

**Our Lady of Good Counsel GNS
Ferrybank, Waterford
Roll No: 12007G**



**Child Safeguarding Statement
and
Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment**

Child Safeguarding Statement

Our Lady of Good Counsel GNS is a Catholic primary school for girls providing primary education to pupils from Junior Infants to Sixth Class.

In accordance with the requirements of the [Children First Act 2015](#), [Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children 2017](#), [the Addendum to Children First \(2019\)](#), the [Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools 2017](#) and [Tusla Guidance on the preparation of Child Safeguarding Statements](#), the Board of Management of **Our Lady of Good Counsel GNS** 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 2017 as part of this overall Child Safeguarding Statement
- 2 The Designated Liaison Person (DLP) is **Catriona O'Reilly**
- 3 The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is **Monica Kelly**
- 4 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.

- 5 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 2017 and to the relevant agreed disciplinary procedures for school staff which are published on the DE 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 DE 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 Tusla, all school personnel are required to adhere to the procedures set out in the Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017, including in the case of registered teachers, those in relation to mandated reporting under the Children First Act 2015.

 - In this school the Board has appointed the abovenamed DLP as the “relevant person” (as defined in the Children First Act 2015) to be the first point of contact in respect of the schools child safeguarding statement.

 - 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 DE website or will be made available on request by the school.
- 6 This statement has been published on the school’s website and has been provided to all members of school personnel, the Parents’ Association (if any) 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.
- 7 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 **9th November 2021**.

This Child Safeguarding Statement was reviewed by the Board of Management on **9th November 2021**.

Signed: ***D. Walsh***

Chairperson of Board of Management

Date: ***9th November 2021***

Signed: ***C. O’Reilly***

Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Date: ***9th November 2021***

Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment

Written Assessment of Risk of Our Lady of Good Counsel GNS

In accordance with section 11 of the Children First Act 2015 and with the requirements of Chapter 8 of the *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017*, the following is the Written Risk Assessment of [name of school].

1. List of school activities

Training of school personnel in Child Protection matters
One to one teaching
Curricular provision in respect of SPHE, RSE and Stay Safe
Daily arrival of pupils before school starts
Pupils on grounds after school day ends
Visiting sports coaches/tutors/theatre groups, etc.
Music Teacher and Foróige Tutors
Toilet breaks
Students on Work Placement or Work Experience
Care of children with SEN, including Intimate Care Needs and unplanned Care Needs for other pupils
Parent Volunteers
Use of off-site facilities for school activities e.g. Swimming pool GAA club Library
Unauthorised access to the building
Pupils on messages/going to the bathroom during school day
Use of ICTs and social media at school
Recreation breaks for pupils
Bullying
Use of online learning platforms
Zoom Calls for online communication with pupils and parents

2. The school has identified the following risk of harm in respect of its activities -

Harm not recognised or reported promptly
Harm by school personnel
Non-teaching of same
Harm from older pupils, unknown adults on the playground
Harm from older pupils, unknown adults on the playground
Harm to pupils
Harm to pupils
Inappropriate behaviour
Harm by students
Harm by school personnel
Harm to pupils
Harm to pupils
Harm to pupils
Inappropriate behaviour
Harm to pupils from visitors/others waiting in front hall
Inappropriate contact with others

Harm to pupils
Harm to pupils from unauthorised entry by others
Harm to pupils
Harm to pupils from online sources
Harm to pupils from unauthorised entry by others

3. The school has the following procedures in place to address the risks of harm identified in this assessment -

Child Safe Guarding Statement and DES procedures made available to all school personnel. All personnel to view Tusla training module and online training provided by the PDST. DLP and Deputy DLP to engage in PDST online training DLP and Deputy DLP to attend PDST face to face training BOM maintains record of all employee and Board training
School procedure for one to one teaching in place: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Glass in window to be kept clear of posters, etc. Keep table between pupil and teacher
School implements SPHE, RSE and Stay Safe in full
Parents/Guardians informed every term of arrangements for before and after school
Parents/Guardians informed every term of arrangements for before and after school
Procedures in place: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teacher present with coaches, etc. at all times Vetting procedures in place
School procedure in place: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Glass in window to be kept clear of posters, etc. • No one to one tutoring – must always be more than one child present Vetting procedures in place
Supervision procedures in place
Procedures in place <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must be over 16 years of age and vetted appropriately • Welcome Pack provided, which includes copy of Child Safety Statement and procedures for reporting concerns Supervised at all times by staff members
Vetting procedures in place for SNAs and arrangements agreed with parents/guardians around toileting, feeding and supervising medical needs. Policy on Intimate Care to be developed. As an interim measure: Two staff members should be present if a child needs help changing clothes due to wetting or soiling
Procedure in place <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vetting for ongoing involvement • Form of Undertaking to be signed for once off events No unsupervised access to pupils
Procedures in place <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pupils to be supervised by school personnel at all times School personnel to be present in changing rooms, have line of sight to pool and pool deck, accompany pupils to toilets if needed during lesson
Intercom system in place Authorised visitors given badge to wear.

Safety, Health and Welfare Policy in place
Pupils sent in pairs.
No unsupervised use of the internet by pupils during school hours Mobile Phones and Electronic Devices Policy in place Acceptable Use Policy in place.
Recreation breaks supervised by school personnel. Two adults present on each yard. <i>Due to staggered yard breaks during the Covid-19 Pandemic, only one class uses each yard at a time. Therefore, supervision is provided by one adult on each yard.</i>
Anti-Bullying Policy in place. Reviewed annually.
Training for staff in the use of online learning platforms. Information on the correct use of online learning platforms shared with parents/guardians. Pupils trained by teachers in the use of online platforms. Acceptable Use Policy reviewed and updated to include the use of online learning platforms.
Protocols for the use of Zoom in place Protocols shared with parents/guardians. Reminder about protocols at the beginning of every Zoom call. Two members of staff on each call to assist with management of participants. Acceptable Use Policy reviewed and updated to include the use of Zoom.

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.