



Child Safeguarding Statement Our Lady's NS, Nurney, Co. Carlow

Our Lady's NS is a rural mixed primary school providing primary education to pupils from Junior Infants to Sixth Class. The school is under the patronage of the Bishop of Kildare and Leighlin. It currently has two mainstream class teachers and one SET. There is one fulltime SNA in the school. It also has a part-time secretary, and part-time cleaner.

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), the Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools (revised 2023) and Tusla Guidance on the preparation of Child Safeguarding Statements, the Board of Management of [insert school name] has agreed the Child Safeguarding Statement set out in this document.

- 1 The Board of Management has adopted and will implement fully and without modification the Department's *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools (revised 2023)* as part of this overall Child Safeguarding Statement
- 2 The Designated Liaison Person (DLP) is Bláithín Reid
- 3 The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is Eileen Griffin
- 4 The Relevant Person is Bláithín Reid
- 5 The Board of Management recognises that child protection and welfare considerations permeate all aspects of school life and must be reflected in all of the school's policies, procedures, practices and activities. In its policies, procedures, practices and activities, 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 or accidents happening to children and protect workers from the necessity to take unnecessary risks that may leave themselves open to accusations of abuse or neglect;
- develop a practice of openness with parents and encourage parental involvement in the education of their children; and
- fully respect confidentiality requirements in dealing with child protection matters.

The school will also adhere to the above principles in relation to any adult pupil with a special vulnerability.

- 6 The following procedures/measures are in place:

- In relation to any member of staff who is the subject of any investigation (howsoever described) in respect of any act, omission or circumstance in respect of a child attending the school, the school adheres to the relevant procedures set out in Chapter 7 of the *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools (revised 2023)* and to the relevant agreed disciplinary procedures for school staff which are published on the gov.ie website.

- In relation to the selection or recruitment of staff and their suitability to work with children, the school adheres 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 available on the gov.ie website.
- In relation to the provision of information and, where necessary, instruction and training, to staff in respect of the identification of the occurrence of harm (as defined in the 2015 Act) the school-
 - Has provided each member of 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 Board of Management maintains records of all staff and Board member training
- In relation to reporting of child protection concerns to Túsla, all school personnel are required to adhere to the procedures set out in the *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools (revised 2023)*, including in the case of registered teachers, those in relation to mandated reporting under the Children First Act 2015.
- All registered teachers employed by the school are mandated persons under the Children First Act 2015.
- In accordance with the Children First Act 2015 and the Addendum to Children First (2019), the Board has 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.
- The various procedures referred to in this Statement can be accessed via the school's website, the gov.ie website or will be made available on request by the school.
- Kool Kidz Breakfast Club and After-schools service use the school premises from 8am – 9.30am and 1.45pm – 6pm. Kool Kidz are required to have their own Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment. Kool Kidz' Designated Liason Person is Madeleine Forrest.

Note: The above is not intended as an exhaustive list. Individual Boards of Management shall also include in this section such other procedures/measures that are of relevance to the school in question.

- 7 This statement has been published on the school's website and has been provided to all members of school personnel, the Parents' Association and the patron. It is readily accessible to parents and guardians on request. A copy of this Statement will be made available to Tusla and the Department if requested.
- 8 This Child Safeguarding Statement will be reviewed annually or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which this statement refers.

This Child Safeguarding Statement was adopted by the Board of Management on 08/03/2018

This Child Safeguarding Statement was reviewed by the Board of Management on 30/09/2026

Signed: Geranielle Mather

Chairperson of Board of Management

Date: 30/09/26

Signed: Brian Reid

Acting
Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Date: 30/9/26

Appendix 1: Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment

Written Assessment of Risk of Our Lady's N.S. Nurney, Co. Carlow.

In accordance with section 11 of the Children First Act 2015 and with the requirement of Chapter 8 of the *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017*, the following is the Written Risk Assessment of Our Lady's N.S Nurney Co. Carlow.

1. List of school activities

Risk identified	Potential risk of harm	Procedure in place to manage risk identified
Opening/Closing Times and Break Times	Access to pupils by strangers or other adults. Risk of harm from other pupils	Breakfast Club and After-schools service on-site for children who need supervision outside school hours. Adequate Supervision at break times
Visitors/Visiting Tutors e.g. Wellbeing practitioner, Funky Kids, sports coaches etc.	Tutors behaving inappropriately. Tutors lacking awareness of child safety issues.	Visiting tutors from reputable organisations with appropriate vetting. Teacher present at all times Glass panels in doors where appropriate.
School Tours/Outings	Access to pupils by strangers. Inappropriate activity by pupils. Dangers posed by unfamiliar environment	Adequate supervision Adequate planning and preparation by staff. Guidance provided to pupils. Stay Safe strategies.
Access/Egress	Access to pupils by strangers or other adults. Flight risk for some pupils	Magnetic locks on doors. Code changed regularly. Access to visitors by front of school. All gates closed.
Swimming Lessons/Sports Events	Potential for harm by personnel, other adults or other pupils.	Adequate supervision provided. Trained lifeguards in pool. Supervision of changing areas.
Social Media Use of ICT by pupils.	Potential for bullying. Potential for grooming of pupils. Potential to come across unsuitable material.	No mobile devices permitted in school. Anti-Bullying Policy. Acceptable Use Policy <i>Adequate supervision</i> Information sessions for pupils, parents and staff re cyberbullying etc.
One to one teaching	Potential for harm by personnel.	Open doors. Table between teacher and pupil. Glass in panels in door.

One to one with S.N.A.	Potential for harm by personnel.	Use open spaces, open doors.
Children doing messages around the school	Potential for harm by personnel or other students.	Children sent in pairs to look out for each other.
Using toilets at Break times	Potential for harm by personnel or other students.	Children must ask for permission from teacher/SNA on yard duty. Where possible only one child goes at a time. If a child needs help, a friend may go with them to assist e.g. washing hands after a fall.
Kool Kidz' Breakfast Club and After-Schools service	Potential for harm by personnel or other students.	Kool Kidz have their own Child Safe Guarding Statement, Risk Assessment and DLP. Their staff are Garda vetted. Parents must ring the bell to gain access.

Important Note: It should be noted that risk in the context of this 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 Chapter 4 of the *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017*.

In undertaking this 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 risk assessment has been completed by the Board of Management on 30/09/2026. It may need to be added to as new risks identified, and it shall be reviewed as part of the school's annual review of its Child Safeguarding Statement.

Signed Geraniece McKeen Date 30/09/26

Chairperson, Board of Management

Signed Blairtin Reid Date 30/9/26

Acting Principal