



CSS 1

Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment

For:

At:

This school is a: ☐ 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:

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:

In the event that both DLP and DDLP are absent and unavailable, and where there is no staff member formally acting in their role, the chairperson of the board of management, or in an ETB school the chief executive or their delegate, assumes the role of DLP.



The board of management recognises that child protection and safeguarding permeate all aspects of school life and must be reflected in all of the school's policies, procedures, practices and activities. In all of these, the school will adhere to the following principles of best practice in child protection and welfare. The school will:

- Recognise that the protection and welfare of children is of paramount importance, regardless of all other considerations.
- Fully comply with its statutory obligations under the Children First Act 2015 and other relevant legislation relating to the protection and welfare of children.
- Fully co-operate with the relevant statutory authorities in relation to child protection and welfare matters.
- Adopt safe practices to minimise the possibility of harm happening to children and protect members of school personnel from the necessity to take unnecessary risks that may leave themselves open to accusations of child abuse.
- Develop a practice of openness with parents and encourage parental involvement in the education of their children.
- Fully respect confidentiality requirements as set out in the Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025 in dealing with child protection matters.
- Adhere to the above principles in relation to any vulnerable adult.

Procedures and Measures in Place

Our Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment has been developed in line with requirements under the Children First Act 2015, the Children First: National Guidance 2017, and Child Safeguarding: A Guide for Policy, Procedure and Practice, 2nd ed. (Tusla, 2024), and the Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025. In addition to the procedures listed in our risk assessment, the following procedures support our intention to safeguard children while they are availing of our service:

Procedure for the Management of Allegations of Abuse or Misconduct against School Personnel Relating to a Child Availing of Our Service

- Where any member of school personnel is the subject of any investigation in respect of any act, omission or circumstance in relation to a child attending the school, the school is required to adhere to the relevant procedures set out in Chapter 7 of the Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025 and to the relevant agreed disciplinary procedures for school staff which are published on the gov.ie website.

Procedure for the Safe Recruitment and Selection of School Personnel to Work With Children

- The school is required to adhere to the requirements of the Vetting Act. The selection or recruitment of staff and their suitability to work with children, requires the school to adhere to the statutory vetting requirements of the National Vetting



Bureau (Children and Vulnerable Persons) Acts 2012 to 2016, and to the wider duty of care guidance set out in relevant Garda vetting and recruitment circulars published by the Department of Education and Youth and available on the gov.ie website and as outlined in Chapter 10 of the procedures.

- A written protocol is in place authorising immediate action for cases which require an employee to be immediately absented from school for child safeguarding reasons.

Procedure for Provision of and Access to Child Safeguarding Training and information, Including the Identification of the Occurrence of Harm

- The school provides information and training to members of school personnel in relation to the identification of the occurrence of harm (as defined in the 2015 Act) as follows:
 - The school has provided each member of school personnel, including any new members of school personnel, (employees and volunteers, board of management members, student teachers and those on work experience) with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment.
 - The school ensures that members of school personnel have availed of relevant training and completed child protection training.
 - The school encourages board of management members to avail of any relevant training and complete child protection training.
 - The board of management ensures that records of all staff and board member child protection training are maintained.

Procedure for the Reporting of Child Protection or Welfare Concerns to Tusla

- All members of school personnel are required to adhere to the procedures set out in the Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025, in relation to reporting of child protection concerns to Tusla. Mandated reporting applies to all registered teachers and any other mandated person who may be employed by the school, for example a chaplain or nurse. A full list of those people who are mandated persons is set out in Appendix 1 procedures.

Procedure for Maintaining a List of the Persons (if any) in the Relevant Service Who Are Mandated Persons

- There is a procedure in place to maintain a list of mandated persons. Schools may on occasion employ additional staff who are mandated by virtue of their profession. This list will include all registered teachers and identify additional employees that are not registered teachers.

Procedure for Appointing a Relevant Person (In schools this person is the DLP)

- There is a procedure in place for appointing a relevant person.



The various procedures referred to in this Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment can be accessed via the school's website, the gov.ie website or will be made available on request by the school.

In accordance with the Children First Act 2015, the Addendum to Children First 2019 and 2025, and the Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025, the board of management carried out an assessment of any potential for harm to a child while attending the school or participating in school activities. A written assessment setting out the areas of risk identified and the school's procedures for managing those risks is included with the Child Safeguarding Statement.

Note: The procedures and measures in place outlined above, are not intended as exhaustive list. Individual boards of management shall also include in this section such other procedures and measures that are of relevance to the school.

This statement has been published on the school's website or will be made available on request by the school. It has been provided to all members of school personnel, the parents' association (if any), the patron and parents. A copy of this statement and risk assessment will be made available to Tusla and the department if requested.

This Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment will be reviewed annually or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which this statement refers.



Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment

List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
1. Administration of medicine (epi-pens etc.) First-Aid	Risk of harm during intimate care of students with special needs. Risk of harm in administering medications. Risk of harm in administration of first aid.	Medication is administered only with written parental consent and medical authorisation. Individual Healthcare Plans are in place for students with chronic conditions. Emergency medication (epi-pens, inhalers, etc.) is stored accessibly and specific staff are trained in use. A record is kept of all medication administered. First aid is provided by trained personnel. First aid incidents are recorded. Privacy and dignity are maintained when administering first aid or medication. Parents are informed of any injuries or medical incidents. Students with intimate care needs have individual plans developed with parents and healthcare professionals. SNAs and support staff providing intimate care are Garda vetted and trained.
2. Overnight trips	Risk of harm during school tours, trips and outings, including foreign travel and overnight trips.	Parental consent forms are collected, including medical and dietary information. At least two Garda-vetted staff accompany all trips. Staff-student ratios meet or exceed Department guidelines (typically 1:10 for overnight trips). Emergency contact details for parents and school management are carried by staff. Accommodation is checked in advance; sleeping arrangements ensure student safety. Students are briefed on behaviour expectations and safeguarding procedures. External providers (activity centres, transport companies) are risk-assessed where necessary. Supervision continues during evening/night hours on overnight trips.
3. Visiting schools	Risk of harm during extra-curricular activities such as sports or school musicals, including the use of external coaches.	All coaches and supervisors are Garda vetted. Parental consent is obtained for participation in extra-curricular activities. Adequate supervision ratios are maintained. Students are supervised during travel to/from external venues. Changing facilities are managed to ensure privacy and safety. Emergency contact information is available for all participants. First aid provision is in place for all sporting activities. Students visiting other schools for competitions or events are supervised by school staff at all times.



4. External visitors/ Guest Speakers	Risk of harm regarding outside speakers or presenters visiting the school.	All external visitors are approved in advance by Principal/Deputy Principal. Visitors are escorted and supervised by school staff at all times. Content of workshops/presentations is reviewed in advance for age-appropriateness. Regular external service providers (e.g., sports coaches, music teachers, therapists) are Garda vetted. External instructors/coaches are never left alone with students. Visitors delivering sensitive content (RSE, mental health) are qualified and follow school policy. Tusla contact information and reporting procedures are made available to external providers. Any concerns about visitor behaviour are addressed immediately and visitor is removed if necessary.
5. Toilet breaks	Risk of harm whilst using toilets and changing rooms.	Student toilets are checked regularly by staff. Students are permitted to use toilets with permission during class time. Break-time supervision includes monitoring of toilet areas. Changing rooms for PE are designated by gender, with privacy respected. Staff do not enter student changing rooms unless emergency arises; announce presence if entry necessary. Students with special needs requiring toileting assistance have individual care plans with parental input. Anti-bullying procedures address toilet areas as potential locations for bullying. Any concerns regarding behaviour in toilets/changing rooms are addressed immediately.
6. Use of tablets and handheld devices	Risk of harm due to children inappropriately accessing/using school computers, social media, phones and other devices while at school. Risk of harm associated with using video/photography and other media to record school events.	Acceptable Use Policy (AUP) is in place for students and staff. Students and parents sign when they join the school. Internet filtering and monitoring systems are active on school devices and networks. Students receive education on online safety, digital citizenship, and cyberbullying. Staff use only school-approved platforms for communication with students. Staff do not engage with students on personal social media accounts. Online learning platforms have appropriate privacy and safety settings. Incidents of cyberbullying, sharing of inappropriate images, or online abuse are addressed under the school's anti-bullying and child protection procedures. Students are educated on the legal implications of sharing intimate images. Parents are informed about online safety through information evenings and written communications. Parental consent is obtained for use of photographs/videos



		of students. Images are stored securely and used only for agreed educational purposes. School events are managed with regard to appropriate photography.
7. One to one meetings	Risk of harm during one-to-one counselling/pastoral care.	Meetings take place in rooms with visibility (glass panels/windowed doors). Timetables/schedules for learning support, resource teaching, and counselling are maintained. Parents are informed when their child is receiving additional support. Records are kept of all interventions. All personnel providing one-to-one support are appropriately qualified and Garda vetted. School maintains appropriate boundaries in line with Teaching Council Code of Professional Conduct.
8. Out of bounds areas	Risk of harm in isolated or unsupervised areas of school.	Out-of-bounds areas are clearly identified to students. Students are informed of areas that are off-limits (storage areas, plant rooms, unoccupied buildings, etc.). Out-of-bounds areas are secured where possible (locked doors, signage). Supervision rosters cover all accessible areas of the school. Isolated or poorly visible areas are minimized. CCTV may be used in appropriate areas (not toilets/changing rooms) for security and safeguarding. Staff monitor for students in unauthorised areas. Breaches of out-of-bounds rules are addressed through Code of Behaviour.
9. Dysregulated students	Risk of harm during one-to-one teaching, for example; teaching of students with additional needs. Risk of harm during intimate care of students with special needs. Risk of harm to children with SEN who have vulnerabilities.	Individual Education Plans (IEPs) and care plans are developed in consultation with parents and specialists. SNAs and support staff are Garda vetted and trained in child protection. Intimate care plans are in place where required, developed with parents and healthcare professionals. Privacy and dignity are respected during personal care. Students with communication difficulties are supported to express concerns through appropriate methods. Vulnerability of students with disabilities is recognized and additional safeguards applied. Staff are alert to signs of abuse which may present differently in children with disabilities. Code of Behaviour outlines procedures for managing challenging behaviour. Behaviour support plans are in place for students with significant behavioural needs. Physical intervention is used only as a last resort to prevent harm. Any physical intervention is reasonable, proportionate, and lawful (Section 24, Non-Fatal Offences Against the Person Act 1997). Incidents requiring physical intervention are recorded in detail.



		Parents are informed of significant behavioural incidents. Specific staff receive training in de-escalation techniques and trauma-informed approaches.
10. Unscheduled walk-ins	Risk of harm from unscheduled visitors or former students.	All visitors must report to reception and sign in. Unscheduled visitors are managed by reception/office staff. Visitors are not permitted to wander the school unescorted. Former students visiting during school hours must have a legitimate purpose and are supervised. Staff approach unknown adults on school premises. Gardaí are contacted if a visitor becomes aggressive or refuses to leave. Drop-off and collection arrangements minimise unauthorised access to school buildings.
11. Supervision at the school gates and student collection from school	Risk of harm in the daily arrival and departure of students travelling on buses.	Supervision is in place before school begins and during dismissal. Students are required to remain on school premises during the school day unless authorised to leave. Sign-out procedures are in place for students leaving during the school day. Parents collecting students early must sign them out at reception. Students are released only to authorised adults. Transition times between classes are supervised; staff position themselves in corridors, where possible. After-school supervision is provided for students in extra-curricular activities or study. Students who miss their bus or transport are supervised until collected. Procedures are in place for students who arrive at school distressed or in need of support.
12. Evening study	Risk of harm during supervised evening study for students.	Evening study is supervised by Garda vetted staff. A role is taken during evening study. Parents are informed of evening study arrangements and times. Supervision ratios are appropriate to student numbers. Students leaving during evening study require parental permission. Emergency procedures are in place for evening sessions.
13. Group projects including facilitators	Risk of harm from outside visitors, including outside contractors working in the school e.g. plumbers or electricians, volunteers, visitors etc.	External facilitators are approved by Principal in advance. Facilitators are supervised by school staff. Parental consent is obtained for student participation in group projects with external facilitators. Contractors working on school premises are risk-assessed. Contractors are supervised and kept separate from student areas where possible. Work is scheduled outside school hours where feasible.



14. Detention and in-school suspension	Risk of harm in the application of sanctions under the school's code of behaviour, e.g detention, confiscation of phones etc. Risk of harm during management of challenging behaviour amongst students. Risk of harm in dealing with and prevention of bullying behaviour.	Detention and in-school suspension are supervised appropriately. Sanctions are applied fairly and consistently in line with Code of Behaviour. Parents are informed of detentions and suspensions. Records are kept of all sanctions applied. Confiscated items (phones, etc.) are stored securely and returned appropriately. All incidents of bullying are recorded and investigated. Supports are provided to both targets and perpetrators of bullying. Serious incidents involving potential harm are reported to Tusla where appropriate. Anonymous reporting mechanisms are available to students. Restorative practice approaches are used where appropriate.
15. Open nights	Risk of harm during school open days, for prospective students.	Open nights have adequate supervision and stewarding. Student volunteers assisting at open nights are supervised. Visitors are directed to specific areas and routes. Parents attending are expected to supervise their own younger children. Staff are positioned throughout accessible areas. Events are planned with clear start and finish times.
16. Parent teacher meetings	Risk of harm during parent-teacher meetings.	Parent-teacher meetings take place in open, visible spaces (classrooms, hall). Meeting times are structured and managed. If students attend, meetings remain professional and focused on educational progress.
17. Online Safety, Data protection and display of sensitive material	Risk of harm due to children inappropriately accessing/using school computers, social media, phones and other devices while at school.	Child protection records are stored securely in locked cabinet, accessible only to DLP and Deputy DLP. Student files containing sensitive information are stored securely. Access to student data is on a need-to-know basis. GDPR and Data Protection Acts 2018 are complied with. Sensitive information is not displayed on public noticeboards. Student information is not shared with external parties without consent (except where required by law). Work displayed in classrooms does not include sensitive personal information. Computer systems are password-protected. Emails containing sensitive information are sent securely. Records retention schedule is followed in line with Department circulars. Data protection policy is in place and reviewed regularly.
18. School shows, including rehearsal	Risk of harm during extra-curricular activities such as sports or school musicals.	Rehearsals and performances are supervised by Garda vetted staff. Minimum two staff members present at all rehearsals. Changing areas/backstage areas are supervised. Photography at



		school events is managed in line with school policy and parental consents.
19. Graduation ceremonies	Risk of harm during graduation and other large school events.	Events have adequate supervision and stewarding. Students are supervised throughout ceremonies. Photography is managed in line with parental consents. Events involving large numbers of visitors have clear procedures. After-event gatherings on school premises are supervised. Students leaving with parents/guardians are released appropriately. Minimum two staff present throughout event.
20. Fundraising activities	Risk of harm during fundraising events (collections, car washing, bag packing).	All fundraising activities are approved by school management. Students participating in off-site fundraising (bag packing, collections) are supervised by Garda vetted staff. Adequate staff-student ratios are maintained. Parental consent is obtained for off-site activities. Risk assessments are completed for fundraising activities. Students are never left unsupervised during fundraising. Money collected is handled securely. Transport arrangements are safe and appropriate.
21. Gender identity support and facilities	Risk of harm related to gender identity and LGBTI+ students.	School promotes an inclusive environment for all students. Anti-bullying procedures address homophobic and transphobic bullying. Students are supported in line with Department guidance on supporting transgender students. Confidentiality regarding a student's gender identity is maintained appropriately. Bathroom and changing facilities are made available in a manner that respects student dignity and safety. Staff use the student's affirmed name and pronouns when requested. SPHE and RSE curriculum includes LGBTI+ inclusive content. Staff receive training on supporting LGBTI+ students. Links with appropriate support organisations are maintained.
22. Work experience placements	Risk of harm during work experience placements.	Placement providers are informed of their responsibilities. Students are briefed on appropriate workplace behaviour and what to do if they have concerns. Parental consent forms are signed before placements commence. School maintains contact with students during placements (visits or phone check-ins). Students can contact school if concerns arise. Concerns raised by or about students during placements are managed through school child protection procedures. Placement providers are asked to confirm



		insurance and health & safety compliance. Age-appropriate placements are selected. Students are not placed in isolated or unsupervised environments.
23. Student teachers and trainee placements	Risk of harm from student teachers or trainees on placement.	Student teachers provide evidence of Garda vetting. Student teachers are inducted in the school's Child Safeguarding Statement. Student teachers are supervised by qualified staff. Student teachers must adhere to school policies including Code of Behaviour and child protection procedures. Concerns about student teacher conduct are addressed immediately.
24. Use of school premises by outside groups	Risk of harm when external groups use school facilities.	Lettings/use of facilities by external groups is subject to approval. External organisations provide evidence of their own Child Safeguarding Statement and public liability insurance. External groups are responsible for supervision of their own participants. External groups do not have access to school records or student information. Use of premises is scheduled to avoid overlap with school activities where possible. External group leaders are informed they must report any child protection concerns to Tusla. School retains right to terminate use of facilities if safeguarding concerns arise. Access to school buildings is limited to areas covered by the letting agreement.
25. RSE and SPHE classes	Risk of harm during sensitive curriculum delivery.	RSE and SPHE are delivered in accordance with Department guidelines and school RSE policy. Teachers delivering RSE are appropriately trained. Parents are informed of RSE curriculum content. Students are educated on personal safety, healthy relationships, consent, and bodily autonomy. Classes create opportunities for disclosure; teachers are alert to this and follow reporting procedures. External providers of RSE/wellbeing programmes are vetted and supervised. Content is age-appropriate and reviewed regularly.
26. Wellbeing programmes and student supports	Risk of harm during wellbeing interventions or mental health support.	Wellbeing programmes are delivered by appropriately qualified personnel. External counsellors/therapists are Garda vetted and appropriately qualified. Students know how to access support and who to talk to. Multiple reporting pathways are available (class teacher, Year Head, Guidance Counsellor, DLP). Student Support team maintains appropriate records in line with GDPR. Links with external supports (CAMHS, HSE, NEPS) are maintained.



		Mental health disclosures that indicate child protection concerns are reported appropriately.
27. Classroom teaching and learning	Risk of harm during daily classroom activities.	All teaching staff are Garda vetted and registered with the Teaching Council. Staff-student ratios are maintained in line with Department guidelines. Classroom doors have vision panels for visibility. Teachers implement the school's Code of Behaviour. Child protection training is provided where required. Supervision arrangements ensure no student is left unsupervised. Any disclosure or concern observed during class time is reported immediately to the DLP. Teachers maintain professional boundaries in line with Teaching Council Code of Professional Conduct.
28. Break times and lunch supervision	Risk of harm during unstructured time.	Adequate supervision is provided during all breaks (teacher roster system). Supervision areas are clearly defined and allocated to specific staff members. Wet-day supervision procedures are in place. Students remain on school premises unless permitted to leave. Yard and common areas are monitored; isolated areas are out of bounds. Anti-bullying procedures are implemented proactively. Incidents during breaks are recorded and followed up appropriately. Student Support Team monitors vulnerable students.



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 10/06/26 (most recent review date)

Signed:

Date:

Chairperson of the board of management

Mary Mullarkey
Signed: *B. [Signature]*

10/06/2026.
Date: *10/06/2026*

Principal/Secretary to the board of management

This Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment is expected to be reviewed again on June 2026 (expected review date)

