

CSS 1

Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment

For: (School Name)
 At: (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):

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

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

Name of Relevant Person

(In schools this person is the DLP)

Relevant Person can be contacted on:

(insert phone & email)

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:

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 has 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 & dismissal of pupils	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children in school	All school personnel are provided with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment The Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025 are made available to all school personnel School personnel are required to adhere to the Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025 and all registered teaching staff are required to adhere to the Children First Act 2015 as well as supporting the continued implementation of the best practice guidance set out in Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children 2017 and its addenda, including the Addendum to Children First 2019 and 2025
2.	Recreation Breaks for pupils	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children in school	The school has a yard/playground supervision policy to ensure appropriate supervision of children during assembly, dismissal and breaks and in respect of specific areas such as toilets, changing rooms etc.
3.	One-to-one teaching	Risk of harm due to inappropriate use of online remote teaching and learning communication platform, such as an uninvited person accessing the lesson link, students being left unsupervised for long periods of time in breakout rooms	The school has in place a policy and clear procedures for one-to-one teaching activities
4.	One-to-one learning support	Risk of harm in one-to-one teaching, counselling, coaching situations	The school has in place a policy and clear procedures for one-to-one teaching activities

5.	One-to-one counselling	Risk of harm in one-to-one teaching, counselling, coaching situations	The school has in place a policy and procedures for one-to-one counselling
6.	Outdoor teaching activities	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children in school	The school has a yard/playground supervision policy to ensure appropriate supervision of children during assembly, dismissal and breaks and in respect of specific areas such as toilets, changing rooms etc.
7.	Online teaching and learning remotely	Risk of harm due to children inappropriately accessing/using computers, social media, phones and other devices while at school	The school has an Acceptable Use Policy in place, to include provision for online teaching and learning remotely, and has communicated this policy to parents
8.	Sporting activities	Risk of child being harmed by a member of school personnel, a member of staff of another organisation or other person while a child is participating in out-of-school activities, e.g. school trip, swimming lessons	The school has in place a policy and clear procedures in respect of school outings
9.	School outings	Risk of child being harmed by a member of school personnel, a member of staff of another organisation or other person while a child is participating in out-of-school activities, e.g. school trip, swimming lessons	The school has in place a policy and clear procedures in respect of school outings
10.	Use of toilet/changing/shower areas in schools	Risk of harm to child while a child is receiving intimate care	The school has an intimate care policy/plan in respect of students who require such care
11.	Annual Sports Day	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children in school	The school has a health and safety policy.
12.	Fundraising events involving pupils	Risk of harm due to inappropriate relationship/communications between a child and another child or adult	The school has in place a policy and clear procedures in respect of school outings The school has a health and safety policy
13.	Use of off-site facilities for school activities	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children while attending out-of-school activities	The school has in place a policy and clear procedures in respect of school outings

14.	School transport arrangements including use of bus escorts	Risk of child being harmed by a member of school personnel, a member of staff of another organisation or other person while a child is participating in out-of-school activities, e.g. school trip, swimming lessons	The school ensures all new personnel are provided with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment The school encourages personnel to avail of relevant training The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation The school adheres to the relevant Department of Education and Youth circulars in respect of recruitment
15.	Care of children with special educational needs, including intimate care where needed	Risk of harm to children with special educational needs who have particular vulnerabilities, including medical vulnerabilities Risk of harm to child while a child is receiving intimate care	The school has complied with the Understanding Behaviours of Concern and Responding to Crisis Situations developed by the Department of Education and Youth to address uncertainty for staff on how to respond when facing crisis situations where there are concerns regarding physical safety
16.	Managing of challenging behavior amongst pupils, including appropriate use of restraint where required	Risk of child being harmed in the school by a member of school personnel Risk of child being harmed in the school by another child	The school has complied with the Understanding Behaviours of Concern and Responding to Crisis Situations developed by the Department of Education and Youth to address uncertainty for staff on how to respond when facing crisis situations where there are concerns regarding physical safety
17.	Management of provision of food and drink	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children in school	The school has a health and safety policy.
18.	Administration of medicine	Risk of harm to children with who have particular vulnerabilities, including medical vulnerabilities	The school has in place a policy and procedures for the administration of medication to pupils
19.	Administration of First aid	Risk of harm to children with who have particular vulnerabilities, including medical vulnerabilities	The school has in place a policy and procedures for the administration of medication to pupils
20.	Curriculum provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe	Risk of child being harmed in the school by a member of school personnel Risk of child being harmed in the school by another child Risk of child being harmed in	The school implements in full the Stay Safe Programme The school implements in full the Social, Personal, and Health Education (SPHE) curriculum

		the school by a volunteer or visitor to the school	
21.	Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst pupils	Risk of child being harmed in the school by another child	School authorities have a code of behaviour and an antibullying policy in place in accordance with the department's "Bí Cineálta" procedures to prevent and address bullying in schools and as outlined in Circular 55/2024
22.	Training of school personnel in child protection matters	Risk of harm not being reported properly and promptly by members of school personnel Risk of harm where members of school personnel have not received appropriate training	The school encourages personnel to avail of relevant training. The school maintains records of all personnel and board member training.
23.	Use of external personnel to supplement curriculum	Risk of child being harmed in the school by a volunteer or visitor to the school	The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation The school adheres to the relevant Department of Education and Youth circulars in respect of recruitment
24.	Use of external personnel to support sports and other extra-curricular activities	Risk of child being harmed in the school by a volunteer or visitor to the school	The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation The school adheres to the relevant Department of Education and Youth circulars in respect of recruitment
25.	Care of pupils with specific vulnerabilities/needs	Risk of harm to children with special educational needs who have particular vulnerabilities, including medical vulnerabilities	School authorities have a code of behaviour and an antibullying policy in place in accordance with the department's "Bí Cineálta" procedures to prevent and address bullying in schools and as outlined in Circular 55/2024
26.	Pupils from ethnic minorities/migrants	Risk of harm due to bullying of a child Risk of harm due to racism	School authorities have a code of behaviour and an antibullying policy in place in accordance with the department's "Bí Cineálta" procedures to prevent and address bullying in schools and as outlined in Circular 55/2024
27.	Members of the Traveller community	Risk of harm due to bullying of a child Risk of harm due to racism	School authorities have a code of behaviour and an antibullying policy in place in accordance with the department's "Bí Cineálta"

			procedures to prevent and address bullying in schools and as outlined in Circular 55/2024
28.	Lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender (LGBT) children	Risk of harm due to bullying of a child	School authorities have a code of behaviour and an antibullying policy in place in accordance with the department's "Bí Cineálta" procedures to prevent and address bullying in schools and as outlined in Circular 55/2024
29.	Pupils perceived to be LGBT	Risk of harm due to racism	School authorities have a code of behaviour and an antibullying policy in place in accordance with the department's "Bí Cineálta" procedures to prevent and address bullying in schools and as outlined in Circular 55/2024
30.	Pupils of minority religious faiths	Risk of harm due to bullying of a child Risk of harm due to racism	School authorities have a code of behaviour and an antibullying policy in place in accordance with the department's "Bí Cineálta" procedures to prevent and address bullying in schools and as outlined in Circular 55/2024
31.	Children in care	Risk of harm due to bullying of a child	School authorities have a code of behaviour and an antibullying policy in place in accordance with the department's "Bí Cineálta" procedures to prevent and address bullying in schools and as outlined in Circular 55/2024
32.	Children on Tusla's Child Protection Notification System (CPNS)	Risk of harm due to bullying of a child	School authorities have a code of behaviour and an antibullying policy in place in accordance with the department's "Bí Cineálta" procedures to prevent and address bullying in schools and as outlined in Circular 55/2024
33.	Children with medical needs	Risk of harm where members of school personnel have not received appropriate training	The school has in place a policy and procedures for the administration of First Aid

34.	Recruitment of school personnel including teachers/SNAs, caretakers/secretaries/cleaners and sports coaches	Risk of harm not being recognised by school personnel Risk of harm not being reported properly and promptly by members of school personnel	The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation The school adheres to the relevant Department of Education and Youth circulars in respect of recruitment The school ensures all new personnel are provided with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment
35.	External Tutors/Guest Speakers	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children in school Risk of child being harmed in the school by a volunteer or visitor to the school	The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation The school ensures all new personnel are provided with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment
36.	Volunteers/Parents in school activities	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children in school Risk of child being harmed in the school by a volunteer or visitor to the school	The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation The school ensures all new personnel are provided with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment
37.	Visitors/contractors present in the school during school hours	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children in school Risk of child being harmed in the school by a volunteer or visitor to the school	The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation
38.	Visitors/contractors present in the school during after-school activities	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children in school Risk of child being harmed in the school by a volunteer or visitor to the school	The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation
39.	Participation by pupils in religious ceremonies/religious instruction external to the school	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children in school Risk of child being harmed in the school by a volunteer or visitor to the school	The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation
40.	Use of Information and Communication Technology by pupils in school, including social media	Risk of harm due to children inappropriately accessing/using computers, social media, phones and other devices while at school Risk of harm caused by a member of school personnel communicating with pupils in an inappropriate manner via social media, texting, digital device, or other manner	The school has an Acceptable Use Policy in place, to include provision for online teaching and learning remotely, and has communicated this policy to parents

41.	Application of sanctions under the school's Code of Behaviour including detention of pupils, confiscation of phones etc.	Risk of harm due to inadequate code of behaviour	The school has in place a code of behaviour for pupils
42.	Students participating in work experience in the school	Risk of child being harmed in the school by a volunteer or visitor to the school	The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation
43.	Student teachers undertaking training placement in school	Risk of child being harmed in the school by a volunteer or visitor to the school	The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation
44.	Use of video/photography/other media to record school events	Risk of harm caused by a member of school personnel accessing/circulating inappropriate material via social media, texting, digital device or other manner	The school has an Acceptable Use Policy in place, to include provision for online teaching and learning remotely, and has communicated this policy to parents
45.	After-school use of school premises by other organisations	Risk of child being harmed in the school by a volunteer or visitor to the school	The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation The school ensures all new personnel are provided with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment
46.	Use of school premises by other organisations during school day	Risk of child being harmed in the school by a volunteer or visitor to the school	The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation The school ensures all new personnel are provided with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment
47.	Homework club/evening study	Risk of child being harmed in the school by a volunteer or visitor to the school	The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation The school ensures all new personnel are provided with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment

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

23/9/25 (*most recent review date*).

Signed:*

Miriam Marsh

Date:

23/9/2025

Chairperson of the board of management

Signed:*

Patrick R

Date:

23/9/2025

Principal/Secretary to the board of management

This Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment is expected to be reviewed again on

Sept 2026 (*expected review date*).

* Document to be printed and signed with original signatures