CSS1: Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment

For:	**S.N. Cill Conla**
At:	**Kilconly, Ballybunion, Co. Kerry, V31YC04**

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):

Aoife McMahon

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

Laura Horgan

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

Name of Relevant Person

Aoife McMahon

Relevant Person can be contacted on:

0879883956	*office@sncillconla.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:

John Dalton

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

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 an 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.

1. List of school activities	2. The school has identified the following risk of harm in respect of its activities –	3. The school has the following procedures in place to address the risks of harm identified in this assessment
Classroom teaching	Risk of child being harmed in the school by a member of school personnel / another child	All school personnel are provided with a copy of the school's *Child Safeguarding Statement* The *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2023* are made available to all school personnel 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* and its Addendum (2019)
Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children in school	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.
Recreation breaks for pupils	Risk of child being harmed in the school by another child Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children in school	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
One-to-one teaching	Risk of child being harmed in the school by a member of school personnel Risk of harm to children with SEN who have particular vulnerabilities, including medical vulnerabilities Risk of harm to child while a child is receiving intimate care	The school has in place, procedures for one-to-one teaching All school personnel are provided with a copy of the school's *Child Safeguarding Statement* The *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2023* are made available to all school personnel 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* and its Addendum (2019)
One-to-one counselling	Risk of child being harmed in the school by a member of school personnel	The school has in place, procedures for one-to-one counselling All school personnel are provided with a copy of the school's *Child Safeguarding Statement* The *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2023* are made available to all school personnel

		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* and its Addendum (2019)
Outdoor teaching activities	Risk of child being harmed in the school by a member of school personnel Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children in school	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.
Sporting Activities	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children in school	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.
School outings	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children while attending out of school activities	The school has in place, clear procedures in respect of school outings, including additional supervision arrangements.
Use of toilet/changing areas in schools	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children in school	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.
Annual Sports Day	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children in school	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.
Fundraising events involving pupils	Risk of harm due to inappropriate contact/ relationship/ communications between child and another child or adult	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.
Use of off-site facilities for school activities	Risk of harm due to inappropriate contact/ relationship/ communications between child and another child or adult	The school has in place , clear procedures in respect of school outings, including additional supervision arrangements where necessary .
School transport arrangements	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children in school Risk of harm due to inappropriate contact/ relationship/ communications between child and another child or adult	The school has in place , clear procedures in respect of school transport arrangements.
Care of children with special educational needs, including intimate care where needed,	Risk of harm to children with SEN who have particular vulnerabilities, including medical vulnerabilities Risk of harm to child while a child is receiving intimate care	The school has a Special Educational Needs policy The school has an intimate care policy/plan in respect of students who require such care
Care of any vulnerable students, including intimate care where needed	Risk of harm to children with SEN who have particular vulnerabilities, including medical vulnerabilities Risk of harm to child while a child is receiving intimate care	The school has a Special Educational Needs policy All school personnel are provided with a copy of the school's *Child Safeguarding Statement*

Management of challenging behaviour amongst pupils, including appropriate use of restraint where required	Risk of harm due to inadequate code of behaviour	The school has an Anti-Bullying Policy which fully adheres to the requirements of the Department's *Anti-Bullying Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools*
Management of provision of food and drink	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children in school	The school has a Health and Safety policy in place. 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
Administration of Medicine	Risk of harm due to inappropriate contact/ relationship/ communications between child and another child or adult	The school adheres to the administration of medicine policy of the school.
Administration of First Aid	Risk of harm due to inappropriate contact/ relationship/ communications between child and another child or adult	The school has procedures in place for First Aid administration.
Curricular provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe	Risk of harm due to inadequate provision of the curriculum	The school implements in full the Stay Safe Programme The school implements in full the SPHE curriculum
Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst pupils	Risk of harm due to inadequate code of behaviour	The school has a Code of Behaviour Policy The school has an Anti-Bullying Policy which fully adheres to the requirements of the Department's *Anti-Bullying Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools*
Training of school personnel in child protection matters	Risk of harm not being recognised by school personnel Risk of harm due to inadequate child protection training	The school – Has provided each member of school staff with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement Ensures all new staff are provided with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement Encourages staff to avail of relevant training Encourages board of management members to avail of relevant training Maintains records of all staff and board member training
Use of external personnel to supplement curriculum	Risk of harm due to inappropriate contact/ relationship/ communications between child and another child or adult	The school has in place procedures for the use of external personnel to supplement the curriculum.
Use of external personnel to support sports and other extra-curricular activities	Risk of harm due to inappropriate contact/ relationship/ communications between child and another child or adult	The school has in place, procedures for the use of external sports coaches
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	Risk of harm due to bullying of a child Risk of harm due to racism Risk of harm to children who have particular vulnerabilities, including medical vulnerabilities	The school has a Code of Behaviour Policy The school has an Anti-Bullying Policy which fully adheres to the requirements of the Department's *Anti-Bullying Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools* The school has a Special Educational Needs policy All school personnel are provided with a copy of the school's *Child Safeguarding Statement*

Pupils of minority religious faiths Children in care Children on CPNS Children with medical needs		
Recruitment of school personnel including -Teachers/SNA's -Caretaker/Secretary/Cleaners -Sports coaches -External Tutors/Guest Speakers	Risk of harm due to harm not recognised or properly or promptly reported Risk of harm due to inadequate Garda vetting Risk of harm due to inadequate child protection training Risk of harm caused by member of school personnel	All school personnel are provided with a copy of the school's *Child Safeguarding Statement* The school – Has provided each member of school staff with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement Ensures all new staff are provided with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement Encourages staff to avail of relevant training Encourages board of management members to avail of relevant training The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation and relevant DE circulars in relation to recruitment and Garda vetting
Volunteers/Parents in school activities	Risk of harm due to inappropriate contact/ relationship/ communications between child and another child or adult	The school has in place, procedures for volunteers/ visitors involved in school activities
Visitors/contractors present in school during school hours	Risk of harm due to inappropriate contact/ relationship/ communications between child and another child or adult	The school has in place a policy and procedures for the use of external persons to supplement delivery of the curriculum
Visitors/contractors present during after school activities	Risk of harm due to inappropriate contact/ relationship/ communications between child and another child or adult Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children while attending out of school activities	All school personnel are provided with a copy of the school's *Child Safeguarding Statement*
Participation by pupils in religious ceremonies/religious instruction external to the school	Risk of child being harmed by a member of school personnel, a member of staff of another organisation or other person while child participating in out of school activities Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children while attending out of school activities	The school has in place, clear procedures in respect of school outings, including additional supervision arrangements where necessary.
Use of Information and Communication Technology by pupils in school, including social media	Risk of harm caused by member of school personnel communicating with pupils in an inappropriate manner via social media, texting, digital device or other manner	The school has in place a policy governing the use of smart phones and tablet devices in the school by pupils as per circular 38/2018
Application of sanctions under the school's Code of Behaviour including confiscation of phones etc.	Risk of harm due to inadequate code of behaviour	The school has an Anti-Bullying Policy which fully adheres to the requirements of the Department's *Anti-Bullying Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools*
Students participating in work experience in the school	Risk of child being harmed in the school by volunteer or visitor to the school	All school personnel are provided with a copy of the school's *Child Safeguarding Statement*

		The school has in place, procedures in respect of students undertaking work experience in the school
Student teachers undertaking training placement in school	Risk of child being harmed in the school by volunteer or visitor to the school	All school personnel are provided with a copy of the school's *Child Safeguarding Statement* The school has in place, procedures in respect of students undertaking placement in the school
Use of video/photography/other media to record school events	Risk of harm due to inappropriate use of content, sharing on social media identifying child	The school has a strict photography policy in place.
Attending swimming lessons	Risk of child being harmed by a member of school personnel, a member of staff of another organisation or other person while child participating in out of school activities Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children while attending out of school activities	The school has in place, clear procedures in respect of school outings, including additional supervision arrangements where necessary.
After-school use of school premises by other organisations	Risk of harm not being recognised by school personnel Risk of harm not being reported properly and promptly by members of school personnel Risk of harm where members of school personnel have not received appropriate training	The school has strict procedures in place All personnel undergo Garda Vetting prior to any involvement in school The school has in place procedures in respect of external organisations working with the school.
Use of school by other organisations during the day Breakfast Club Homework / After Schools Club	Risk of child being harmed in the school by a member of school personnel Risk of child being harmed in the school by another child Risk of child being harmed in the school by a volunteer or visitor to the school 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	The school has strict procedures in place All personnel undergo Garda Vetting prior to any involvement in school The school has in place procedures in respect of external organisations working with the school.
Use of toilet facilities in school	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children Risk of child being harmed in the school by a member of school personnel Risk of child being harmed in the school by another child	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.
Online teaching and learning remotely	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 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	The school has in place, clear procedures in respect of acceptable use of technology and for remote learning where required.

	Risk of harm caused by a 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, social media, phones and other devices while at school	
Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst children	Risk of harm to a child being bullied by another pupil Risk of harm to a child from bullying not being reported promptly Risk of harm due to staff not being appropriately trained. Risk of harm to a child due to ineffective supervision	The school has strict procedures in place The school has a Code of Behaviour Policy The school has an Anti-Bullying Policy which fully adheres to the requirements of the Department's *Anti-Bullying Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools* The school has a Supervision Policy in place Anti-bullying campaign lesson are completed to prevent bullying Stay safe lessons are completed to identify bullying behaviour and prevent bullying.

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

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.

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 ratified by the board of management on: 22nd Oct 26

Signed:*	John Dalton	**Date:** 2/10/2026

Chairperson of the Board of Management

Signed:*	Aoife NíMhéalóin	**Date:** 22nd Oct 2026

Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

This Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment is expected to be reviewed again on school year 2027/2028

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.

Online:

www.gov.ie/childprotectionschools

www.sncillconla.ie

Hard Copies: Child Protection noticeboard in the entrance foyer
School Office