CSS1

Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment

For:	**Slieverue National School**	*(School Name)*
At:	**Slieverue, via Waterford, Co. Kilkenny, X91 YA26**	*(School Address)*

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

In accordance with the requirements of the Children First Act 2015, Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children 2017, the Addendum to Children First (2019) and 2025, Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025 and Child Safeguarding: A Guide for Policy, Procedure and Practice, 2nd ed. (Tusla, 2024), the Board of Management has adopted the Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment set out in this document.

The board of management has adopted and will implement fully and without modification the department's Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025 as part of this overall Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment.

Name of the Designated Liaison Person (DLP):

Kevin Kennedy

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

Michael Quinn

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

Name of Relevant Person

Kevin Kennedy

(In schools this person is the DLP)

Relevant Person can be contacted on:

051 832339	*office@slieveruens.com*

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:

Kevin Fitzpatrick

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 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, where applicable 7. Outdoor teaching activities 8. Online teaching and learning remotely 9. Sporting activities 10. School outings 11. Use of toilet/changing/shower areas in schools 12. Annual Sports Day 13. Fundraising events involving pupils 14. Use of off-site facilities for school activities 15. School transport arrangements 16. Care of children with special educational needs, including intimate care where needed 17. Management of challenging behaviour amongst pupils, including appropriate use of restraint where required 18. Management of provision of food and drink 19. Administration of medicine 20. Administration of First Aid 21. Curricular provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe 22. Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst pupils 23. Training of school personnel in child protection matters 24. Use of external personnel to supplement curriculum 25. Use of external personnel to support sports and other extra-curricular activities	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	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 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

List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
26. Care of pupils with specific vulnerabilities/needs such as: • Pupils from ethnic minorities/migrants • Members of the Traveller community • Lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender (LGBT) children • Pupils perceived to be LGBT • Pupils of minority religious faiths • Children in care • Children on Tusla's Child Protection Notification System (CPNS) • Children with medical needs 27. Recruitment of school personnel including teachers/SNAs, caretakers/secretaries/cleaners and sport coaches 28. External Tutors/Guest Speakers 29. Volunteers/Parents in school activities 30. Visitors/contractors present in school during school hours 31. Visitors/contractors present during after-school activities 32. Participation by pupils in religious ceremonies/religious instruction external to the school 33. Use of Information and Communication Technology by pupils in school, including social media 34. Application of sanctions under the school's Code of Behaviour including detention of pupils, confiscation of phones etc. 35. Students participating in work experience in the school 36. Students from the school participating in work experience elsewhere 37. Student teachers undertaking training placement 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	supervision of children, to include 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 ensures all new personnel are provided with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment 22. The school encourages personnel to avail of relevant training 23. The school invites Board of Management members to avail of relevant training 24. The school maintains records of all personnel and board member training 25. The school has in place a policy and procedures for the administration of First Aid 26. The school has in place a code of behaviour for pupils 27. 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 28. The school has in place a policy governing the use of smartphones and

List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
38. Use of video/photography/other media to record school events 39. After-school use of school premises by other organisations 40. Use of school premises by other organisations during school day		tablet devices in the school by pupils as per Circular 38/2018 and the national guidelines 29. The school has in place a Critical Incident Management Plan 30. The school has in place a Home School Liaison policy and related procedures 31. The school has in place a policy and procedures for the use of external persons to supplement delivery of the curriculum 32. The school has in place a policy and procedures for the use of external sports coaches 33. The school has in place a policy and clear procedures for one-to-one teaching activities 34. The school has in place a policy and procedures for one-to-one counselling 35. The school has in place a policy and procedures in respect of student teacher placements 36. The school has in place a policy and procedures in respect of pupils undertaking work experience in the school 37. The school has in place a policy and procedures in respect of pupils of the school undertaking work experience in external organisations 38. The school has in place a policy in relation to assisting members of school personnel in respect of disclosures of retrospective abuse 39. 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

This list is not exhaustive

Examples of Activities, Risks and Procedures

The above table was formed based on examples listed 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.

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 _____Wed 07.10.26_____ (*most recent review date)*

Signed:*	Kevin Fitzpatrick	**Date**: 07.10.26

Chairperson of the board of management

Signed:*	Kevin Kennedy	**Date**: 07.10.26

Principal/Secretary to the board of management

This Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment is expected to be reviewed again in _____October 2027_____ *(expected review date)*

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.

This online locations for procedures and relevant documents are:

www.gov.ie/childprotectionschools (Department of Education and Youth website)
Children_First_National_Guidance_2017.pdf (Children First National Guidance 2017)
www.slieveruenationalschool.com (school website)

Copies are also available by contacting the school office (digital and hard copies)
A hard copy of this policy is displayed inside the front door of the school.