CSS1

Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment

For:	**Caherea National School**	*(School Name)*
At:	**Caherea, Ennis, Co. Clare**	*(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):

Aisling Shannon

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

Sarah Keating

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

Name of Relevant Person

Aisling Shannon

(In schools this person is the DLP)

Relevant Person can be contacted on:

065 6834029	Principal.cahereans@gmail.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:

Cora Kelly

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	Unknown adults on playground and in the school building and harm from older pupils	Supervision by a teacher on yard from 9:05am and from 3:00pm to 3:10pm. Doorbell at the main door
2.	Visitors/Visiting Tutors	Visitors behaving inappropriately and having access to children	Visitors will be from reputable organisations and vetting will be sought if they have regular contact with children. A teacher will be present at all times.
3.	School Tours/Outings	Access to pupils by strangers Inappropriate activity by pupils Dangers posed by unfamiliar environment	Pupils are fully supervised by teachers at all times. Venues and transport chosen after careful consideration of safety and educational value. School Tour Policy
4.	Social Media access at school	Potential for bullying Potential for grooming pupils	Mobile phones or other smart devices are not allowed in the school and on the rare occasion where they are, it must be handed to the class teacher for the duration of the day. The internet in the school is filtered by the School Broadband Service to restrict access to these sites. Anti-Bullying Policy Acceptable Usage Policy Stay Safe Policy
5.	Child Safeguarding training for staff	Harm may not be recognised or reported properly	Child Safeguarding Statement and DES procedures made available to staff All staff to have completed online training Child Safeguarding discussed at first staff meeting in September. Staff are made aware of Child Safeguarding training taking place. DLP attends training on any changes to Child Safeguarding procedures BOM records and notes all staff CPD in the area of Child Safeguarding.

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
6.	One-to-One teaching	Harm by school personnel	Door fitted with clear glass so that teacher and pupil are visible at all times. Where possible, and with consideration to teaching taking place, the teacher will keep a table between them and the pupil.
7.	Care of children with SEN including intimate care where needed	Harm by school personnel	Where intimate care of pupils is needed, two adults will be present. On an occasion when an SNA is in a one-to-one situation with a pupil (activities/movement breaks etc.) the class teacher will be aware of the nature and location of the activity and the SNA will ensure that it takes place in a location where both the SNA and pupil are clearly visible.
8.	Toilet areas	Inappropriate behaviour	One child from each classroom only allowed to use the toilet at any one time. Pupils must ask permission from staff to use the toilet and non-teaching staff must notify the class teacher if they have allowed a pupil go to the toilet.
9.	Curricular provision i respect of SPHE. RSE, Stay Safe programmes	Programmes not being taught to their class by mainstream teachers	School fully implements these programmes as per school policy (SPHE, RSE and Stay Safe Policies). Staff are encouraged to attend CPD in these areas when available.
10.	Sports Coaches	Harm to pupils	All coaches on a regular basis are to be Garda Vetted. A staff member is present at all times.
11.	Sporting Activities	Harm by pupils, school personnel and unknown adults	Pupils are supervised by staff at all times. Code of Behaviour and Health, Safety and Welfare policies are followed.
12.	Students participating in work experience	Harm by student	All students over the age of 16 are Garda Vetted. Forms are signed by student and principal.

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
			Staff present at all times when student is with pupils. Child Safeguarding Statement
13.	Recreation breaks	Harm by pupils and school personnel	A staff member is present on the yard at all times No-Go areas on the school grounds to ensure that pupils are visible to adults on the yard.
14.	Classroom teaching	Harm by school personnel	Teacher visible to pupils at all times. Teachers to keep class door open when possible (heating or noise transfer may impact on this) or to have see-through glass in the class door.
15.	Recruitment of school personnel	Harm not recognised or properly reported Harm by school personnel	Garda Vetting checks. Undertaking and Statutory Declaration. New staff informed of TUSLA and PDST online CPD. Child Safeguarding Statement given to new staff and role explained. Child Safeguarding discussed at staff meetings.
16.	Use of video, websites, school online platforms, DVDs, etc.	Child harmed by content Risk of harm not being reported properly and promptly by school personnel Risk of child being harmed in the school by another child	Staff must check videos, websites, DVDs, etc. before using them with a class. Website filtering in place provided by School Broadband Service. Anti-Bullying Policy Acceptable Usage Policy All staff have access to software to monitor student behaviour on school platforms (Google Classroom and SeeSaw)
17.	Use of video call software with pupils	Child harmed by content Risk of harm not being reported properly and promptly Risk of child being harmed by another child or adult	Acceptable Usage Policy Guidelines for Video Conferencing Anti-Bullying Policy
18.	Administration of First Aid/Medicine	Harm by school personnel	Staff should be clearly visible when administering First Aid/Medicine to pupils.

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
19.	Pupils participating in religious ceremonies/sacramental preparations	Harm by pupils or unknown adults	Adequate staff supervision Personnel to be Garda Vetted
20.	Extra-Curricular Activities	Harm by school personnel or pupils	Regular facilitators will be Garda vetted Once-off facilitators will have a staff member present at all times Class door open if it is an indoor activity
21.	Sports Day	Harm by pupils or unknown adults	Supervision by staff at all times Staff are conscious of pupils going in to use the toilet and will do regular checks of the inside of the school Unaccompanied children supervised by staff
22.	Swimming Lessons	Harm by pupils or unknown adults	Coaches have completed Garda vetting. Schools uses school changing rooms that are closed to the public during their swimming session. Staff may assist pupils in dressing if necessary and this must be done in the school changing room in the view of other pupils and/or staff. No child is to be alone with a staff member or coach at any time. Full teaching of Stay Safe Programme.
23.	After school use of school premises by other organisations	Risk of harm not being recognised by school personnel Risk of child being harmed in the school by another child Risk of child being harmed in the school by volunteer or visitor to the school	Organisation provides Garda vetting for all adults. Organisation provides a Child Safeguarding Statement. St. Senan's Education Office is informed and all of their criteria are met.
24.	Use of video/photography/other media to record school events	School personnel or others circulating inappropriate media of a pupil	Media should never be used in a one-to-one setting. Media should only be stored on the school computer/hard-drive, posted on the school FaceBook page or the school website. Media should be deleted by staff from the device used to take it

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
			immediately after it is transferred to one of the above destinations. Parents must sign to say they agree to media being used with their child. Photography or videoing is not permitted in the swimming pool or changing rooms. At concerts, adults are allowed to take photographs. However, any behaviour deemed to be suspicious will be reported to the DLP In line with our AUP (Acceptable Usage Policy), children should not be labelled or tagged on the school's website or Facebook page. Parents/guardians have the right at all times to disallow photos of their child(ren) to be taken or used online or in any other way.
25.	School Access	Harm by unknown persons	The school must put in place procedures and infrastructure in relation to this: • Front door access by bell • Access during school day through front door only • Visitors must sign in and sign out at the front door of the school • Access to classrooms during the school day is monitored Deliveries during school hours supervised by ancillary staff

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 _____ *(most recent review date)*

Signed:*	Caroline Keady	**Date:** 18/10/26

Chairperson of the board of management

Signed:*	Aisling Shannon	**Date:** 18/10/26

Principal/Secretary to the board of management

This Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment is expected to be reviewed again on 18/10/27 *(expected review date)*

** Document to be printed and signed with original signatures*

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.

Soft Copies

School website

Shared with parents and patron body

Hard Copies

School office

School entrance

Each classroom