

Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment St. Joseph's NS Templeraíneay

Child Safeguarding Statement

St. Joseph's NS is a primary school providing primary education to pupils from Junior Infants to Sixth Class.

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 \(2019\)](#), the [Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools \(revised 2023\)](#) and [Tusla Guidance on the preparation of Child Safeguarding Statements](#), the Board of Management of St. Joseph's NS has agreed the Child Safeguarding Statement set out in this document.

- 1 The Board of Management has adopted and will implement fully and without modification the Department's *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools (revised 2023)* as part of this overall Child Safeguarding Statement
- 2 The Designated Liaison Person (DLP) is Máire Daltúin
- 3 The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is Jimmy Doyle
- 4 The Relevant Person is Máire Daltúin
(The relevant person is one who can provide information in respect of how the child safeguarding statement was developed and will be able to provide the statement on request. This person can also be the DLP)
- 5 The Board of Management recognises that child protection and welfare considerations permeate all aspects of school life and must be reflected in all of the school's policies, procedures, practices and activities. In its policies, procedures, practices and activities, 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 or accidents happening to children and protect workers from the necessity to take unnecessary risks that may leave themselves open to accusations of abuse or neglect;
- develop a practice of openness with parents and encourage parental involvement in the education of their children; and
- fully respect confidentiality requirements in dealing with child protection matters.

The school will also adhere to the above principles in relation to any adult pupil with a special vulnerability.

- 6 The following procedures/measures are in place:
 - In relation to any member of staff who is the subject of any investigation (howsoever described) in respect of any act, omission or circumstance in respect of a child attending the school, the school adheres to the relevant procedures set out in Chapter 7 of the *Child Protection Procedures*

for Primary and Post Primary Schools (revised 2023) and to the relevant agreed disciplinary procedures for school staff which are published on the gov.ie website.

- In relation to the selection or recruitment of staff and their suitability to work with children, the school adheres 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 available on the gov.ie website.
- In relation to the provision of information and, where necessary, instruction and training, to staff in respect of the identification of the occurrence of harm (as defined in the 2015 Act) the school-
 - Has provided each member of staff with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement
 - Ensures all new staff are provided with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement
 - Encourages staff to avail of relevant training
 - Encourages Board of Management members to avail of relevant training
 - The Board of Management maintains records of all staff and Board member training
- In relation to reporting of child protection concerns to Tusla, all school personnel are required to adhere to the procedures set out in the *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools (revised 2023)*, including in the case of registered teachers, those in relation to mandated reporting under the Children First Act 2015.
- All registered teachers employed by the school are mandated persons under the Children First Act 2015.
- In accordance with the Children First Act 2015 and the Addendum to Children First (2019), the Board 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.
- The various procedures referred to in this Statement can be accessed via the school's website, the gov.ie website or will be made available on request by the school.

Note: The above is not intended as an exhaustive list. Individual Boards of Management shall also include in this section such other procedures/measures that are of relevance to the school in question.

- 7 This statement has been published on the school's website and has been provided to all members of school personnel, the Parents' Association (if any) and the patron. It is readily accessible to parents and guardians on request. A copy of this Statement will be made available to Tusla and the Department if requested.
- 8 This Child Safeguarding Statement will be reviewed annually or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which this statement refers.

This Child Safeguarding Statement was adopted by the Board of Management on 26/02/2018.

This Child Safeguarding Statement was reviewed by the Board of Management on 19/09/2023.

Signed: Linda McEvoy

Chairperson of Board of Management

Date: 19/09/2023

Signed: Máire Daltúin

Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Date: 19/09/2023

Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment

Written Assessment of Risk of St. Joseph's NS Templarainey

In accordance with section 11 of the Children First Act 2015 and with the requirements of Chapter 8 of the *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools (revised 2023)*, the following is the Written Risk Assessment of St. Joseph's NS Templarainey.

1. List of school activities

1. Training of school personnel in Child Protection matters
2. One to one teaching
3. Care of children with special needs, including intimate care needs
4. Toileting / (Shower) with children with special needs
5. Curricular provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe
6. Care of pupils with specific vulnerabilities/ needs such as
 - Pupils from ethnic minorities/migrants
 - Members of the Traveller community
 - Lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender (LGBT) children
 - Pupils perceived to be LGBT
 - Pupils of minority religious faiths
 - Children in care
 - Children on Tusla's Child Protection Notification System (CPNS)
 - Children with medical needs
7. Managing of challenging behaviour amongst pupils, including use of restraint where required
8. Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils and recreation breaks for pupils
9. Sports Training with Sports Coaches
10. Student Teachers / SNA / Transition Students participating in work experience
11. School Tours
12. Classroom Teaching
13. Outdoor teaching activities
14. Sporting Activities
15. Annual Sports Day
16. After School Activities e.g. Choir, Bootcamp, Homework Club, GAA, Language Classes, Coding
17. Use of off-site facilities for school activities e.g. Sports Centre, Nature Walks, Swimming Pool, Walks to pond / playground / library / pyramid, Arklow Music Festival, Peace Proms, Cumann na mBunscoil, Credit Union Quiz, Science Modules (St. Kevin's)
18. School transport arrangements including use of bus escorts
19. Administration of First-Aid
20. Administration of Medicine
21. Use of video / photography / other media to record school events
22. Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst pupils
23. Use of external personnel to supplement curriculum
24. Care of pupils with specific vulnerabilities / needs e.g. pupils from ethnic minorities, Members of the travelling community, pupils of minority religious faiths, children in care
25. Use of Information and Communication Technology by pupils in school
26. Recruitment of school personnel including
 - Teachers
 - SNA's
 - Caretaker / Secretary / Cleaners

- Sports Coaches
 - External Guest Speakers / Tutors
 - Volunteers / Parents in school activities
 - Visitors / Contractors present in school during school hours / school activities
27. Application of sanctions under the school's Code of Behaviour including detention of pupils or confiscation of phones etc.
28. Participation in religious ceremonies external to school
29. Participation in Online Learning Platforms (Aladdin; Seesaw; Zoom)

2. The school has identified the following risk of harm in respect of its activities -

1. Harm not recognised or reported promptly
2. Harm in the school by a member of the school personnel
3. Risk of harm to a child while receiving intimate care
4. Inappropriate behaviour or risk of a child being harmed
5. Non-teaching of same
6. Risk of harm due to bullying by a child
7. Inappropriate behaviour or injury to pupils and staff
8. Harm from pupils or unknown adults in the playground
9. Risk of harm to pupils in the school by volunteer or visitor to the school
10. Risk of harm to pupils in the school by volunteer or visitor to the school
11. Harm to a child by a member of the school personnel / member of staff of another organisation
12. Risk of harm to a child by a member of school personnel
13. Risk of harm to a child by a member of school personnel / risk due to inadequate supervision
14. Risk of harm to a child by a member of school personnel or another child
15. Risk of harm to a child by a member of school personnel or another pupil
16. Risk of harm to a child by a member of school personnel, volunteer or visitor to the school
17. Harm to a child by a member of the school personnel / member of staff of another organisation
18. Harm to a child by adult personnel
19. Harm to child
20. Harm to child
21. Risk of harm to a pupil due to inappropriate use of material by a member of school personnel or visitor
22. Inappropriate behaviour
23. Harm to students by external personnel / visitors to the school
24. Inappropriate behaviours directed towards children with specific vulnerabilities / needs
25. Risk of harm by a member of school personnel or another child communicating with another child inappropriately via texting, social media, digital device or other manner
26. Harm not recognised or promptly reported / Risk of being harmed by volunteer or visitor to the school
27. Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision / inappropriate communication
28. Harm to a child by a member of school personnel / unknown adults
29. Risk of Harm due to online learning platforms / security of images, recordings

3. The school has the following procedures in place to address the risks of harm identified in this assessment -

1. Child Safeguarding Statement & DES procedures made available to all staff
DLP& DDLP to attend PDST face to face training
All Staff to view Túsla training module & any other online training offered by PDST
BOM records all records of staff and board training
2. School has policy in place for one to one teaching as part of SEN Policy
Open doors / Table between teacher and pupil
Glass in window
3. School has policy on intimate care as part of Medication and Personal Care Policy
4. School has Health and Safety Policy
School has in place a Code of Behaviour for pupils
School has policy on toileting as part of Medication and Personal Care Policy
5. School implements SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe in full
6. School has an Anti-Bullying Policy which fully adheres to the requirements of the DES Anti-Bullying Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools
7. SNA's have completed manual handling course
School has a Health & Safety Policy
School has a Code Of Behaviour for pupils
8. School has a supervision policy to ensure appropriate supervision of children during arrival, dismissal and recreation breaks
9. School has Policy & Procedures in place as part of PE Policy and School adheres to requirements of Garda vetting legislation and relevant DES circulars
10. School has in place a policy and procedures in respect of students undertaking work experience in the school
School adheres to requirements of Garda Vetting legislation and relevant DES circulars
11. School has in place a policy and clear procedures in respect of school outings
12. School personnel are required to adhere to the Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2023 and all registered teaching staff are required to adhere to the Children First Act 2015
13. School has in place a Health and Safety Policy
School has a Supervision Policy
School personnel are required to adhere to the Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2023 and all registered teaching staff are required to adhere to the Children First Act 2015
14. School has in place a Code of Behaviour for pupils, a Health and Safety Policy, Supervision Policy

15. The school has in place a Code of Behaviour for children
The school has in place a Supervision Policy
School personnel are required to adhere to the Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2023 and all registered teaching staff are required to adhere to the Children First Act 2015
16. The school has in place a Supervision Policy
School personnel are required to adhere to the Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2023 and all registered teaching staff are required to adhere to the Children First Act 2015
School adheres to requirements of Garda vetting legislation and relevant DES circulars
17. The school has in place a Supervision Policy
School personnel are required to adhere to the Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2023 and all registered teaching staff are required to adhere to the Children First Act 2015
School adheres to requirements of Garda vetting legislation and relevant DES circulars
18. School adheres to requirements of Garda vetting legislation and relevant DES circulars in relation to recruitment and Garda Vetting
19. School has in place a First Aid Policy as part of Health and Safety Policy
20. School has in place a policy and procedures for the administration of medication to pupils as part of the Medication and Personal Care Policy
21. School has procedures in place as part of Data Protection Policy
22. School has an Anti-Bullying Policy which fully adheres to the requirements of the DES Anti-Bullying Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools
School has in place a Code of Behaviour Policy
23. School has a Supervision Policy in place
School adheres to requirements of Garda vetting legislation
24. School has an Equality Policy in place
25. The school has an Acceptable Usage Policy in place
School has an Anti-Bullying Policy which fully adheres to the requirements of the DES Anti-Bullying Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools
School has in place a Code of Behaviour Policy
26. Child Safeguarding Statement & DES procedures made available to all staff
Staff to view Tusla training module & any other online training offered by PDST
School adheres to requirements of Garda vetting legislation and relevant DES circulars in relation to recruitment and Garda Vetting
27. The school has a code of conduct for school personnel (teaching and non-teaching staff)
28. The school has in place a Supervision Policy
29. The School has a Covid-19 Policy; Covid Response Plan; Updated Health and Safety Policy, Data Protection Policy; Anti-Bullying Policy; Critical Incident Policy; Code of Behaviour Policy; Acceptable Usage Policy

All images and recordings of pupils are deleted once they are no longer required for assessment purposes

Important Note: It should be noted that risk in the context of this risk assessment is the risk of “harm” as defined in the Children First Act 2015 and not general health and safety risk. The definition of harm is set out in Chapter 4 of the *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools (revised 2023)*

In undertaking this risk assessment, the board of management has endeavoured to identify as far as possible the risks of harm that are relevant to this school and to ensure that adequate procedures are in place to manage all risks identified. While it is not possible to foresee and remove all risk of harm, the school has in place the procedures listed in this risk assessment to manage and reduce risk to the greatest possible extent.