day have to be collected from the school reception and cannot leave their classroom until someone is in reception to collect them. Pupils who are not collected or who are late being



	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
			collected are regularly reminded to return to school reception or foyer of the “new building”, where a member of staff will attempt to phone their parents to make arrangements for collection.
8.	Management of challenging behaviour amongst pupils.	Injury to pupils and staff	Health & Safety Policy Code of Behaviour Individual Behaviour Plans to cater for pupils with challenging behaviour which include supports and de-escalation strategies. Accessing training for staff through NCSE All incidents of challenging behaviour to be reported to class teacher, principal and parents. Staff dealing with challenging behaviour which poses a threat to the safety of others should and attempt to de-escalate, diffuse or divert.
9.	Visitors (including Volunteers and People on Work Experience working with pupils)	Harm to pupils	Visitors working with pupils must discuss and clear the content of their work with the teacher in charge or principal in



	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
			advance of taking the class. Class teacher/Teacher in charge must remain with his/her class at all times or in the case of having to leave organises for his/her class to be supervised. The teacher remains responsible for the pupils in their care and therefore class discipline/safety etc. is the responsibility of the class teacher. Visitors/Guest speakers who have not been vetted for Ballyvary Central NS should never be left alone with pupils. The following will be allowed work with a class unsupervised at the principal's discretion: vetted substitute staff, vetted student teachers/student special needs assistants on work experience.
10.	Recreation breaks for pupils	Injury to pupils Inappropriate behaviour Pupils being collected from the school yard by unknown persons Potential harm to pupils in unsupervised classrooms	On dry days, all pupils have to go outside for their break. As a general rule, if pupils are well enough to attend school, they are considered well enough to go outside for break. In exceptional circumstances, pupils may have a medical condition preventing them from going outside and these pupils are



	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
			accommodated in the foyer outside the staffroom as appropriate. On wet days, pupils remain in their individual classrooms. They are not permitted to wander into other classrooms. There is comprehensive supervision of pupils throughout the school day. A timetable of staff on yard duty is displayed in the staff room and each teacher has a copy of this rota. Teachers ensure that pupils are visible in the schoolyard. Pupils are not be permitted to leave the schoolyard or engage with adults outside of the schoolyard. Pupils are not allowed to enter the school during break time without permission from the supervising teacher. Pupils who have to remain indoors at break time are accommodated in the



	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
			school foyer adjacent to the staffroom. Pupils are not allowed to leave the school premises during school time unless they are being collected by a parent/guardian. Unauthorised persons coming onto school grounds during breaktime should be approached by the adult on supervision duty and directed as appropriate.

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
11.	Classroom/SEN teaching	Member of Staff harms a child in their care Another pupil/s harms a child in our care	All teachers must be registered with the Teaching Council, have provided the appropriate Garda Vetting link, Statutory Declaration, Teaching Council Registration, and Proof of Identification. All Staff members will be informed of the school's expectation to follow the Code of Conduct for Teachers. All staff members are provided with a copy of the school's Child Protection Statement and the school's



	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
			Child Protection Risk Assessment. All teachers will maintain reasonable and effective supervision of their class. Pupils will be taught the Stay Safe Programme
12.	Substitute teachers/SNAs/work placements	Risk of harm to pupils	All persons employed in a substitute or work placement capacity must be vetted in accordance with the Children First Act 2015 and the National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children 2017.
13.	Extra-curricular and afterschool activities	Risk of harm to pupils	School staff who organise extra-curricular activities should ensure that they are in compliance with the school Child Safeguarding Statement and the school Child Protection Risk Assessment.
14.	Parents' Association Activities	Parent harms a child attending a Parents' Association event	The Parents' Association must inform the school of any members who will be involved with supervising or assisting PA events which will bring them into contact with pupils from the school but will never work alone with pupils.



	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
15.	Services for pupils including Psychology/Occupational Therapy/Counselling etc	Potential harm to children from unfamiliar adults in a small group/individual setting	Professional seeking to work with a child should seek parental consent prior to commencing work with that child. Evidence of vetting and of their organisation's Child Safeguarding Statement should be presented to the Principal Unless there is specific parental consent, work with pupils should take place in a high visibility location within the designated room.
16.	School outings	Potential harm to children in an unfamiliar setting Potential harm from unknown adults	Best practice in relation to travel with pupils will be observed. Personnel should not undertake any car or minibus journey alone with a pupil. If, in certain circumstances, only one adult is available, there should be a minimum of two pupils present for the entire journey. In the event of an emergency, where it is necessary to make a journey alone with a pupil, the school principal, the pupil's parent(s) or guardian(s) will be informed as soon as is possible. Pupil's behaviour on outings will comply with the standard set down in the school's Code of Behaviour. Because of increased risk to the safety of others and in order to achieve their purpose, the highest standard of



	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
			behaviour is necessary on school outings. The ratio of pupils to supervising adults should take account of the age and maturity of the pupils involved, and be sufficient to ensure reasonable care for the safety of the pupils. Other teachers and/or parents/guardians may be asked to help with supervision. For outings that extend beyond normal school hours, it is the responsibility of the teacher in charge to return the children to an agreed location and then it is the parents/guardians responsibility to ensure that arrangements are in place for the child to be collected from the agreed location. The teacher in charge must be informed in advance if the child is to be collected by someone other than the parents/guardian. The teacher in charge should take a tour kit containing first aid materials, mobile phone, pupil contact details etc. Where a bus is hired for a school or class outing, the teacher in charge should accompany pupils on the bus. Pupils will be subject



	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
			to the school's Code of Behaviour. The number of children carried in the car should not be greater than the number of seatbelts available. Pupils should normally be collected from and dropped back to the school.
17.	Changing arrangements for PE/Games/Swimming	Children vulnerable while dressing Inappropriate behaviour Potential harm to children in an area of low supervision	Children should attend school in school tracksuit on schooldays where pupils have PE/Swimming. Adults bringing classes to a swimming pool or who are in charge of school teams should be cognisant of the additional vulnerabilities of being in an enclosed room while children are changing. A supervising presence should be maintained while avoiding spending time in a dressing room with children in a state of undress. A supervising presence can be maintained by keeping dressing room doors ajar, by regularly knocking at the door and by informing pupils in the dressing room that you are entering (e.g. on the count of 10). Pupils should be regularly informed of the importance of good behaviour in dressing rooms and should



	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
			be encouraged to tell the supervising adults of any incidents which occur. Children will be accompanied to the swimming pool by two supervising adults where possible. Supervising adults will ensure that dressing rooms are supervised before and after swimming. If it is inappropriate to enter the dressing room, then the supervisor should be available near the door to be of assistance to pupils if required. The supervising adults should avoid spending time in dressing rooms and should recognise that children are vulnerable One teacher may supervise the dressing room while the other adult supervises the children who have finished. The last five or six children to finish will be held until all have finished changing to avoid being alone in an enclosed area with one or two pupils.
18.	Administration of Medicine Administration of First Aid	Inappropriate Touch Risk of harm to child while a child is receiving intimate care	Administration of Medication Policy Administration of First Aid procedures Comprehensive first aid supplies are located at the school foyer and also at the back door. Within the school, a postholder has



	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
			responsibility for first aid, including supplies (currently Karen Morley). There are a number of staff trained in First Aid. In the event of a playground incident requiring significant First Aid, the adult on supervision duty should send pupils to the staffroom for assistance. The school foyer and/or the area at the back door can be used for the administration of First Aid. Details of incident and first aid administered should be notified to the class teacher who may then choose to notify parents. A record of a significant event should be recorded in the Incident Book by the teacher on duty.
19.	Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst pupils	Harm by other pupils Harm not recognised or dealt with promptly	Bullying is addressed under our Bí Cineálta / Anti-Bullying policy. If the behaviour involved is of a sexualised nature or regarded as being particularly abusive then the matter will be referred to the DLP. We recognise that bullying can be pupil/pupil; pupil/staff; staff/pupil; parent/staff; staff/parents; staff/staff.
20.	Recruitment of school personnel including –	Harm not recognised or properly or promptly reported	Child Safeguarding



	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
	Teachers / SNA's Secretary Caretaker/Cleaners Visitors/contractors present in school during school hours		Statement & DES procedures made available to all staff Staff to view Tusla training module & any other online training offered by PDST BOM ensures that all Vetting Procedures are complied with Visiting Contractors have no unsupervised access to pupils during school hours. Contractors must obtain the permission of the principal before commencing any work at the school. As far as possible, work should be completed outside of school hours.
21	Use of Information and Communication Technology by pupils in school	Bullying Risk of exposure to unsuitable images on school computers.	Acceptable Use Policy Bí Cineálta / Anti-Bullying Policy Code of Behaviour The school has set the PDST Schools' Broadband filtering system to Level 4 which allows access to Youtube for teaching and learning but blocks access to social networking sites. Under no circumstances should school staff access inappropriate images or material on school equipment or on school



	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
			grounds using their own or other's equipment. Deliberately accessing inappropriate images/sites will be treated as gross misconduct and may be a criminal offence.
22	Application of sanctions under the school's Code of Behaviour including detention of pupils etc.	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children in school	Time Out is occasionally used as a sanction. Under no circumstances should children be asked to take a 'Time Out' in an unsupervised location. This normally takes place in the pupils classroom (e.g. sit at the back for a few minutes) or in another supervised classroom. During breaktimes, 'Time Out' should be taken on the playground, in a location of high visibility to the supervising staff.
23	Use of video/photography/other media to record school events	Images being taken without parental consent Pupils who have been previously abused in this way may feel threatened by the use of photography, filming etc in the teaching environment	The school undertakes to ensure that there will be no misuse of pupil images for any publicity purposes. Parental permission to take images of pupils involved in school events and school activities is sought on the enrolment form. Only images of pupils in appropriate dress will be used. Inappropriate use of images of pupils will be



	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
			brought to the attention of the DLP. Any external agency or person using images should first seek permission from the school principal. School staff should remain sensitive to any pupil who appears uncomfortable with having their photograph taken. It is important to take into account the wishes of the child, remembering that some children do not wish to have their photograph taken.
24	Tradition of using Sixth Class children as minders at breaktimes and on wet days for pupils from Junior Infants to Second Classes	Risk of harm to younger children by 'minders'	Minders look after classes in a minimum of pairs. Supervision rota for staff remains in place and supervising staff rotate between classes.
25	Children being sent on messages to other classrooms on their own.	Risk of harm	Children are sent on messages to other classes in pairs but this only happens if necessary.
26	Transporting children in staff cars	Risk of harm to both children and staff. Risk of allegations made against staff.	Ensure that there is a second adult and if this is not feasible, ensure that there are two or more children travelling in the car at all times.
27	Pupils who are a 'flight' risk	Risk of leaving the school grounds	Supervision rota in place All gates are closed See Code of Behaviour

Additional pages may be added as required



	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
28	Online teaching and learning remotely	Unsanctioned One-to-One Interactions Boundary Blurs & Unapproved Communication Unauthorised Access & Data/Privacy Breaches Digital Peer Harm & Cyberbullying Failure to Detect or Report Safeguarding Concerns	Live sessions must be conducted in group settings (rule of three). All session links and communications must be sent to parent/guardian accounts, not directly to pupils. Strict use of Board-approved platforms only (e.g., Teams, Google Workspace, Seesaw). Staff are prohibited from using personal phone numbers, personal email, or social media to contact pupils. Online interactions and messaging are strictly limited to standard school hours. Mandatory use of platform waiting rooms, passwords, and restricted guest access. Strict "No Recording / No Screenshot" policy for staff, pupils, and parents without Board authorisation. Links must never be shared publicly. Live broadcasts must take place from neutral living/working areas.



	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
			Staff and pupils must wear appropriate, classroom-ready attire. Use of digital background blurs or standard background templates is encouraged. In-app chat functions are moderated or turned off; private pupil-to-pupil messaging within school platforms is disabled. Updated digital Acceptable Use Policy (AUP). Incidents handled under the school's Bí Cineálta / Anti-Bullying Policy. Standard statutory reporting duties remain in full effect during remote learning. Staff must immediately flag disclosures, signs of distress/neglect, or unexplained remote absences to the Designated Liaison Person (DLP).

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.



Example of School Activities which schools may draw on 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
2. The Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025 are made available to all school personnel
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
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 board of management on 30/9/2026 (most recent review date)

Signed:*	<i>Lucretia M. Stale</i>	Date: <i>30/09/2026</i>
-----------------	--------------------------	--------------------------------

Chairperson of the board of management

Signed:*	<i>Carmel Heaney</i>	Date: <i>30/9/2026</i>
-----------------	----------------------	-------------------------------

Principal/Secretary to the board of management

This Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment is expected to be reviewed again on 30/09/2027 (expected review date)

Ballyvary Central N.S.

Ballyvary, Castlebar, Co.Mayo F23TP65 Tel: 0949031007 Email: ballyvaryns@gmail.com



** 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 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.

The following link will bring you to the Child Protection Guidelines section on our school website:

<https://ballyvaryns.ie/>

There will be 3 copies of the Child Protection Procedures 2025 available in the school. They can be found in the following locations:

- Principal's Office
- Secretary's Office
- Front Foyer