

Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment Template

Child Safeguarding Statement

St Joseph's NS is a primary/special/post-primary school providing primary/post-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 Órla Egan
- 3 The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is Anne Harte
- 4 The Relevant Person is Órla Egan
(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. In a school setting the relevant person shall be the designated liaison person.)
- 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

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- 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.

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- 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.

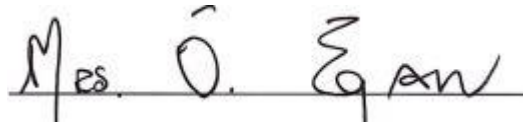
This Child Safeguarding Statement was adopted by the Board of Management on **23rd October 2023**.

This Child Safeguarding Statement was reviewed by the Board of Management on _____ [most recent review date].



Signed:

Chairperson of Board of Management



Signed:

Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Date: **23rd October 2023**

Date: **23rd October 2023**

Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment

Written Assessment of Risk of St Joseph's N.S. Dublin Road, Longford. 18178r

In accordance with section 11 of the Children First Act 2015 and with the requirement 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

List of School Activities	The School has identified the following Risk of Harm	The School has the following Procedures in place to address risk identified in this assessment
Training of school personnel in Child Protection matters	Harm not recognised or reported promptly	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
One to one teaching	Harm by school personnel	SEN Policy Garda Vetting. Child Safeguarding Statement. All school personal will maintain reasonable and effective supervision of pupils. Supervision Policy. Names of DLP and DDLP clearly visible in main entrance. Open doors Table between teacher and pupil Glass in window
Care of Children with special needs, including intimate care needs	Harm by school personnel	Garda Vetting Supervision Policy Staff Training on Child Protection

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List of School Activities	The School has identified the following Risk of Harm	The School has the following Procedures in place to address risk identified in this assessment
Toilet areas	Inappropriate behaviour	Supervision policy Intimate Care Policy
Curricular Provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay safe.	Non-teaching of same	School implements SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe in full
LGBT Children/Pupils perceived to be LGBT	Bullying	Anti-Bullying Policy Code of Behaviour Stay Safe Programme
Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils	Harm from other pupils or unknown adults.	Arrival and dismissal supervised by teachers / SNAs CCTV
Managing of challenging behaviour amongst pupils, including appropriate use of restraint	Injury to pupils and staff	Health & Safety Policy Code Of Behaviour
Sports Coaches	Harm to pupils	Procedures in place -All school personal will maintain reasonable and effective supervision of pupils. Garda Vetting.
Recreation breaks for pupils	Harm to pupils	Anti-Bullying Policy. Code of Behaviour. Garda Vetting. Child Safeguarding Statement. All school personal will maintain reasonable and effective supervision of pupils. Supervision Policy.
Classroom teaching	Harm to pupils	Anti-Bullying Policy. Code of Behaviour. Garda Vetting. Child Safeguarding Statement. All school personal will maintain reasonable and effective supervision of pupils. Supervision Policy.

		Names of DLP and DDLP clearly visible in main entrance.
List of School Activities	The School has identified the following Risk of Harm	The School has the following Procedures in place to address risk identified in this assessment
Outdoor teaching activities	Harm to pupils.	Anti-Bullying Policy. Code of Behaviour. Garda Vetting. Child Safeguarding Statement. All school personal will maintain reasonable and effective supervision of pupils. Supervision Policy.
Sporting Activities	Harm to pupils.	Anti-Bullying Policy. Code of Behaviour. Garda Vetting. Child Safeguarding Statement. All school personal will maintain reasonable and effective supervision of pupils. Supervision Policy. Basketball/Football matches/training: two school personnel must travel on bus with pupils. Swimming – two school personnel in changing room with pupils. - Teacher to accompany pupil if they leave swimming lesson to go to the toilet.
Breakfast club	Harm to pupils.	Anti-Bullying Policy. Code of Behaviour. Garda Vetting. Child Safeguarding Statement. All school personal will maintain reasonable and effective supervision of pupils. Supervision Policy.

List of School Activities	The School has identified the following Risk of Harm	The School has the following Procedures in place to address risk identified in this assessment
School outings/ Tours / Exhibitions	Harm to pupils	Anti-Bullying Policy. Code of Behaviour. Garda Vetting. Child Safeguarding Statement. All school personal will maintain reasonable and effective supervision of pupils. Supervision Policy. Procedures in place - personnel to accompany class teachers.
Annual Sports Day	Harm to pupils	Anti-Bullying Policy. Code of Behaviour. Garda Vetting. Child Safeguarding Statement. All school personal will maintain reasonable and effective supervision of pupils. Supervision Policy. Procedures in place - personnel to accompany class teachers.
Fundraising events involving pupils	Harm to pupils	Clear information to parents on their role in provision of supervision. Not mandatory to participate.
Use of off-site facilities for school activities	Harm to pupils	Anti-Bullying Policy. Code of Behaviour. Garda Vetting. Child Safeguarding Statement. All school personal will maintain reasonable and effective supervision of pupils. Supervision Policy. Procedures in place - personnel to accompany class teachers.

School transport arrangements	Harm to pupils	Pupils not permitted to travel in staff vehicles Supervision Policy Two adults accompany pupil.
List of School Activities	The School has identified the following Risk of Harm	The School has the following Procedures in place to address risk identified in this assessment
School transport arrangements including use of bus escorts	Harm to pupils	Two adults accompany pupil. Garda Vetting.
Administration of Medicine	Harm to pupils	Parental Consent Clear instruction given by parents. Administration of Medicine Policy
Administration of First Aid	Harm to pupils	Minor injuries treated by school personal. Parents informed. Serious injuries – parents requested to come to the school.
Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst pupils	Harm to pupils by another pupil	Anti-Bullying Policy Code of Behaviour Curriculum - S.P.H.E/Stay Safe/RSE Supervision Policy
Recruitment of school personnel including - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teachers • SNA's • Caretaker/Secretary/Cleaners • Sports coaches • External Tutors/Guest Speakers • Volunteers/Parents in school activities • Visitors/contractors present in school during school hours • Visitors/contractors present during after school activities 	Harm not recognised or properly or promptly reported	Child Safeguarding Statement & DES procedures made available to all staff Staff to view Tusla training module & any other online training offered by PDST Vetting Procedures Policy of Parents / Volunteers Policy on Visiting Contractors Supervision Policy


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Use of Information and Communication Technology by pupils in school	Bullying	ICT policy Anti-Bullying Policy Code of Behaviour
List of School Activities	The School has identified the following Risk of Harm	The School has the following Procedures in place to address risk identified in this assessment
Online Teaching and Learning Remotely	Harm due to inappropriate use of online remote teaching and learning platforms	Acceptable Usage Policy / ICT Policy Anti-Bullying Policy Code of Behaviour School broadband filtering is on. Apple classroom – teachers can monitor individual children’s work on iPads Secure Online platforms used. Seesaw Aladdin Apps downloaded by central administrator.
Application of sanctions under the school’s Code of Behaviour including detention of pupils, confiscation of phones etc.	Harm to pupils	Anti-Bullying Policy Code of Behaviour Supervision Policy Acceptable Use Policy
Student teachers undertaking training placement in school	Harm to pupils	Garda Vetting. Staff to maintain reasonable and effective supervision. Provision of Joint Agreement from educational institution.
Use of video/photography/other media to record school event	Harm to pupils Recognition of pupils	Anti-Bullying Acceptable Usage Policy / ICT Policy Parents requested not to post digital material on social media
July Provision Summer Provision DEIS Camps / Campa Samhraidh	Harm to pupils	Anti-Bullying Policy. Code of Behaviour. Garda Vetting. Child Safeguarding Statement. All school personal will maintain reasonable and effective supervision of pupils. Supervision Policy.

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.

This risk assessment has been completed by the Board of Management on **23rd October 2023** It will be reviewed as part of the school's annual review of its Child Safeguarding Statement.

Signed: 

Chairperson of Board of Management

Signed: 

Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Date: **23rd October 2023**

Date: **23rd October 2023**