



Child Protection Policy

1. Introduction

Scoil Treasa Naofa is committed to the creation of a happy, secure environment conducive to the physical, emotional, spiritual and academic development of its pupils in all their individual uniqueness.

2. Purpose & Scope

This policy sets out how Scoil Treasa Naofa, Kilflynn 15033W will comply with the Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025 and related legislation/guidance.

The best interests of the child are paramount. The safety, wellbeing and protection of children will take precedence over all other considerations.

3. Legal & Policy Framework

- Children First Act 2015
 - Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children 2017
 - Addendum to Children First (2025)
 - Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025 (Circular 0041/2025)
- https://assets.gov.ie/static/documents/Child_Protection_Procedures_for_Schools_2025.pdf?fbclid=IwY2xjawMxbCZleHRuA2FlbQIxMQABHs_i1HfA5jxBsuGjhYLRW9AKM_MXs8z2lCAb7CnPuA4RiZqVZLMLic4elWKm_aem_hDLIgCQH1NO7jnIsaajgpA

4. Definitions

Includes definitions of:

- Abuse (physical, emotional, sexual, neglect)
- Retrospective abuse allegations
- Mandated persons vs non-mandated personnel
- DLP-Designated Liaison Person and DDLP-Deputy Designated Liaison Person
- School personnel

5. Roles & Responsibilities

- Board of Management: Ensure children are safe, risk assessments, safeguarding statement, oversight.
- Designated Liaison Person (DLP): Receives reports, liaises with Tusla/Gardaí, maintains case files.
- Deputy DLP: Supports/acts when DLP unavailable.
- Principal: Oversight and reporting.
- Patron: Oversight where Board is non-compliant.
- All personnel: Familiarity with and adherence to policy; report concerns.

6. Child Safeguarding Statement & Risk Assessment

Child Safeguarding Statement must:

- Identify potential harm in school activities (Risk Assessment)
- Specify measures to reduce risks
- State the relevant person (DLP)
- Be published, displayed, reviewed annually
- Include student-friendly version

7. Reporting Procedures

- Be alert to signs of abuse including bullying and online risks.
- Mandated persons must report as required under law.
- All concerns to be reported to DLP; urgent cases directly to Tusla/An Garda.

- Procedures for allegations against school employees, including where against DLP.
- Maintain confidential case files.

Key Principles

- School personnel are especially well placed to observe changes in children's behaviour, their lack of development or outward signs of abuse.
- In any situation where a member of school personnel receives an allegation or has a suspicion that a child may have been abused or neglected, is being abused or neglected, or is at risk of abuse or neglect, they shall, without delay, report the matter to the designated liaison person (DLP).
- In all circumstances, where the DLP is unsure whether a report is required, they should contact Tusla for advice.
- Where a concern relates to the DLP, the member of school personnel shall report the matter to the chairperson of the board of management or in schools where the ETB is the employer, the Chief Executive Officer of the ETB or their delegate.
- All school personnel must have due regard to the need for confidentiality at all times. Requirements of confidentiality, as outlined elsewhere in this document, do not prevent.
- All school personnel should be aware that section 17 of the Children First Act 2015 makes it an offence for a person to disclose information to a third party which has been shared by Tusla during the course of an assessment arising from a mandated report, save in accordance with law, or unless Tusla has given that person written authorisation to do so. Failure to comply with this section of the Act is an offence liable to a fine or imprisonment for up to six months or both.
- Where a child transfers from or leaves a school and where the DLP has previously made a child protection report relating to that child or is aware that a child protection report relating to that child has been made by a member of school personnel to Tusla in the past, the DLP should inform Tusla of the child's transfer/move.
- Failure by any member of school personnel to report a matter to Tusla where advised by Tusla to do so or to otherwise fail to comply with these procedures is a serious matter. It may also be a disciplinary matter and should be reported to and dealt with separately by the employer in accordance with the relevant disciplinary procedures.

Always refer to Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025 (Circular 0041/2025) for outlines and details on how to report.

https://assets.gov.ie/static/documents/Child_Protection_Procedures_for_Schools_2025.pdf?fbclid=IwY2xjawMxbCZleHRuA2FlbQIxMQABHs_i1HfA5jxBsuGjhYLRW9AKM_MXs8z2lCAb7CnPua4RiZqVZLMLic4elWKm_aem_hDLIgCQHINO7jnIsaajgpA

7. Recruitment, Vetting & Statutory Declaration

- Garda Vetting required for all relevant staff/volunteers.
- References, statutory declaration and undertaking to be obtained before starting.

8. Training & Supports

- Mandatory training on 2025 procedures for all personnel (Sept 2025–Dec 2026).
- DLP/DDLP to receive specialised training.
- Refresher training every three years.

9. Oversight & Monitoring

- Board receives Child Protection Oversight Report each meeting/at BOM meetings.
- Annual review of safeguarding statement and risk assessment, consultation with stakeholders.
- Publish notice of review and inform Patron and Parents' Association and all parents on our school website www.kilflynnschool.ie

10. Related Policies & Practices

- Bí Cineálta Policy
- SPHE / wellbeing curriculum Plans and Policy
- Procedures for trips/off-site activities-School Trips Policy
- Online safety and technology use-AUP Policy

Child Protection concerns shall not be dealt with under the school's parental complaints procedures. Only where it has been assessed that there is no child protection concern, should the school consider using relevant local procedures to deal with the issue, including but not limited to the school's parental complaints procedure, The Bí Cineálta

Procedures to Prevent and Address Bullying Behaviour for Primary and Post-Primary Schools, Understanding Behaviours of Concern and Responding to Crisis Situations
Guidelines for Schools, disciplinary policies or the school's wellbeing policy

11. Confidentiality & Data Protection

- Confidentiality respected; information shared only on need-to-know basis.
- Records stored securely, in line with GDPR and data protection law.

12. Policy Review

- Reviewed annually, or sooner if legislation/procedures change.
- Feedback from students, parents, staff included in review.
- Approved by Board of Management and communicated to all stakeholders.

13. Contact Information

Designated Liaison Person (DLP): Nora Falvey

Deputy DLP (DDL P): Maria Cunningham

Chairperson of BOM: Caroline Lynch

The policy was ratified by the Board of Management of St. Teresa's National School on

Date: September 2025

Signed: Caroline Lynch_____

Chairperson, Board of Management

Signed: Nora Falvey_____

Principal and Secretary BOM

The contents of this policy have been approved by St. Senan's Education Office, acting on behalf of the Patron.