



Clonmoney National School
Clonmoney, Phone: 061-362672
Newmarket-on-Fergus, Roll No: 18032M
Co. Clare Email: principal@clonmoneyns.com
V95 AH 94 Website: www.clonmoneyns.com

Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment

For:	Clonmoney National School
At:	Clonmoney North, Newmarket-on-Fergus, Co. Clare V95 AH94

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):

David McCormack

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

Marion Crimmins

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

Name of Relevant Person

David McCormack

(In schools this person is the DLP)

Relevant Person can be contacted on:

(061) - 362672

principal@clonmoneyns.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:

Mrs. Mary Hanley

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.



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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)	Classroom teaching and learning	Risk of harm to a pupil through inappropriate physical contact, inappropriate language, humiliation, intimidation, emotional abuse or other inappropriate behaviour by a member of school personnel.	All school personnel maintain appropriate professional boundaries. Staff follow the school's Code of Professional Conduct and Child Safeguarding Statement. Physical contact is appropriate, proportionate and child-centred. Staff are familiar with the Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025 and their responsibilities to report concerns to the DLP.
2)	One-to-one teaching, small group teaching, classroom teaching, outdoor teaching, children having contact with non-teaching staff.	A pupil may be at increased vulnerability during one-to-one interaction with a teacher/SNA or other adult, including risk of inappropriate behaviour or allegations of inappropriate behaviour.	One-to-one support is provided only where educational or care needs require it. Where practicable, support takes place in an observable or appropriately supervised environment. Professional boundaries are maintained. Individual support arrangements are reviewed as necessary. Concerns or allegations are reported immediately in accordance with the Child Protection Procedures. As a general rule, physical contact between adults and children should not be necessary; however, physical contact may be used to comfort, reassure or assist a child. In these cases, it must be in the open in front of others, be acceptable to the child and be age-appropriate. It should be in response to the needs of the child, not the adult. All classroom and support room doors have glass panels. All staff are Garda vetted. All staff should never do anything of a personal nature that the child can do for themselves. All substitute staff are required to produce Garda Vetting.
3)	Training of school personnel on Child Protection matters.	Harm not recognised or reported promptly if training is not completed. Staff who have not completed training. New staff joining.	Child Safeguarding Statement & DES procedures available to all staff. DLP and DDLP attended OIDE training September 2025. Staff completed OIDE-led training in November 2025 and a record is held by the Principal. All staff will refresh with training module on a three-year cycle (2025, 2028, 2031).



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			Any personnel who join staff should complete training individually and submit certificate to DLP. Principal maintains a CPD record.
4)	Use of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) by pupils in school.	Harm to pupils.	See AUP policy See Anti-Bullying Policy and Code of Behaviour. Use of ICT is always under direct teacher supervision.
5)	Care of children with special needs, including intimate care needs.	Harm by school personnel. An allegation made against a staff member.	A meeting will take place to organise this and a Support Plus Plan will be created with input from parents and all staff working with the pupil. A specific toileting plan is to be drawn up. Two staff members to be present, where possible.
6)	Administration of medicine.	Harm to pupils.	A meeting takes place between the principal, parents/guardians and relevant teachers and SNAs. Parents/guardians must fill out instructions for medication administration, make a request to the BOM and complete a form. See Policy. Administration of medicines always takes place in view of others.
7)	Administration of first aid	Harm to pupils.	All staff receive first aid training on a regular basis.
8)	Management of challenging behaviour / crisis situations	A pupil may experience harm through inappropriate physical intervention, restraint, shouting, intimidation or other inappropriate responses to challenging behaviour.	Staff follow the school's behaviour-management procedures and any applicable individual behaviour/support plans. Staff use positive and preventative approaches. Any physical intervention is only undertaken where permitted, necessary and proportionate and by appropriately trained personnel. Significant incidents are recorded, reviewed and communicated in accordance with school procedures.
9)	Curricular provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe.	Non-teaching of same.	School implements SPHE, RSE and Stay Safe in full. This is monitored through Cuntas Míósúil. This item is also on the agenda for staff meetings each year.
10)	Break time / yard supervision	Pupils may experience bullying, physical assault, intimidation, inappropriate behaviour or social isolation while outside the classroom. Pupils with additional needs may be particularly vulnerable	Appropriate supervision is provided during breaks. Staff are familiar with supervision arrangements and designated areas. Staff remain vigilant and respond promptly to concerns. The school's Bí Cineálta procedures are followed where bullying behaviour is suspected or reported. Particular



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			attention is given to pupils who have additional communication, sensory or behavioural needs.
11)	Toilets / changing areas	Risk of inappropriate behaviour between pupils or inappropriate behaviour by an adult towards a pupil in a relatively private area.	Children are taught appropriate personal-safety and body-safety messages through the school's curriculum and safeguarding programmes. Staff do not enter toilet/changing areas unnecessarily. Where a pupil requires assistance, it is provided in accordance with agreed care arrangements. Staff remain alert to concerns or disclosures.
12)	Toileting accidents.	Harm by school personnel. An allegation made against a staff member.	Clean underwear and suitable clothing are kept in the school. If the child has an accident, they will be given clean clothes to change into. If the child is stuck, verbal instructions will be given by the teacher/SNA. If for some reason they cannot change themselves, parents/emergency contacts will be called. If no contacts can be reached, the child will be assisted by two staff members.
13)	Daily Arrival at school / dismissal from school	A pupil may leave the school premises without permission, become separated from supervision, or be released to an unauthorised person	Clear arrival and dismissal procedures are implemented. Staff know which pupils require collection and which pupils are permitted to leave independently. Changes to collection arrangements are communicated to the school. Staff supervise relevant entrances/exits. Particular arrangements are made for pupils who may be prone to absconding/ elopement.
14)	Early Collection or appointment	A pupil may leave the school without appropriate authorisation or may be released to an unauthorised person.	Pupils leaving school early must be collected from the school building by a parent/guardian or another authorised adult. The school is notified in writing either via Aladdin or email of the collection and the pupil is signed out in accordance with school procedures. Any change to normal collection arrangements is communicated to the school.
15)	School transport to school events, matches or tours	A pupil may be at risk of harm while travelling to or from school, particularly where the pupil has additional needs or communication difficulties.	School transport arrangements are clearly established. Appropriate supervision is maintained. Staff maintain professional boundaries. Any concern arising during transport is reported promptly.



	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
16)	Use of Staff cars to transport pupils	A pupil may be at risk of harm while being transported in a private vehicle, including through inadequate supervision or inappropriate one-to-one access to a pupil.	The use of staff cars to transport pupils is avoided where practicable. Where it is necessary, parental/guardian consent is obtained and school management is aware of the arrangement. This is done through Aladdin Permissions. Appropriate safeguarding arrangements are considered, particularly where an adult would otherwise be alone with one pupil. The driver must hold an appropriate driving licence and ensure that the vehicle is roadworthy, appropriately insured and that legally required seat belts/child restraints are used. Staff maintain appropriate professional boundaries at all times.
17)	Boarding/alighting from school transport	A pupil may abscond, become separated from supervision, be injured or be handed over to an inappropriate person when boarding or leaving school transport.	Agreed boarding and alighting arrangements are followed. Appropriate adult supervision is provided. Children are handed over in accordance with agreed arrangements. Particular attention is given to pupils with additional needs who may have difficulty with transitions, communication or awareness of danger.
18)	School trips / educational outings	A pupil may become separated from the group or be exposed to inappropriate behaviour by an adult, another pupil or member of the public	A trip-specific risk assessment is completed. Adequate supervision is provided and staff are briefed in advance. Individual arrangements are made for pupils with additional needs. Staff maintain professional boundaries. Emergency and missing-child procedures are known to accompanying staff.
19)	PE / sports / swimming / physical activities	Risk of inappropriate physical contact, inappropriate behaviour during changing, or inadequate supervision during physical activities.	Appropriate supervision is maintained. External instructors/coaches are subject to the school's safeguarding requirements. Changing arrangements protect pupil privacy and dignity. Staff and coaches maintain appropriate professional boundaries. Concerns are reported through the school's child protection procedures.
20)	Sports coaches	Harm to pupils.	Teachers remain in charge of the class and stay with pupils at all times. Joint Agreements made with any sporting organisations which involve presentation of Vetting.
21)	Visitors / contractors / maintenance personnel	An adult who is not a member of school personnel may gain inappropriate or	Visitors sign in and are appropriately supervised. Contractors and maintenance personnel do not have unsupervised access to pupils unless



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		unsupervised access to pupils.	appropriate safeguarding requirements have been satisfied. Visitors are directed to appropriate areas and relevant safeguarding expectations are communicated where necessary.
22)	Students participating in work experience	Harm to pupils	All children who are over 16 must be Garda Vetted to carry out work experience in Clonmoney NS. Joint Agreements made with secondary schools which involve presentation of Garda Vetting.
23)	Parents / volunteers assisting in school	A parent, volunteer or other adult may have inappropriate or inadequately supervised access to pupils.	Volunteers are approved and vetted where required and are supervised in accordance with school procedures. Their role is clearly defined. Volunteers are not permitted to undertake activities outside their agreed role. Child protection expectations are communicated before they commence work with pupils.
24)	External professionals / visiting specialists	A visiting therapist, specialist, coach or other professional may have inappropriate access to a pupil or may fail to recognise/report a child protection concern.	The school establishes the person's role and appropriate safeguarding arrangements before work commences. Visiting professionals work within agreed school procedures. One-to-one sessions are appropriately managed and, where practicable, observable. Concerns are reported to the DLP.
25)	Internet use / online learning / digital devices	Pupils may be exposed to inappropriate content, inappropriate online communication, cyberbullying or inappropriate contact with adults or other pupils.	The school's Acceptable Usage Policy and online-safety procedures are implemented. Internet access is appropriately filtered. Staff supervise pupil use of digital devices. Pupils receive age-appropriate online-safety education. Online safeguarding concerns are dealt with under the relevant school procedures and reported where appropriate
26)	Photography / video / school website / social media	A pupil's image or personal information may be captured, stored or shared inappropriately	The school follows its data protection, photography and digital-media procedures. Appropriate permissions and safeguards are observed. School-approved systems/devices are used where applicable. Images and personal information are stored, accessed and shared appropriately.
27)	Use of video/ photography/other media to record school events.	Harm to pupils.	Parents/guardians give permission for children to appear in print media, the website, social media with first names only.



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			Parents are asked, if taking pictures at a school event, not to share them on social media.
28)	Display of photographs in school corridors/ hall/ church.	Children identified by adults.	Names of children currently enrolled in the school are never published in the church, hall or school corridors. Parents/guardians give permission (registration form and annual update of same) for same.
29)	Use of off-site facilities for school activities.	Harm to pupils.	Garda-vetted teachers and SNAs attend. Strict supervision applies, including teacher supervision of toilet areas.
30)	Disclosure of abuse / neglect or child protection concern	A child may disclose abuse or neglect, or a staff member may observe a concern, which may not be appropriately recognised, recorded or reported.	All school personnel are informed of their child protection responsibilities. The DLP and Deputy DLP are clearly identified. Relevant training is provided. Staff know how to respond to a disclosure and do not investigate allegations themselves. Concerns are recorded and reported in accordance with the Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025.
31)	Allegation or concern involving school personnel	A pupil may be at risk where an allegation or concern relates to a teacher, SNA, secretary, cleaner, substitute or other person working in the school.	The procedures for dealing with allegations/concerns regarding school personnel are followed. The DLP/Principal acts in accordance with the Child Protection Procedures. Appropriate referrals are made to Tusla and/or An Garda Síochána where required. Confidentiality is maintained appropriately. Relevant employment/HR procedures are followed separately where applicable.
32)	After-school activities / clubs / informal supervision	Pupils may be vulnerable where activities occur outside the normal school timetable and supervision arrangements differ from the normal school day.	Activities are approved by school management. Appropriate supervision is provided. Adults involved understand safeguarding requirements. Collection arrangements are clearly established. External providers are appropriately checked/vetted where required and operate within agreed school safeguarding arrangements. For Homework Club, agreed supervision, attendance and collection arrangements are followed.
33)	LGBT children / children perceived to be LGBT.	Risk of harm to pupils through homophobic bullying, harassment, intimidation, discriminatory behaviour, social exclusion or physical, verbal or emotional abuse by others.	The school's Bí Cineálta Policy and Code of Behaviour are implemented. Staff promote an inclusive, respectful school environment, remain vigilant for bullying or discriminatory behaviour and respond appropriately to concerns.



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34)	Personal hygiene, puberty-related needs and access to trusted adults	Risk of harm arising from inappropriate adult responses, breaches of professional boundaries, inadequate privacy or inappropriate assistance when pupils seek support with personal hygiene or puberty-related needs.	Pupils are encouraged to approach a trusted member of school staff if they require assistance or personal hygiene products. Appropriate menstrual hygiene products are made discreetly available. Staff respond sensitively, respect pupils' privacy and dignity, and maintain appropriate professional boundaries. Any assistance involving personal care is provided in accordance with the school's agreed care and safeguarding procedures.
35)	Photography, video, school website and social media	Risk of harm arising from the inappropriate publication, sharing or misuse of pupils' images, videos or personal information, including potential identification of pupils, unwanted contact or misuse of publicly accessible content.	The school follows its image consent, data protection and digital-media procedures. Only authorised personnel publish content on school-managed platforms. Parental/guardian consent is respected, identifying personal information is minimised and images are reviewed before publication. Publicly accessible school content is monitored and inappropriate comments or interactions are addressed promptly.
36)	Use of CCTV on school premises	Risk of inappropriate access to, disclosure or misuse of CCTV footage containing images of pupils.	CCTV cameras are installed solely for school security and health and safety purposes and are not used for the routine monitoring of pupils or staff. CCTV footage is accessed only by authorised personnel where necessary for legitimate security or safety purposes. Recordings are managed securely and in accordance with the school's data protection procedures and applicable legislation.

Examples of Activities, Risks and Procedures

The examples listed in this document are provided to assist schools in undertaking their risk assessment under the Children First Act, 2015. Schools should note that this list of examples is not intended to be exhaustive, and that the inclusion of an example of a policy or procedure on these lists does not make it mandatory. It is the responsibility of each school to ensure, as far as possible, that any other risks and procedures that are relevant to its own particular circumstances are identified and specified in the written risk assessment and that adequate procedures are in place to address all risks identified.

It is acknowledged that schools already have in place a range of policies, practices and procedures to mitigate the risk of harm to children while they are participating in the activities of the school and that some school activities will carry low or minimal risks of harm compared to others. In the context of the risk assessment that must be undertaken by schools, the Children First Act, 2015 refers to risk as 'any potential for harm'.



Therefore, it is important that, as part of its risk assessment process, each school lists and reviews all of its various activities (which shall include identifying those that may carry low risk of harm as well as those that carry higher risks of harm). Doing so will help the school to:

- > Identify, as required under the Children First Act, 2015, any risks of harm that may exist in respect of the school's activities.
- > Identify and assess the adequacy of the various procedures already in place to manage those risks of harm.
- > Identify and put in place any such additional procedures as are considered necessary to manage any risk identified.

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.



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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 **Tuesday, 13th of October 2026**

Signed:*		Date: 13.10.2026
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Chairperson of the board of management

Signed:*		Date: 13.10.26
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Principal/Secretary to the board of management

This Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment is expected to be reviewed again on **9th of September 2027** (*expected review date*)

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



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Appendix - Location of copies of the Child Protection Procedures and Children First Guidance

Online copies of the Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025 are available on the Department of Education and Youth website at <https://www.gov.ie/en/department-of-education/policy-information/child-protection-procedures-in-schools/> . The school's Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment is available through Clonmoney N.S. and the school website (www.clonmoneyns.com). Hard copies of the relevant procedures and guidance are available from the school office on request.