# Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment
# St Joseph's National School, Templerainey,
# Arklow, Co Wicklow
# 17181B

This school is a Primary 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):**

Corrina Bailey

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

Ursula Power

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

**Name of Relevant Person**

Corrina Bailey

*(In schools this person is the DLP)*

**Relevant Person can be contacted on:**

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|---|---|
| 0402 32984 | principal@iosaifns.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:**

Maria Fitzmaurice

*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.**

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. | Training of School Personnel in Child Protection | Harm not recognised or not reported promptly | Child Safeguarding Statement and Child Protection Procedures provided to all staff<br>DLP/DDLP trained<br>All staff complete Tusla training<br>Annual safeguarding refresher<br>Training records maintained<br>Annual review of safeguarding statement and risk assessment. |
| 2. | Classroom Teaching | Harm by school personnel | Garda vetting for all staff<br>Child Safeguarding Statement issued to all staff<br>Code of Behaviour<br>Supervision procedures<br>Stay Safe and SPHE programmes implemented |
| 3. | One-to-One Teaching / Support | Harm by school personnel or allegations against staff | Open doors where feasible<br>Glass visibility panels<br>Table positioned between staff and pupil<br>Another staff member aware of location<br>One-to-one teaching policy |
| 4. | Children with AEN and Intimate Care Needs | Harm by personnel, vulnerability of pupils | Intimate Care and Toileting Policy<br>Individual care plans<br>Parental consent and involvement<br>Staff training<br>Appropriate staffing ratios |

| | List of School Activities | Risks Identified Against Each School Activity | Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | | Documentation and reporting of care incidents. |
| 5. | Toilets | Inappropriate behaviour, bullying, inadequate supervision | Supervision policy<br>Age-appropriate toilet procedures<br>Intimate care and Toileting Policy<br>Hygiene procedures. |
| 6. | Daily Arrival and Dismissal | Harm from unknown adults or other pupils | Teacher/SNA supervision<br>Visitor sign-in procedures<br>Secure access systems<br>Designated collection arrangements<br>Supervision policy<br>CCTV where applicable. |
| 7. | Yard Supervision | Bullying, injury, inadequate supervision | Yard supervision rota<br>High visibility supervision staff<br>Anti-bullying procedures<br>Supervision records<br>Clear wet-day arrangements. |
| 8. | Managing Challenging Behaviour | Injury to pupils or staff | Code of Behaviour<br>Behaviours of Concern Policy<br>Behaviour Support Plans<br>AEN supports<br>Health and Safety procedures<br>Staff training |
| 9. | Sporting Activities | Harm by adults or pupils, accidents | Garda vetting of coaches<br>Teacher supervision<br>Code of Behaviour<br>Staff-to-pupil ratios monitored |

| | List of School Activities | Risks Identified Against Each School Activity | Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | | Safety equipment used. |
| **10.** | School Outings / Off-site Activities | Harm by adults, inadequate supervision, unfamiliar environments | Risk assessment completed<br>Appropriate staff ratios<br>Access to emergency contact information<br>Garda-vetted adults only<br>Code of Behaviour applies<br>Planning and supervision procedures<br>Parental consent obtained. |
| **11.** | Annual Sports Days | Inadequate supervision | Designated staff roles<br>Supervision<br>Clear toileting arrangements<br>Garda-vetted volunteers. |
| **12.** | School Transport | Harm by personnel, accidents, inappropriate behaviour | Garda-vetted escorts<br>Supervision by staff<br>Emergency contact details<br>Parental consent<br>Liaison with transport providers<br>Behaviour expectations. |
| **13.** | Administration of Medication | Incorrect administration; medical emergencies | Administration of Medicine Policy<br>Staff training<br>Parental consent<br>Medication records<br>Storage procedures<br>Individual healthcare plans, where appropriate)<br>Emergency medication procedures. |

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|---|---|---|---|
| **14.** | Administration of First Aid | Harm through inadequate response | First Aid Policy<br>Trained staff<br>Incident/Accident records<br>First aid kits available on-site and on outings<br>Communication with parents. |
| **15.** | SPHE, RSE and Stay Safe | Non-teaching of programmes | School fully implements SPHE, RSE and Stay Safe<br>Monitoring through planning and school policies. |
| **16.** | Prevention of Bullying | Bullying, cyberbullying, failure to report | Bí Cineálta/Anti-Bullying Policy<br>Stay Safe and SPHE implementation<br>Supervision<br>Reporting systems<br>Regular Board reporting<br>Online safety education. |
| **17.** | Use of ICT and Digital Technologies | Exposure to inappropriate material; cyberbullying | Acceptable Use Policy<br>Supervision of device use<br>Online safety lessons/workshops<br>Cyber-safety talks<br>Controls on smartphone access in school – secured until end of school day<br>Staff compliance with ICT policies. |
| **18.** | Online Teaching / Remote Learning | Inappropriate online contact, supervision concerns | AUP includes remote learning<br>Parental presence where appropriate<br>Monitored platforms<br>Principal/school leadership access to online classrooms<br>Safeguarding expectations communicated. |

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| **19.** | External Coaches, Visitors and Guest Speakers | Harm by adults | Garda vetting<br>Visitor procedures<br>Staff supervision at all times<br>Secure access controls<br>Child Safeguarding Statement shared with external personnel. |
| **20.** | Work Experience Students and Student Teachers | Harm by students or inadequate safeguarding awareness | Garda vetting<br>Supervision by staff<br>Work experience procedures<br>Safeguarding information provided. |
| **21.** | Vulnerable Pupils (Ethnic Minorities, Traveller, LGBT+, Children in Care, CPNS, Medical Needs) | Bullying, discrimination, exclusion | Inclusive ethos<br>Bí Cineálta/Anti-Bullying Policy<br>SPHE and Stay Safe<br>RSE policy<br>Code of Behaviour<br>Respect and equality education<br>Support plans where appropriate. |
| **22.** | Recruitment and Management of Personnel | Unsuitable adults working with children; concerns not reported | Garda vetting<br>Recruitment procedures<br>Visitor protocols<br>Safeguarding training<br>Safeguarding statement issued to personnel<br>Disciplinary and reporting procedures. |
| **23.** | Photography, Video and Media | Inappropriate sharing of images; data breaches | Consent procedures<br>Data Protection Policy<br>Restrictions on social media publication<br>Supervision of photography<br>Guidance to parents and staff. |

| | List of School Activities | Risks Identified Against Each School Activity | Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk |
|---|---|---|---|
| 24. | Use of ICT and Digital Technologies | Exposure to inappropriate material; cyberbullying | Acceptable Use Policy<br>Supervision of device use<br>Online safety lessons<br>Cyber-safety talks<br>Controls on smartphone use<br>Staff compliance with ICT policies. |
| 25. | Use of School Premises by External Organisations | Pupils supervised by non-school personnel | After School Activities' Policy<br>Garda vetting requirements<br>Designated activity areas<br>Clear collection arrangements<br>Safeguarding statement shared<br>Supervision responsibilities clearly defined. |

*Additional pages may be added as required*

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 13th October 2026.

| **Signed:*** | | **Date:** 13/10/2026 |
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*Chairperson of the board of management*

| **Signed:*** | Corrina Bailey | **Date:** 13/10/2026 |
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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 _____ *(expected review date)*

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

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

This may be in the form of specifying the online location for the procedures (Department of Education and Youth website www.gov.ie/childprotectionschools and/or the school website), providing a link to the Children First National Guidance 2017 Children_First_National_Guidance_2017.pdf, and stating the number and location of hard copies of these procedures available in the school.

The Child Safeguarding Procedures for 2026/2027 will be available to read and download via the school website: https://primaryschoolarklow.ie/

A hard copy of the Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment document will be displayed at the entrance to the school.

Three hard copies of these procedures are available in the school:

- School Office
- Principal's Office
- Deputy Principal's Office

Additional hard copies are available upon request from our school office.

The Children First National Guidance document (2017) is available to staff via the school shared Drive. It is stored in the folder named 'Child Protection and Safeguarding'.