



ST. PATRICK'S NATIONAL SCHOOL

Child Safeguarding Statement & Risk Assessment

*Scoil Náisiúnta Phádraig Naofa, Calry
St. Patrick's National School, Calry, Co. Sligo
071-9144288*

Date Reviewed: June 2020

Child Safeguarding Statement

St Patrick's N.S. 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 Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools 2017 and Tusla Guidance on the preparation of Child Safeguarding Statements, the Board of Management of St. Patrick's 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 2017 as part of this overall Child Safeguarding Statement
- 2 The Designated Liaison Person (DLP) is David Gallagher
- 3 The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is Deirdre Moylan
- 4 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.

5 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 2017 and to the relevant agreed disciplinary procedures for school staff which are published on the DES 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 DES and available on the DES 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 2017, including in the case of registered teachers, those in relation to mandated reporting under the Children First Act 2015.
 - In this school the Board has appointed the above named DLP as the “relevant person” (as defined in the Children First Act 2015) to be the first point of contact in respect of the child safeguarding statement.
 - All registered teachers employed by the school are mandated persons under the Children First Act 2015.
 - In accordance with the Children First Act 2015, 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 attached as an appendix to this statement.
 - The various procedures referred to in this Statement can be accessed via the school’s website, the DES website or will be made available on request by the school.
- 6 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.
- 7 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 _____ [date].

Signed: _____

Chairperson of Board of Management

Date: _____

Signed: _____

Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Date: _____

Checklist for Review of the Child Safeguarding Statement

**** Updated hard copy of completed checklist to be attached to the end of this policy annually. ****

The *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017* require the Board of Management must undertake a review of its Child Safeguarding Statement and that the following checklist shall be used for this purpose. The review must be completed every year or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which the Child Safeguarding Statement refers. Undertaking an annual review will also ensure that a school also meets its statutory obligation under section 11(8) of the Children First Act 2015, to review its Child Safeguarding Statement every two years.

The checklist is designed as an aid to conducting this review and is not intended as an exhaustive list of the issues to be considered. Individual Boards of Management shall include other items in the checklist that are of relevance to the school in question.

As part of the overall review process, Boards of Management should also assess relevant school policies, procedures, practices and activities vis a vis their adherence to the principles of best practice in child protection and welfare as set out in the school's Child Safeguarding Statement, the Children First Act 2015 and the *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017*.

Notification regarding the Board of Management's review of the Child Safeguarding Statement

To: _____

The Board of Management of _____ wishes to inform you that:

- The Board of Management's annual review of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement was completed at the Board meeting of _____ [date].
- This review was conducted in accordance with the "Checklist for Review of the Child Safeguarding Statement" published on the Department's 'website www.education.ie

Signed _____ Date _____

Chairperson, Board of Management

Signed _____ Date _____

Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment

Written Assessment of Risk St. Patrick's N.S, Calry, Sligo 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 2017, the following is the written risk assessment.

School Activities	Risk of Harm	Procedures in Place to address Risk
Training of school personnel in Child Protections Procedures	Harm not recognised or reported promptly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child Safeguarding Statement & DES procedure made available to all staff. • DLP & DDLP to attend PDST face to face training. • All staff to view TUSLA 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School has a policy in place for one to one teaching. • Consent required from parents to engage with teachers and OT programmes • Change older doors to glass panel doors.
Care of children with special needs, including intimate care needs	Harm by school personnel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children with toileting needs, need to be identified on enrolment form. • Door to be left slightly ajar. • Outside agencies involved prior to child coming to school need to be recorded on enrolment form • Intimate care policy in place.
Toilet areas	Inappropriate behaviour	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Usage and supervision. • One child at a time. • Permission from teacher required • Toileting/Accidents: Child removes own clothing unassisted in possible. Teacher/SNA will clean child if necessary. Door remains ajar. Child dresses again unassisted if possible.

Curricular provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe	Lack of awareness and understanding by pupil due to non-teaching of programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School implements SPHE, RSE and Stay Safe programmes fully. • Teachers document what has been covered using appendix at the end of SPHE policy on server. • Highlight any shortfall/areas not covered during transfer of information to next class teacher
Recruitment of New Staff	Harm not recognised or promptly reported	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child Safeguarding Statement and DES procedures made available to all staff. Staff to view TUSLA training module & any other online training offered by PDST. • Request Tusla e-learning certificate.
Managing of challenging behaviour amongst pupils, including appropriate use of restraint	Injury to pupils or staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restraint policy – Front door can be locked. • If child requires restraint, parents will be contacted immediately. • Other children will be removed to ensure their safety. • Intervention to protect the child from posing a risk to their own safety may be necessary. • Meet with parents to agree measures to be taken if event arises.
Sports Coaches Students/Student teachers participating in work experience	Harm to pupil by student/student teacher/coach or other individual	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health and Safety Procedure • Code of Behaviour • Policy and procedures in place – Class teacher remains with visiting coaches/teachers. • Parents will organise lifts to matches. • Teachers will always be present. • Pupils will change at school before sporting activities • Supervision of changing facilities at venues • Minimum of two teachers to attend each event • Work experience policy • All students require Garda vetting. • Photography to take place in school library allowing full visibility to monitor

Volunteers/Parents/Fun Day/Drama/Music Teachers/Companies/Photographer	Harm to pupil	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vetting procedures policy for parents/volunteers
Use of Information & Communication Technology by pupils in schools	Bullying	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acceptable Use Policy • Anti-Bullying Policy and Pledge • School Rules • Code of Behaviour
Outdoor teaching facilities	Harm to pupil	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supervised at all time with vetting requirement
School Outings/Off site facilities for school activities	Harm to pupil	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check Safeguarding Statement prior to booking • Check levels of supervision
Administration of First Aid	Harm to pupil	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children remove clothes independently. • Update training September 2021
Visitors/Contractors to school	Harm to pupil	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff members to accompany at all times. • Arrange for after school hours if possible • Children to be collected from allocated space • They are not permitted to go to any other area within the school grounds
Covid 19 Isolation Area	Harm to pupil	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • St. Patrick's National School Covid 19 Response Plan • SNA to accompany child to isolation area • Isolation area to be in prominent location with glass in door • Parents contacted immediately

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 2017

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 _____ (date). It shall be reviewed as part of the school's annual review of its Child Safeguarding Statement.

Signed: _____ Date: _____
Chairperson of BOM

Signed: _____ Date: _____
Principal/Secretary to the BOM