

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 (CSS1)

List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measure s in place to Mitigate Risk
1. Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children in school	1.Designated SMT & SNA Roster for daily arrival at the front gates 2.A second staff roster is in place for pre start of instruction supervision 3.Main stream class teachers walk students to departure area each day where students are released
2. Recreation breaks for pupils	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children in school; Risk of harm due to bullying of a child	Yard Supervision roster in place Anti-Bullying Policy in place Code of Behaviour in place Care officer & BÍ Cnealta Support team

		in place to address any allegations of bullying
3. Classroom teaching	Risk of harm not being reported properly and promptly by members of school personnel	Child Safeguarding Statement DES Procedures; Standard Reporting Procedures - input by DDLP at every staff meeting & start of year instruction day;
4. One-to-one teaching	Risk of harm in one-to-one teaching, counselling, coaching situations	Child Safeguarding Statement & DES Procedures; Glass panels in doors.
5. One-to-one learning support	Risk of harm in one-to-one teaching, counselling, coaching situations	Child Safeguarding Statement & DES Procedures; Glass panels in doors.
6. Outdoor teaching activities/School Outings including annual Sports Day Participation by pupils in religious ceremonies/religious instruction external to the school	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children while attending out-of-school 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	School Outings/Tours Policy; Garda Vetting Requirements adhered to; Child Safeguarding Statement & DES Procedures. SMT addresses supervision requirements of out of class activities based on (i) Number of pupils

		<p>attending (ii) Nature of activity re. Level of risk (iii) Geographical proximity to school location</p>
<p>7. Online teaching and learning remotely</p>	<p>Risk of harm due to children inappropriately accessing/using computers, social media, phones and other devices while at school; Risk of harm due to inappropriate relationship/communications; Risk of harm from uninvited person accessing lesson link; students being left unsupervised in breakout rooms</p>	<p>Acceptable Use Policy (AUP) / ICT Policy; Use of school-sanctioned platforms only; Data Protection Policy.</p> <p>Clear guidelines given to teaching staff in (i) Communication Policy & (ii) Staff Guidelines & Protocols Booklet - updated annually re protocols & online teaching</p> <p>Daily monitoring of pupils using tablets</p> <p>Firewall in place</p>
<p>8. Sporting activities</p>	<p>Risk of child being harmed in the school by a member of school personnel; Risk of harm due to bullying of a child</p>	<p>Child Safeguarding Statement & DES Procedures; Garda Vetting procedure adhered to; BÍ Cinealta Policy.</p>

<p>9. Use of toilet/changing/shower areas in school</p>	<p>Risk of child being harmed in the school by a member of school personnel</p>	<p>Child Safeguarding Statement & DES Procedures.</p> <p>Intimate Care & Toileting Policy</p>
<p>10. School Transport arrangements including use of bus escorts</p>	<p>Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children in school/risk of harm where members of school personnel have not received appropriate training/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 eg school trip, swimming lessons.</p>	<p>Garda vetting requirements adhered to</p> <p>Child Safeguarding Statement</p>
<p>11. Care of children with special educational needs including intimate care where needed</p>	<p>Risk of harm to child while a child is receiving intimate care/ risk of harm to children with SEN who have particular vulnerabilities, including medical vulnerabilities.</p>	<p>Garda vetting procedures adhered to</p> <p>Intimate Care Policy</p>
<p>12. Management of challenging behaviour amongst pupils including appropriate use of restraint where required</p>	<p>Risk of child being harmed in the school by a member of school personnel</p>	<p>Compliance with Behaviour of Concern implemented September 2025 addressed at SEN meeting. EBD withdrawal protocol is in place cf1.5 in Staff Guidelines and Protocol booklet</p>

<p>13. Administration of first aid</p>	<p>Risk of harm to child while a child is receiving intimate care/ risk of harm to children with SEN who have particular vulnerabilities, including medical vulnerabilities.</p>	<p>Accident/Injury Policy (annual review)</p> <p>Administration of Medication (part of Health & Safety policy)</p> <p>Detailed guidance given in 1.4 Staff Guidelines & Protocol booklet</p> <p>Intimate Care Policy</p>
<p>14. Curricular Provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe</p>	<p>Risk of harm where member of school personnel have not received appropriate training.</p>	<p>2 year whole school SPHE curriculum plan where all classes receive all elements of the SPHE/RSE programme including sensitive lessons.</p> <p>All staff received training by PDST sustained support advisor which was a two year programme in 2018/2019</p>
<p>15. Prevention of dealing with bullying amongst pupil</p>	<p>Risk of harm where members of school personnel have not received appropriate training.</p> <p>Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children in school/risk of harm where members of school personnel have not received appropriate training/risk of child being harmed by a member of school personnel,</p>	<p>29th May 2025 whole staff training in the new Bi Cinealta procedures</p> <p>Principal & Care Officer trained by Oide on 27th November 2024.</p> <p>Bi Cinealta Policy in place (annual review)</p>

	a member of staff of another organisation or other person while a child is participating in out of school activities eg school trip, swimming lessons	
16. Training of school personnel in child protection matters	Risk of child being harmed in the school by a member of school personnel	<p>Child Safeguarding Statement & DES Procedures; Mandatory Child Protection input at all staff meetings.</p> <p>Principal & Deputy attended training for DLP & DDLP on 30th October 2025</p> <p>All staff to receive training on the new Child Protection Procedures in the first term 2026/7 school year</p> <p>BoM training by CPSMA completed on 25th February</p>
17. Use of external personnel to supplement curriculum 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	<p>Garda Vetting Procedures</p> <p>Child Safeguarding Statement & DES Procedures.</p>

18. Care of pupils with specific vulnerabilities/needs	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	Intimate Care Policy; Bi Cinealta Policy (addressing identity-based bullying); Code of Behaviour.
19. Pupils from ethnic minorities/migrants/Traveller Community/Lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender (LGBT) children/Children in care, Children with medical needs	Risk of harm due to bullying of a child; Risk of harm due to racism	Yellow Flag Programme, Linked in with SCP/Roma/Traveller Community Project workers, Anti-Bullying/ Bi Cinealta Policy (addressing identity-based bullying and racism), Anti-Racism Policy, Code of Behaviour. Critical Incident Management Plan/H&S Policy
20. Recruitment of school personnel including teachers/SNAs, caretakers/secretaries/cleaners and sport coaches	Risk of harm where members of school personnel have not received appropriate training	Garda Vetting requirements; Child Safeguarding Statement shared to all new staff commencing work by the DDLP & DES Procedures; Robust recruitment