

# Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment 2025/26

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Ardcroyne NS

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Nenagh, Co. Tipperary





## CHILD SAFEGUARDING RISK ASSESSMENT

### WRITTEN ASSESSMENT OF RISK OF ARDCRONEY NS

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 Assessment of Risk of Ardcroney National School. The assessment consists of (1) a list of school activities, (b) risks of harm identified in respect of these activities and (c) the procedures in place to address the identified risks of harm.

**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 as set out in Chapter 4 of the *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017* and in accordance with Part 1, Section 2 of the Children First act, 2015, is as follows:

“harm” means, in relation to a child-

- (a) *assault, ill-treatment or neglect of a child in a manner that seriously affects or is likely to 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 combinations of acts, omissions or circumstances, or otherwise;*

“ill-treatment” means, in relation to a child, *to abandon or cruelly treat the child,*

*or to cause or procure or allow the child to be abandoned or cruelly treated;*

“neglect” means, in relation to a child, *to deprive the child of adequate food, warmth, clothing, hygiene, supervision, safety or medical care;*

“welfare” means, in relation to a child, *the moral, intellectual, physical, emotional and social welfare of the child.*



List of School Activities	Identified Risks of Harm	Procedures to address Risks of Harm	Level of Harm (low, medium, high)
Daily arrival of pupils at 9.00 am	Inadequate supervision of pupils Bullying by other pupils	Supervision of children by their parents Code of Behaviour Anti-Bullying Policy Code of Conduct for Parents & Visitors	Medium
Daily dismissal of pupils at 1.40 pm (Infant classes) and 2.40pm (First to Sixth Classes)	Children being collected by adults not known to them Children being collected by incorrect parent in cases of family conflict or where barring orders are in place Children not being collected at all Inappropriate conduct of parents/childminders/family members on site Bullying by other pupils	Code of Conduct for Parents & Visitors Infants & 1 <sup>st</sup> class pupils are handed over to the parent/guardian/childminder by the teacher. Senior pupils who are not collected know the rule is to return into the school where the teacher will phone the parent. In cases where the parent cannot collect a child, the parent is expected to inform the school and give the name of the person who will collect the child. Pupils who are collected late to wait in corridor with supervising teacher. Other staff to remain present in school. In the case of family conflict where an instruction has been given to the school that a named person is not to collect the child and attempts to do so, the parent who normally collects the child will be contacted without delay. In the meantime, the Principal will prevent, insofar as is practicable, the parent from taking the child from the school.	High



			In the case where a barring order is in place, and a parent against whom the barring order is in place attempts to collect the child, the other parent and An Garda Síochána will be contacted without delay. In the meantime, the Principal will prevent, insofar as is practicable, the parent from taking the child from the school.	
Entry & exit of school building	Harm by visitors to school Flight risks		All doors to be locked & gates closed at 9.40am every day with entry only via supervised Reception door. All doors to be locked after recreation breaks.	
Recreation breaks	Inadequate supervision of pupils Bullying by other pupils Harm by Senior volunteer pupils		Adequate supervision of pupils Anti-Bullying Policy Protocols for Volunteers All doors to be opened by teacher on yard duty	Medium
Whole class teaching	Harm by school personnel		Classroom doors fitted with glass panels  Two or more members of staff present in some classes, e.g. class teacher and special needs assistants  Storerrooms out of bounds to pupils	Low
In-class group teaching	Harm by school personnel		SEN policy Minimum of two school personnel present Storerrooms out of bounds to pupils	Low
Small group learning support teaching in a SEN room	Harm by school personnel		SEN policy Classroom doors fitted with glass panels Storerrooms out of bounds to pupils	Low
One to one learning support teaching in a learning support room	Harm by school personnel		SEN policy Classroom doors fitted with glass panels Storerrooms out of bounds to pupils Door to remain open	Medium



One to one complex needs teaching in a learning support room	Harm by school personnel	SEN policy Classroom doors fitted with glass panels Storerooms out of bounds to pupils Door to remain open	Medium
SNA's travelling with child to SEN room, removing for movement break or comforting when upset	Harm by school personnel	SEN policy Remain in corridor or at front foyer/reception area	Medium
Care of children with special educational needs, including intimate care needs	Harm by school personnel Sexual abuse	Child Safeguarding Statement Implementation of Child Protection Procedures Two adults present at all times SNA policy SEN policy	High
Care of pupils with specific vulnerabilities/needs, e.g. children of the Travelling Community, migrants, children of minority religious faiths, children in care, LGBT children, pupils perceived to be LGBT, children on the Child Protection Notification System	Harm by school personnel Bullying by peers	Compliance with all legislation and DES circulars regarding Garda Vetting Anti-Bullying Policy Culture of Respect document	Medium



Use of toilet facilities around school	Harm by school personnel or peers Inappropriate behaviour	Toilets are in classroom and therefore supervised by teacher during class time Rule that only one child is allowed in a toilet at any time Junior children who need toilet from yard are accompanied by Senior pupil who waits at external exit door but has view of pupil entering bathroom  Senior pupils who need toilet from yard use their toilet room with peer waiting at external door	High
Curricular provision in respect of SPHE, RSE and Stay Safe	Non-teaching or inadequate teaching of material	School implements SPHE, RSE and Stay Safe in full	Low
Teaching of the Physical Education Curriculum in the school hall / yard	Harm by school personnel	PE Plan Glass panel in doors	Low
Teaching of the Science Curriculum in outdoors settings in the school grounds and/or in local settings away from the school	Harm by school personnel	Minimum of two members of staff present in so far as possible Science Plan	Low
School tours	Harm by school personnel, parent volunteers or by employees of tour centres Bullying by peers	School Tour policy Minimum of two members of staff present at all times	High



<p>Sporting activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● school teams in Cumanna mBunscol competitions in football and hurling, local football, hurling and rugby blitzes, including training and games</li> <li>● in-school tag rugby training by Munster Branch coach</li> <li>● in-school GAA training by local hurling coach</li> <li>● in-school football training by FAI</li> <li>● Tennis coaching</li> <li>● Kickboxing coaching</li> <li>● Cycling training</li> </ul>	<p>Harm by school personnel or external personnel</p> <p>Inappropriate relationship/communications between child &amp; another adult/child</p> <p>Bullying by peers</p>	<p>Child Safeguarding Statement provided to all personnel, both internal and external</p> <p>Minimum of two school personnel present at all external training sessions and matches</p> <p>Teacher / SNA is present at in-school coaching sessions by external coaches</p> <p>Pupils changing into sportswear to do so in a manner preserving dignity &amp; privacy</p>	<p>High</p>
<p>Swimming at Nenagh Pool</p>	<p>Harm by school personnel, parent volunteers or external personnel</p> <p>Inappropriate relationship/communications between child &amp; another adult/child</p>	<p>Child Safeguarding Statement provided to all personnel, both internal and external</p> <p>Minimum of two school personnel present at all swimming lessons for supervision of toilets, changing rooms &amp; boarding bus</p>	<p>High</p>



	<p>Inappropriate recording (video or photograph) of pupils at pool / changing areas</p> <p>Subsequent inappropriate use and/or circulation of material via social media, texting, digital device or other manner</p>	<p>Teacher / SNA is present at poolside during swimming sessions by external coaches</p> <p>Mobile Phone &amp; Electronic device policy</p> <p>Pupils changing to do so in a manner preserving dignity &amp; privacy</p>	
Active Schools Week	<p>Harm by school personnel and/or parents or other spectators</p> <p>Inappropriate recording (video or photograph) of pupils</p> <p>Subsequent inappropriate use and/or circulation of material via social media, texting, digital device or other manner</p>	<p>All school staff present</p> <p>Parents/spectators separated from sports area</p> <p>Mobile Phone &amp; Electronic Device policy</p>	High
Christmas Concert/Performances & plays	<p>Harm by school personnel and/or parents or other spectators</p> <p>Inappropriate recording (video or photograph) of pupils</p> <p>Subsequent inappropriate use and/or circulation of material via social media, texting, digital device or other manner</p>	<p>All school staff present</p> <p>Mobile Phone &amp; Electronic Device policy</p> <p>Pupils changing into costume to do so in a manner preserving dignity &amp; privacy</p>	High



Fundraising or social events organised by Parents' Association	Harm by school personnel and/or parents/guardians	Child Safeguarding Statement and DES Procedures made available to all relevant parents Minimum of two parents present School staff present insofar as possible Code of Conduct for Parents & Visitors	Medium
Fundraising events organised by pupils	Harm by school personnel, peers and/or visitors to the event	School staff present Pupils not left alone in hall during organisation Code of Conduct for Parents & Visitors	Medium
Participation in religious ceremonies	Harm by parish personnel Inappropriate relationship/communications between child & another adult/child	Child Safeguarding Statement and DES Procedures made available to all relevant parish personnel Preparation for sacraments takes place in an open area such as the church Confessions take place in an open area School staff present at all times	Medium
Administration of First Aid	Harm by school personnel	Correct administration of First Aid First Aid training for school personnel First Aid administered in open area in view of others	Low
Administration of medication	Incorrect administration of medication	Administration of Medication Policy Parents must request administration of medication from BOM & sign indemnity form Parent must maintain supply of correct medication in date Parent must supply school with correct instructions on administration, including correct dose, time and method	High
Volunteers/Parents	Harm to pupils	Vetting Procedures Policy for Parents/Volunteers Code of Conduct for Parents & Visitors School Tour policy	High



Recruitment of school personnel including teachers, SNAs, caretaker, secretary, cleaners, etc.	Harm by school personnel Harm not recognised or promptly reported	Compliance with all legislation and DES circulars regarding Garda Vetting Child Safeguarding Statement and DES Procedures made available to all new personnel	Low
Recruitment of contractors & maintenance staff during school hours and/or during after schools activities	Harm by personnel Harm not recognised or promptly reported	Compliance with all legislation and DES circulars regarding Garda Vetting Child Safeguarding Statement and DES Procedures made available to all new personnel Code of Conduct for Parents & Visitors	High
Recruitment of sports coaches, external tutors, guest speakers, parents support in school activities	Harm by personnel Harm not recognised or promptly reported	Compliance with all legislation and DES circulars regarding Garda Vetting Child Safeguarding Statement and DES Procedures made available to all new personnel Code of Conduct for Parents & Visitors	Medium
Training of school personnel in child protection and welfare matters	Harm not recognised or reported promptly to the DLP or DDL	Child Safeguarding Statement supplied to all school personnel. DES Child Protection Procedures made available to all school personnel. BOM records all records of staff and board training DLP & DDL to attend PDST face to face training All Staff to view Tusla training module & any other online training offered by PDST BOM members to attend available training from CPSMA Induction of new personnel Presentation of certificate of participation in Tusla online training	Low
Prevention & dealing of bullying amongst pupils	Bullying Harm by personnel	Implementation of Anti-Bullying Policy and Code of Behaviour Glass panel in Principal's office Stay Safe programme	Medium



	Harm not recognised or promptly reported	Walk Tall programme	
Use of IT among pupils	Cyberbullying Exposure to inappropriate material	Digital Learning Plan incorporating: Anti-Bullying Policy Code of Behaviour Acceptable Use Policy Mobile Phone & Electronic device policy NCTE Safety applications on school server Staff always present during pupil use of IT	High
Use of video/photography/other media to record school events	Inappropriate use and/or circulation of material via social media, texting, digital device or other manner	Mobile Phone & Electronic Device Policy Staff Protocols & Procedures Communication to parents at whole school events	High
Use of external personnel to support curriculum	Harm by external personnel Inappropriate relationship/communications between child & another adult/child	Child Safeguarding Statement provided to all personnel Class teacher present at all times Compliance with all legislation and DES circulars regarding Garda Vetting	Medium
Extra-curricular activities by school personnel	Harm by school personnel	No one to one activities to take place; always a group of pupils or activity to be cancelled After Schools Activity policy	Medium
Extra-curricular activities provided by tutors/coaches other than school personnel	Harm by external personnel Inappropriate relationship/communications between child & another adult/child	Compliance with all legislation and DES circulars regarding Garda Vetting Child Safeguarding Statement and DES Procedures made available to all new personnel After Schools Activity policy Glass panels in all classroom and hall doors	High



		Pupils changing into sportswear to do so in a manner preserving dignity & privacy		
Management of challenging behaviour among pupils	Injury to pupils or staff	Code of Behaviour Health & Safety Statement		Medium
Application of sanctions under School's Code of Behaviour including detention of pupils, removal from class, confiscation of phones, etc.	Harm by school personnel	Code of Behaviour Glass panels in all classrooms & Principal's office doors		Medium
Student teachers on School Placement	Harm by student teacher Inappropriate relationship/communications between child & another adult/child	Garda Vetting carried out by relevant college Child Safeguarding Statement and DES Procedures made available to student teacher Policy on Work experience & Student Placement Class teacher and/or school personnel remains in the classroom while student teacher is teaching		Medium
Transition Year students on Work Experience.	Harm by TY student Inappropriate relationship/communications between child & another adult/child	Garda Vetting sought if student is 16 years of age & over Child Safeguarding Statement and DES Procedures made available to TY student Policy on Work experience & Student Placement Class teacher remains in the classroom with TY student		Medium

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 put 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. It shall be reviewed as part of the school's annual review of its Child Safeguarding Statement.

Ardcroyne NS

Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment 2025/2026



Signed | *John McCady*  
Chairperson, Board of Management

Date *6/10/25*

Signed *Damien Cunningham*  
Principal

Date *6/10/25*



