CSS1

Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment

For:	**COOLMINE COMMUNITY SCHOOL**
At:	**GROVE ROAD, CLONSILLA, DUBLIN 15 D15 FW97**

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):

Pauline Connolly

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

Fergal Walsh

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

Name of Relevant Person

Pauline Connolly

(In schools this person is the DLP)

Relevant Person can be contacted on:

018214141	*principal@coolminecs.ie*

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:

KEITH PURCELL

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

Coolmine Community School - 2026/2027

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
1.	Daily arrival and dismissal of students	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision.	Child Safeguarding Statement and school child-protection reporting procedures. Supervision procedures for arrival, dismissal, breaks and relevant school activities. Staff consultation: review supervision and adult visibility at arrival/dismissal points and monitor recurring hotspots, including gates and congested areas.
2.	Recreation breaks for students	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision. Risk of harm to students by another pupil, including bullying, harassment, racism or online abuse. Staff consultation identified toilets, corridors, changing rooms and break areas as safeguarding hotspots, with risks including bullying, intimidation, vaping and vulnerable students being targeted.	Child Safeguarding Statement and school child-protection reporting procedures. Supervision procedures for arrival, dismissal, breaks and relevant school activities. Staff consultation: increased adult visibility, supervision review and monitoring of recurring hotspots; trusted-adult and early-reporting routes reinforced.
3.	Classroom teaching	Risk of harm to students by another pupil, including bullying, harassment, racism or online abuse. Staff consultation identified bullying, exclusion and peer interaction risks, particularly for students with SEN, socially isolated students and students perceived as different.	Child Safeguarding Statement and school child-protection reporting procedures. Staff consultation: reinforce trusted-adult relationships, reporting systems and early intervention; targeted pastoral supports where required.
4.	One-to-one teaching / learning support	Risk of harm in one-to-one teaching, counselling or coaching situations; risk of inappropriate staff-student communications/relationships.	Child Safeguarding Statement and school child-protection reporting procedures. Clear arrangements for one-to-one teaching/support/counselling and appropriate professional boundaries.
5.	One-to-one counselling	Risk of harm in one-to-one teaching, counselling or coaching situations; risk of inappropriate staff-student communications/relationships.	Child Safeguarding Statement and school child-protection reporting procedures. Clear arrangements for one-to-one teaching/support/counselling and appropriate professional boundaries.
6.	Outdoor teaching activities	Risk of harm not being recognised or reported; risk of harm to a student by another pupil or adult.	Child Safeguarding Statement and school child-protection reporting procedures.
7.	Online teaching and remote learning	Risk of harm through inappropriate online use or circulation/access of inappropriate material. Staff consultation identified cyberbullying, inappropriate contact, image-sharing, harmful content, misuse of devices/social media and emerging risks from AI-generated content and deepfakes.	Child Safeguarding Statement and school child-protection reporting procedures. Acceptable Use Policy covering ICT, remote learning and mobile-device use. Staff consultation: ongoing online-safety education, reporting routes and review of emerging digital risks, including AI-generated content/deepfakes.

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
8.	Sporting activities	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision. Risk of harm to students by another pupil, including bullying, harassment, racism or online abuse.	Child Safeguarding Statement and school child-protection reporting procedures. Supervision procedures for arrival, dismissal, breaks and relevant school activities.
9.	School outings and day trips	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision. Risk of harm while participating in out-of-school activities or using external facilities.	Child Safeguarding Statement and school child-protection reporting procedures. Supervision procedures for arrival, dismissal, breaks and relevant school activities. Procedures for outings, trips, work experience and use of external facilities, as applicable. Staff consultation: activity-specific risk assessment, accurate attendance checks, appropriate supervision and clear arrangements for students away from the normal school environment.
10.	Overnight trips and foreign travel	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision. Risk of harm while participating in out-of-school activities or using external facilities.	Child Safeguarding Statement and school child-protection reporting procedures. Supervision procedures for arrival, dismissal, breaks and relevant school activities. Procedures for outings, trips, work experience and use of external facilities, as applicable. Staff consultation: activity-specific risk assessment, accurate attendance checks, appropriate supervision and clear arrangements for students away from the normal school environment.
11.	Use of toilet, changing, and shower areas	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision. Staff consultation identified toilets and changing areas as recurring safeguarding hotspots.	Child Safeguarding Statement and school child-protection reporting procedures. Supervision procedures for arrival, dismissal, breaks and relevant school activities. Staff consultation: review adult visibility and supervision arrangements around toilet/changing areas while respecting student privacy; monitor recurring hotspots and patterns of concern.
12.	Fundraising events involving students	Risk of harm not being recognised or reported; risk of harm to a student by another pupil or adult.	Child Safeguarding Statement and school child-protection reporting procedures.
13.	Use of off-site facilities (e.g. sports grounds)	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision. Risk of harm to students by another pupil, including bullying, harassment, racism or online abuse. Risk of harm while participating in out-of-school activities or using external facilities.	Child Safeguarding Statement and school child-protection reporting procedures. Supervision procedures for arrival, dismissal, breaks and relevant school activities. Procedures for outings, trips, work experience and use of external facilities, as applicable. Staff consultation: robust safeguarding planning for external facilities, including risk assessment, attendance checks and appropriate supervision.
14.	School transport arrangements (including bus escorts)	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision. Risk of harm to students by another pupil, including bullying, harassment, racism or online abuse. Risk of harm while participating in out-of-school activities or using external facilities.	Child Safeguarding Statement and school child-protection reporting procedures. Supervision procedures for arrival, dismissal, breaks and relevant school activities. Procedures for outings, trips, work experience and use of external facilities, as applicable. Staff

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
			consultation: safeguarding planning for transport arrangements, clear attendance/accountability checks and appropriate supervision.
15.	Care of children with special educational needs (including intimate care)	Risk of harm to students with SEN/medical needs due to vulnerabilities. Risk of harm while receiving intimate care.	Child Safeguarding Statement and school child-protection reporting procedures. SEN supports and relevant individual care/support planning. Intimate Care Policy. Staff consultation: targeted supports, regular check-ins, access to safe spaces and early identification/pastoral supports for vulnerable students.
16.	Care of vulnerable students (e.g. in care, with medical needs, minority groups)	Risk of harm to students with SEN/medical needs due to vulnerabilities. Risk of harm due to racism, identity-based bullying or exclusion.	Child Safeguarding Statement and school child-protection reporting procedures. SEN supports and relevant individual care/support planning. Bí Cineálta Anti-Bullying Policy. Staff consultation: targeted supports, regular check-ins, trusted adults, safe spaces and early intervention for students who may be particularly vulnerable.
17.	Management of challenging behaviour (including use of restraint where required)	Risk of harm due to inadequate Code of Behaviour enforcement or management of behaviour.	Child Safeguarding Statement and school child-protection reporting procedures. Code of Behaviour and sanctions procedures.
18.	Provision of food and drink	Risk of harm not being recognised or reported; risk of harm to a student by another pupil or adult.	Child Safeguarding Statement and school child-protection reporting procedures. Health & Safety procedures and supervision of food provision.
19.	Administration of medicine and first aid	Risk of harm not being recognised or reported; risk of harm to a student by another pupil or adult.	Child Safeguarding Statement and school child-protection reporting procedures. Administration of medicine and First Aid procedures.
20.	Curricular provision in SPHE, RSE, and Wellbeing	Risk of harm not being recognised or reported; risk of harm to a student by another pupil or adult.	Child Safeguarding Statement and school child-protection reporting procedures. SPHE, RSE and Junior Cycle Wellbeing provision.
21.	Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst students (Bí Cinéalta)	Risk of harm to students by another pupil, including bullying, harassment, racism or online abuse. Risk of harm due to racism, identity-based bullying or exclusion.	Child Safeguarding Statement and school child-protection reporting procedures. Bí Cineálta Anti-Bullying Policy. Staff consultation: reinforce trusted-adult relationships, accessible reporting systems, early intervention and targeted monitoring/support for vulnerable or socially isolated students.
22.	Training of school personnel in child protection matters	Risk of harm not being recognised or reported by staff.	Child Safeguarding Statement and school child-protection reporting procedures. Child-protection training records maintained for staff and board members.
23.	Use of external personnel (e.g. guest speakers, sports coaches)	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision. Risk of harm to students by another pupil, including bullying, harassment, racism or online abuse. Risk of harm to students by a member of school personnel, volunteer or visitor.	Child Safeguarding Statement and school child-protection reporting procedures. Supervision procedures for arrival, dismissal, breaks and relevant school activities. Garda vetting and recruitment/visitor procedures; procedures governing external personnel and placements.

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
24.	Student teachers on placement	Risk of harm to students by a member of school personnel, volunteer or visitor.	Child Safeguarding Statement and school child-protection reporting procedures. Garda vetting and recruitment/visitor procedures; procedures governing external personnel and placements.
25.	Students on work experience	Risk of harm while participating in out-of-school activities or using external facilities.	Child Safeguarding Statement and school child-protection reporting procedures. Procedures for outings, trips, work experience and use of external facilities, as applicable.
26.	Breakfast Club	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision. Risk of harm to students by another pupil, including bullying, harassment, racism or online abuse.	Child Safeguarding Statement and school child-protection reporting procedures. Supervision procedures for arrival, dismissal, breaks and relevant school activities.
27.	After school study	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision. Risk of harm to students by another pupil, including bullying, harassment, racism or online abuse.	Child Safeguarding Statement and school child-protection reporting procedures. Supervision procedures for arrival, dismissal, breaks and relevant school activities.
28.	Mentoring	Risk of harm in one-to-one teaching, counselling or coaching situations; risk of inappropriate staff-student communications/relationships.	Child Safeguarding Statement and school child-protection reporting procedures. Clear arrangements for one-to-one teaching/support/counselling and appropriate professional boundaries.
29.	Online learning	Risk of harm through inappropriate online use or circulation/access of inappropriate material. Staff consultation identified cyberbullying and emerging risks associated with AI-generated content and deepfakes.	Child Safeguarding Statement and school child-protection reporting procedures. Acceptable Use Policy covering ICT, remote learning and mobile-device use. Staff consultation: ongoing online-safety education and review of emerging digital risks, including AI-generated content/deepfakes.
30.	Individual teacher detention	Risk of harm in one-to-one teaching, counselling or coaching situations; risk of inappropriate staff-student communications/relationships. Risk of harm due to inadequate Code of Behaviour enforcement or management of behaviour.	Child Safeguarding Statement and school child-protection reporting procedures. Code of Behaviour and sanctions procedures. Clear arrangements for one-to-one teaching/support/counselling and appropriate professional boundaries.
31.	1-1 work for house exams, mock exams and state exams	Risk of harm in one-to-one teaching, counselling or coaching situations; risk of inappropriate staff-student communications/relationships.	Child Safeguarding Statement and school child-protection reporting procedures. Clear arrangements for one-to-one teaching/support/counselling and appropriate professional boundaries.
32.	Visitors and contractors on school premises (during and after school hours)	Risk of harm to students by a member of school personnel, volunteer or visitor. Risk of harm caused by uninvited guests to the school premises.	Child Safeguarding Statement and school child-protection reporting procedures. Garda vetting and recruitment/visitor procedures; procedures governing external personnel and placements.
33.	Participation in religious ceremonies/instruction	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision. Risk of harm while participating in out-of-school activities or using external facilities.	Child Safeguarding Statement and school child-protection reporting procedures.
34.	Use of ICT, social media, smart devices in school	Risk of harm through inappropriate online use or circulation/access of inappropriate material.	Child Safeguarding Statement and school child-protection reporting

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
	(Circular 39/2025)	Staff consultation identified inappropriate contact, image-sharing, harmful content, misuse of devices/social media, cyberbullying and AI-generated content/deepfakes as emerging risks.	procedures. Acceptable Use Policy covering ICT, remote learning and mobile-device use. Staff consultation: reinforce acceptable-use expectations, reporting routes, digital literacy and online-safety education; review emerging risks including AI-generated content/deepfakes.
35.	Application of Code of Behaviour sanctions (detention, suspension, confiscation, etc.)	Risk of harm in one-to-one teaching, counselling or coaching situations; risk of inappropriate staff-student communications/relationships. Risk of harm due to inadequate Code of Behaviour enforcement or management of behaviour.	Child Safeguarding Statement and school child-protection reporting procedures. Code of Behaviour and sanctions procedures. Clear arrangements for one-to-one teaching/support/counselling and appropriate professional boundaries.
36.	Use of video/photography/media to record school events	Risk of harm through inappropriate online use or circulation/access of inappropriate material.	Child Safeguarding Statement and school child-protection reporting procedures. Acceptable Use Policy covering ICT, remote learning and mobile-device use.
37.	After-school use of school premises (clubs, homework study, external organisations)	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision. Risk of harm to students by another pupil, including bullying, harassment, racism or online abuse.	Child Safeguarding Statement and school child-protection reporting procedures. Supervision procedures for arrival, dismissal, breaks and relevant school activities.
38.	Care of students with specific vulnerabilities / needs	Risk of harm not being recognised or reported; risk of harm to a student by another pupil or adult. Staff consultation highlighted additional vulnerability for students with SEN, socially isolated students and students perceived as different, and noted that poor attendance/school avoidance may indicate wider wellbeing or safeguarding concerns.	Child Safeguarding Statement and school child-protection reporting procedures. Staff consultation: targeted supports, regular check-ins, safe spaces, trusted adults, early identification and pastoral supports. Attendance and school-avoidance patterns are monitored and concerns communicated with families in line with school procedures.
39.	Recruitment of school personnel (Teachers / SNAs / Caretaking staff / Secretaries / Cleaners / Sports Coaches / External Speakers etc.)	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision. Risk of harm to students by another pupil, including bullying, harassment, racism or online abuse. Risk of harm to students by a member of school personnel, volunteer or visitor.	Child Safeguarding Statement and school child-protection reporting procedures. Supervision procedures for arrival, dismissal, breaks and relevant school activities. Garda vetting and recruitment/visitor procedures; procedures governing external personnel and placements.
40.	Movement through corridors, common areas and school access points	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision or reduced adult visibility in congested areas. Risk of bullying, intimidation or vulnerable students being targeted. Environmental risks may be increased by overcrowded corridors, limited social spaces or open access points.	Child Safeguarding Statement and school child-protection reporting procedures. Supervision and movement procedures. Staff consultation: review adult visibility and supervision at recurring hotspots; monitor congestion and access points; identify and respond to patterns of concern.

Additional pages may be added to the Risk Assessment as required.

32. The school has in place a policy and procedures for the use of external persons to supplement delivery of the curriculum
33. The school has in place a policy and procedures for the use of external sports coaches
34. The school has in place a policy and clear procedures for one-to-one teaching activities
35. The school has in place a policy and procedures for one-to-one counselling
36. The school has in place a policy and procedures in respect of student teacher placements
37. The school has in place a policy and procedures in respect of pupils undertaking work experience in the school
38. The school has in place a policy and procedures in respect of pupils of the school undertaking work experience in external organisations
39. The school has in place a policy in relation to assisting members of school personnel in respect of disclosures of retrospective abuse
40. The school has considered the questions in Appendix 1 of the Child Protection and Safeguarding Procedures for Boarding Facilities Associated with Recognised Schools 2023 and implemented the necessary risk mitigation measures

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 17/09/26 *(most recent review date)*

Signed:*		**Date:** 17/09/2026

Chairperson of the board of management

Signed:*		**Date:** 17/09/2026

Principal/Secretary to the board of management

This Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment is expected to be reviewed again on 17/09/27 *(expected review date)*

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