The Board of Management of Scoil Chroí Mhuire gan Smál Sinsear 17727T has taken the following steps in adopting the school's Child Safeguarding and Risk Assessment:

- Our school has used the templates provided on www.gov.ie/childprotectionschools to develop its Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment and its student friendly version. These are now displayed in a prominent position near the main entrance of the school.

- Our school has consulted with school personnel, parents/carers and our children and young people when reviewing our Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment and its student-friendly version. We have retained a record of these consultations.

- Our school has informed the patron, school personnel, our parents' association, and our parents/carers that the review has been undertaken using the notification template provided by the department.

- Our school has published the Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment and notification of its review on our website or will be made available on request by the school

CSS1
Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment

For:	Scoil Chroí Mhuire gan Smál
At:	School Rd, Belmullet, Co. Mayo F26H285

This school is a: *(tick appropriate)*

√ primary D postprimary D 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):

Carol Gaughan Lennon

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

Assumpta Lavelle

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

Name of Relevant Person

Carol Gaughan Lennon

Relevant Person can be contacted on:

carolgaughan@yahoo.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:

Frank Carey

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 cooperate 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 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.

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 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.

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.

Location of copies of the Child Protection Procedures and Children First Guidelines

Online: www.gov.ie/childprotectionschools
School website belmulletsnrns@gmail.com

Number and location of hard copies of these procedures available in the school.

Resource Room
Principal's Office

Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment

Written Assessment of Risk of Scoil Chroí Mhuire gan Smál

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.

1.List of school activities	**2. Risks identified against each school activity**	**3.Procedures / Measures in place to mitigate risk**
Training of school personnel in Child Protection matters	Harm not recognised or reported promptly after training has been received. Inadequate or training missed by staff.	Child Safeguarding Statement & DES procedures made available to all staff The Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025 are made available to all school personnel DLP & DDLP attended Oide face to face training in New Procedures 2025 All staff attended Oide training in new procedures 2025 All Staff to view Túsla training module & any other online training offered by Oide BOM keeps all records of staff and board training and ensures any training missed will be facilitated.
One to one teaching	Harm by school personnel False accusations	School has policy in place for one-to-one teaching There should be a table between teacher and pupil One to one teaching is carried out in situations where there is a glass panel in the door if possible Work being carried out by the Special Needs Assistants will be carried out on the direction of the class teacher Code of Conduct for teachers (Teaching Council)

1.List of school activities	2. **Risks identified against each school activity**	**3.Procedures / Measures in place to mitigate risk**
Care of Children with special needs.	Harm by school personnel Flight Risk children	Policy on intimate care Outside gates kept closed at all times during day (signage)
Toilet areas	Inappropriate behaviour	Usage and supervision policy
Curricular Provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay safe.	Inadequate or non-teaching of same	School implements SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe in full
Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils	Harm from older pupils, unknown adults on the playground	Arrival and dismissal supervised by Teachers Proper practice and procedures. EG specific lining up areas. Children remain outside school gate until 9:00am
Managing of challenging behaviour amongst pupils, including appropriate use of restraint	Injury to pupils and staff	Health and Safety Policy Code Of Behaviour Policy (which includes restraint)
Sports Coaches	Harm to pupils	Policy & Procedures in place Garda Vetting procedures in place Teacher always present
Recreation breaks for pupils	Inappropriate behaviour	Code of Behaviour

	Harm by other students Flight risk	Special Provisions for SEN children Anti Bullying Policy/ Supervision Policy
Classroom teaching	Harm by school personnel Harm by other pupils	Classroom rules/Code of Behaviour Glass in doors
Outdoor teaching activities	Harm by school personnel Harm by pupils Stranger on school grounds	Code of Behaviour Anti Bullying Policy / Bí Cineálta Children under teachers' supervision
Children task outside classroom	Risk to pupils	Children always go in pairs
Sporting Activities	Unfamiliar surroundings Harm to pupils Inappropriate behaviour Harm by outside coaches Privacy of children not respected	PE Policy Code of Behaviour Anti Bullying Policy / Bí Cineálta Policies and procedures in place Proper vetting procedures in place Personnel in charge of school teams do not enter the changing rooms until all children are in their games attire. Personnel will remain outside the dressing room door within easy reach should they be required.
School outings	Harm to pupils Inappropriate behaviour Risk of child being harmed by a member of school personnel, a member of staff another organisation or other person	School tours Policy Code of Behaviour Anti Bullying Policy / Bí Cineálta

	while child participating in out of school activities	
Use of toilet/changing/shower areas in schools	Harm by school personnel Harm by other pupils Inappropriate behaviour	Usage and Supervision Policy Intimate Care Policy

Annual Sports Day	Harm by known and unknown personnel Harm by pupils Inappropriate behaviour	Adequate supervision Code of Behaviour Anti Bullying Policy / Bí Cineálta PE Policy
Fundraising events involving pupils	Harm to pupils due to unknown adults Inappropriate behaviour	Proper supervision by staff/BoM members Code of Behaviour
Parents collecting children early	Risk to pupils	Checkout system with secretary
Emergency situation	Harm to pupils	Critical incident plan
Transport to matches etc.	Harm/Injury to pupils Inappropriate behaviour	Garda vetting of drivers
Administration of Medicine Administration of First Aid	Injury to pupils	Administration of Medicines policy and permissions Lifesaving medicines stored in separate classroom cabinet. E.g. Epipen, inhalers, insulin Staff & SNA's only have access

		Training for staff
Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst pupils	Non-teaching of Anti Bullying strategies Non implementation of Anti Bullying Policy	Anti Bullying Policy (Bí Cineálta) Anti Bullying workshops and talks for adults and children (including cyber bullying) School implements SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe in full
Use of external personnel to supplement curriculum	Harm to pupils by unknown personnel	Proper procedures and supervision Garda vetting procedures followed
Care of pupils with specific vulnerabilities/ needs such as Pupils from ethnic minorities/migrants Members of the Traveller community Pupils of minority religious faiths Children in care Children on CPNS	Exclusion and Discrimination Bullying Harm by school personnel Harm by pupils	Enrolment Policy Anti Bullying Policy / Bí Cineálta Code of Behaviour Policy on intimate care School implements SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe in full Right to withdraw or not participate in religious instruction
Recruitment of school personnel including - Teachers SNAs Caretaker/Secretary/Cleaners	Harm not recognised or properly or promptly reported Procedures for appointment not being followed	Child Safeguarding Statement & DES procedures made available to all staff Staff to view Túsla training module & any other online or face to face training offered by Oide

Sports coaches External Tutors/Guest Speakers		Vetting Procedures
Volunteers/Parents -school activities Visitors/contractors present in school during school hours Visitors/contractors present during after school activities	Harm to pupils by unknown personnel	• Proper supervision • Vetting procedures

Use of Information and Communication Technology by pupils in school	Inappropriate use of the internet and apps Risk of harm due to children inappropriately accessing/using computers, social media, phones and other devices while at school Cyber bullying Risk to teachers	ICT policy Anti-Bullying Policy / Bí Cineálta Code of Behaviour Internet Acceptable Use Policy Mobile phones banned in school Supervision while using devices
Application of sanctions under the school's Code of Behaviour including detention of pupils, confiscation of phones etc.	Harm by school personnel Fair procedures not being followed	Code of Discipline Supervision Policy Mobile phones banned Parental Complaints Procedure
Student teachers/ TY students undertaking training	New adults in the school and harm by same	Proper practices and procedures i.e., class teacher is in attendance at the same time

placement or work experience in school		Proper vetting procedures and Indemnity Insurance through colleges Making student aware of Child Safeguarding Statement Work Experience Policy

Use of video/photography/other media to record school events	Harm to pupil/teachers Invasion of privacy Parents videoing children and uploading the same	Internet Acceptable Use Policy Reminder at events about not sharing on social media
After school use of school premises by other organisations	Harm to pupils if involved	Copies of all relevant documentation always given, i.e., insurances, vetting etc.
Summer Programme	Harm to pupils	Proper vetting & procedures DLP or DDLP present Internet Acceptable Use Policy Adequate supervision
Management of provision of hot lunches	Harm to pupils	Vetting for Operative Lunches handed to pupils and placed in plastic boxes Provision for allergies
Risk of harm due to children inappropriately accessing/ using computers, social media and other devices in school	Harm to pupils	Mobile phones banned in school Computers/ ipads only used under supervision Social media blocked by school

Care of pupils with special educational needs	Harm to pupils	Supervision Policy