

Mandatory Template 1: Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment Template

Child Safeguarding Statement

[Insert school name] is a primary/special/post-primary school providing primary/post-primary education to pupils from Junior Infants to Sixth Class/First Year to Leaving Certificate Year (delete as appropriate).

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 [insert school name] 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 **Chloe O' Kelly**
- 3 The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is **Tanya Brown**
- 4 The Relevant Person is **Chloe O' Kelly**
(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
- 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

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 06/03/2018.

This Child Safeguarding Statement was reviewed by the Board of Management on 23/9/2025

Signed: Janet Bray
Chairperson of Board of Management

Date: 23/9/25

Signed: Enya Bunn
Principal

Date: 23/9/25

Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment

Written Assessment of Risk of St. Nicholas' National School

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 2017*, the following is the Written Risk Assessment of St. Nicholas' National School

1. List of school activities

Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils
Recreation breaks for pupils
Classroom teaching
One-to-One Teaching
Outdoor Teaching Activities
Sporting Activities
School Outings
Use of Toilet facilities in School
Sports Day
Fundraising Events involving pupils
Use of Off-Site Facilities for School Activities
School Transport Arrangements
Care of Children with SEN, including intimate care where needed
Management of Challenging Behaviour amongst pupils, including appropriate use of restraint where required
Administration of Medication
Administration of First Aid
Curricular Provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe
Prevention of and Dealing with Bullying amongst pupils
Training of school personnel in child protection matters
Use of external personnel to supplement curriculum
Use of external personnel to support sports and other extra-curricular activities
Recruitment of School Personnel
Recruitment of school personnel including –
Teachers and substitute teachers
Caretaker / Secretary / Cleaners
Volunteer parents in school activities
Visitors / contractors present in school during school hours
Visitors / contractors present after school activities
Participation by pupils in religious ceremonies external to the school
Use of IT by pupils in school
Application of Sanctions under the school's Code of Behaviour including detention of pupils, confiscation of phones etc.
Students participating in work experience in the school
Student Teachers undertaking training placement in school
Use of video/photography/other media to record school events
Use of school premises by other organisations during the school day – After School Club
Assembly

Swimming Lessons
Remote teaching and learning

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

- Risk of harm not being recognised by school personnel.
- Risk of child being harmed in the school by another child.
- Risk of harm due to bullying of child.
- Risk of harm not being recognised by school personnel.
- Risk of harm not being reported properly and promptly by school personnel.
- Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children in school.
- Risk of child being harmed in the school by another child.
- Risk of harm due to bullying of child.
- Risk of harm to children with SEN who have particular vulnerabilities.

- Risk of child being harmed in the school by a member of school personnel
- Risk of child being harmed in the school by another child
- Risk of harm due to bullying of child
- Risk of harm due to inappropriate relationship/communications between child and another child or adult
- Risk of harm due to children inappropriately accessing/using computers, social media, phones and other devices while in school

- Risk of harm in one-to-one teaching.
- Risk of child being harmed in the school by a member of school personnel
- Risk of harm due to inappropriate relationship/communications between child and another child or adult

- Risk of harm not being recognised by school personnel
- Risk of child being harmed in the school by another child
- Risk of child being harmed by a member of school personnel, a member of staff of another organisation or other person while child participating in out of school activities e.g. school trip, swimming lessons
- Risk of harm due to bullying of child
- Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children while attending out of school activities
- Risk of harm due to inappropriate relationship / communications between child and another child or adult.

- Risk of harm not being recognised by school personnel
- Risk of harm not being reported properly and promptly by school personnel
- Risk of child being harmed in the school by a member of school personnel
- Risk of child being harmed in the school by another child
- Risk of child being harmed in the school by volunteer or visitor to the school
- Risk of child being harmed by a member of school personnel, a member of staff of another organisation or other person while child participating in out of school activities e.g. school trip, swimming lessons

- Risk of harm not being recognised by school personnel
- Risk of harm not being reported properly and promptly by school personnel
- Risk of child being harmed in the school by a member of school personnel
- Risk of child being harmed in the school by another child
- Risk of child being harmed by a member of school personnel, a member of staff of another organisation or other person while child participating in out of school activities e.g.

school trip, swimming lessons
 Risk of harm due to bullying of child
 Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children while attending out of school activities
 Risk of harm due to inappropriate relationship / communications between child and another child or adult
 Risk of harm to children with SEN who have particular vulnerabilities
 Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children in school
 Risk of harm to child while a child is receiving intimate care
 Risk of harm not being recognised by school personnel
 Risk of harm not being reported properly and promptly by school personnel
 Risk of child being harmed in the school by a member of school personnel
 Risk of child being harmed in the school by another child
 Risk of child being harmed in the school by volunteer or visitor to the school
 Risk of child being harmed by a member of school personnel, a member of staff of another organisation or other person while child participating in out of school activities.
 Risk of harm due to bullying of child
 Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children while attending out of school activities
 Risk of harm to children with SEN who have particular vulnerabilities
 Risk of harm not being recognised by school personnel
 Risk of harm not being reported properly and promptly by school personnel
 Risk of child being harmed in the school by a member of school personnel
 Risk of child being harmed in the school by another child
 Risk of child being harmed in the school by volunteer or visitor to the school
 Risk of child being harmed by a member of school personnel, a member of staff of another organisation or other person while child participating in out of school activities.
 Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children in school
 Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children while attending out of school activities

 Risk of harm not being recognised by school personnel
 Risk of harm not being reported properly and promptly by school personnel
 Risk of child being harmed in the school by a member of school personnel
 Risk of child being harmed in the school by another child
 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 child participating in out of school activities e.g.
 school trip, swimming lessons
 Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children while attending out of school activities
 Risk of harm not being recognised by school personnel
 Risk of harm not being reported properly and promptly by school personnel
 Risk of child being harmed in the school by a member of school personnel
 Risk of child being harmed in the school by another child
 Risk of child being harmed in the school by volunteer or visitor to the school
 Risk of child being harmed by a member of school personnel, a member of staff of another organisation or other person while child participating in out of school activities e.g.
 school trip, swimming lessons
 Risk of harm due to bullying of child
 Risk of harm to children with SEN who have particular vulnerabilities
 Risk of harm to child while a child is receiving intimate care
 Risk of harm in on-to-one teaching, counselling, coaching situation
 Risk of child being harmed in the school by another child
 Risk of harm due to bullying of child
 Risk of child harming another child/adult
 Risk of harm not being recognised by school personnel
 Risk of child accessing medication of another child
 Risk of child being harmed by a member of school personnel

Risk of child being harmed by visitor to the school.
 Risk of harm due to an inappropriate relationship /communication between child or another child/adult
 Risk of harm due to children inappropriately accessing/using computers, social media, phones and other devices while at school
 Risk of child being harmed in the school by another child
 Risk of harm due to bullying of child
 Risk of harm not being recognised by school personnel
 Risk of harm not being reported properly and promptly by school personnel
 Risk of child being harmed in the school by a member of school personnel
 Risk of child being harmed by a member of school personnel, a member of staff of another organisation or other person while child participating in out of school activities e.g. school trip, swimming lessons
 Risk of harm caused by member of school personnel communicating with pupils in an inappropriate manner via social media, texting, digital device or other manner
 Risk of harm caused by member of school personnel accessing / circulating inappropriate.

Risk of child being harmed in the school by volunteer or visitor to the school
 Risk of child being harmed by a member of school personnel, a member of staff of another organisation or other person while child participating in out of school activities e.g. school trip, swimming lessons
 Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children in school
 Risk of harm due to inappropriate relationship / communications between child and another children or adult
 Risk of child being harmed in the school by volunteer or visitor to the school
 Risk of child being harmed by a member of school personnel, a member of staff of another organisation or other person while child participating in out of school activities e.g. school trip, swimming lessons
 Risk of harm due to inappropriate relationship / communications between child and another child or adult

Risk of harm not being recognised by school personnel
 Risk of harm not being reported properly and promptly by school personnel
 Risk of child being harmed in the school by a member of school personnel
 Risk of child being harmed by a member of school personnel

Risk of child being harmed by a member of school personnel, a member of staff of another organisation or other person while child participating in out of school activities.
 Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children while attending out of school activities
 Risk of harm due to children inappropriately accessing / using computers, social media, phones and other devices while at school
 Risk of harm caused by member of school personnel communicating with pupils in an inappropriate manner via social media, texting, digital device or other manner
 Risk of harm caused by member of school personnel accessing / circulating inappropriate material via social media, texting, digital device or other manner
 Risk of harm not being reported properly and promptly by school personnel
 Risk of child being harmed by a member of school personnel, a member of staff of another organisation or other person while child participating in out of school activities.
 Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children in school
 Risk of child being harmed in the school by volunteer or visitor to the school
 Risk of harm due to inappropriate relationship / communications between child and another child or adult
 Risk of child being harmed in the school by volunteer or visitor to the school
 Risk of harm due to inappropriate relationship / communications between child and another child

or adult

Risk of harm caused by member of school personnel communicating with pupils in an inappropriate manner via social media, texting, digital device or other manner

Risk of child being harmed in the school by volunteer or visitor to the school

Risk of child being harmed by a member of school personnel, a member of staff of another organisation or other person while child participating in out of school activities e.g. school trip, swimming lessons

Risk of harm due to inappropriate relationship / communications between child and another child or adult

Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children in school

Risk of child being harmed by a member of school personnel, a member of staff of another organisation or other person while child participating in out of school activities e.g. school trip, swimming lessons

Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children while attending out of school activities.

Risk of harm associated with online teaching and learning and remote learning.

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

The school has a Supervision Policy to ensure appropriate supervision of children during assembly, dismissal and breaks and in respect of specific areas such as toilets etc.

School enrolment form asks parents to list those who have permission to collect from school.

Annual reminder of this obligation.

The school has a Code of Conduct for school personnel.

The school has a Code of Behaviour in place for pupils.

The school has an Anti-Bullying Policy which fully adheres to the requirements of the Department's Anti-Bullying Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools

The school has a Playground Supervision Policy to ensure appropriate supervision of children during assembly, dismissal and breaks and in respect of specific areas such as toilets etc.

The school has a Code of Conduct for School Personnel.

The school has in place a Policy for Accidents and Injury.

The school has in place a Code of Behaviour for Pupils

The school has an SEN Policy.

The school has an Intimate Care and Toileting Policy.

All school personnel are provided with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement

The Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools 2017 are made available to all school personnel

School personnel are required to adhere to the Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools 2017 and all registered teaching staff are required to adhere to the Children First Act 2015.

The school has an Anti-Bullying Policy which fully adheres to the requirements of the Department's Anti-Bullying Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools

The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation and relevant DES circulars in relation to recruitment and Garda vetting of staff.

The school has a Code of Conduct for School Personnel.

The school complies with the agreed Disciplinary Procedures for Teaching Staff

The school has provided each member of school 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. All staff have watched the Túsla child protection eLearning programme and received certificates.

Encourages Board of Management members to avail of relevant training.

Maintains records of all staff and board member training

The school has in place an ICT policy in respect of usage of ICT by pupils

The school has in place a mobile phone policy in respect of usage of mobile phones by pupils
All school personnel are provided with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement
The Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools 2017 are made available to all school personnel

School personnel are required to adhere to the Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools 2017 and all registered teaching staff are required to adhere to the Children First Act 2015

The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation and relevant DES circulars in relation to recruitment and Garda vetting

The school has a Code of Conduct for School Personnel.

The school complies with the agreed Disciplinary Procedures for Teaching Staff

The school has provided each member of school 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

Maintains records of all staff and board member training

The school has in place an ICT Policy in respect of usage of ICT by pupils.

The school has a policy on Intimate care and toileting.

The school is working on a Policy and clear Procedures for One-to-one Teaching Activities

All school personnel are provided with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement

The Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools 2017 are made available to all school personnel

School personnel are required to adhere to the Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools 2017 and all registered teaching staff are required to adhere to the Children First Act 2015

The school has an Anti-Bullying Policy which fully adheres to the requirements of the Department's Anti-Bullying Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools

The school has a Playground Supervision Policy to ensure appropriate supervision of children during assembly, dismissal and breaks and in respect of specific areas such as toilets etc.

The school has a Health and Safety Policy

The school has a Code of Conduct for School Personnel.

The school has in place a Policy and Procedures for Accidents and Injury. The school has in place a Code of Behaviour for Pupils

The Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools 2017 are made available to all school personnel

School personnel are required to adhere to the Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools 2017 and all registered teaching staff are required to adhere to the Children First Act 2015

The school implements in full the Stay Safe Programme

The school implements in full the SPHE curriculum

The school has an Anti-Bullying Policy which fully adheres to the requirements of the Department's Anti-Bullying Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools

The school has in place a Policy and Procedures for Accidents and Injuries.

Garda Vetting procedures are in place.

The school implements in full the Stay Safe Programme

The school implements in full the SPHE curriculum

The school has in place a Code of Behaviour for Pupils

The school is working on a Policy in Respect of School Outings – to be ready by June 2018

The school implements in full the Stay Safe Programme

The school implements in full the SPHE curriculum

The school has a Playground Supervision Policy to ensure appropriate supervision of children during assembly, dismissal and breaks and in respect of specific areas such as toilets etc.

The school has a Special Educational Needs Policy

The school has in place a Code of Behaviour for Pupils

All school personnel are provided with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement
The Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools 2017 are made available to all school personnel

School personnel are required to adhere to the Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools 2017 and all registered teaching staff are required to adhere to the Children First Act 2015

The school is working on a Policy and Clear Procedures in respect of School Outings

The school has in place a Policy and Procedures for Accidents and Injuries.

The school has in place a Code of Behaviour for Pupils

The school implements in full the Stay Safe Programme

The school implements in full the SPHE curriculum

The school has in place a Code of Behaviour for pupils

The School has in place a Code of Behaviour for pupils

The school implements in full the Stay Safe Programme

The school implements in full the SPHE curriculum

The school has a Code of Conduct for School Personnel.

The school has in place a Code of Behaviour for Pupils

The school implements in full the Stay Safe Programme

The school implements in full the SPHE curriculum

All school personnel are provided with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement

The Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools 2017 are made available to all school personnel

School personnel are required to adhere to the Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools 2017 and all registered teaching staff are required to adhere to the Children First Act 2015

The school implements in full the Stay Safe Programme

The school implements in full the SPHE curriculum

The school has a Code of Conduct for School Personnel.

The school complies with the agreed Disciplinary Procedures for Teaching Staff

The school has a Special Educational Needs Policy and Intimate Care and Toileting Policy

The school implements in full the Stay Safe Programme

The school implements in full the SPHE curriculum

The school has an Anti-Bullying Policy which fully adheres to the requirements of the Department's Anti-Bullying Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools

The school has in place a Code of Behaviour for Pupils

The school has in place a Policy and Procedures for the Administration of Medication to Pupils

The school has a medical cabinet in the staff room, out of reach of pupils.

The school has in place a Policy dealing with Accidents and Injuries

The school has a Health & Safety Policy.

The school implements in full the Stay Safe Programme

The school implements in full the SPHE curriculum

The school has in place an ICT policy in respect of usage of ICT by pupils

The school implements in full the Stay Safe Programme

The school implements in full the SPHE curriculum

The school has an Anti-Bullying Policy which fully adheres to the requirements of the Department's Anti-Bullying Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools

Encourages staff to avail of relevant training

Encourages Board of Management members to avail of relevant training

Maintains records of all staff and board member training

The school has in place an ICT policy in respect of usage of ICT by pupils

The school has in place a Mobile Phone Policy in respect of usage of mobile phones by pupils

The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation and relevant DES circulars in relation to recruitment and Garda vetting

The school implements in full the Stay Safe Programme
The school implements in full the SPHE curriculum

The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation and relevant DES circulars in relation to recruitment and Garda vetting
Child Protection Statement
The school implements in full the Stay Safe Programme
The school implements in full the SPHE curriculum

All school personnel are provided with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement
The Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017 are made available to all school personnel
School personnel are required to adhere to the Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017 and all registered teaching staff are required to adhere to the Children First Act 2015
The school adheres to Garda Vetting procedures
The school has in place a Code of Behaviour for Pupils
The school implements in full the Stay Safe Programme
The school implements in full the SPHE curriculum

The school has in place an ICT Policy in respect of usage of ICT by pupils
The school has in place a Mobile Phone Policy in respect of usage of mobile phones by pupils
The school implements in full the Stay Safe Programme
The school implements in full the SPHE curriculum

The school has a Code of Conduct for School Personnel.
The school has in place a Code of Behaviour for Pupils
Student teachers are required to adhere to the Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017 and the Children First Act 2015
Student volunteers are provided with a copy of the Child Safeguarding Statement
The school adheres to Garda Vetting Procedures
Student teachers are required to adhere to the Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017 and the Children First Act 2015
Student teachers are provided with a copy of the Child Safeguarding Statement
The school adheres to Garda Vetting Procedures
The school has in place an ICT Policy in respect of usage of ICT by pupils
The school has in place a Mobile Phone Policy in respect of usage of mobile phones by pupils
The school implements in full the Stay Safe Programme
The school implements in full the SPHE curriculum
The Board of Management has a copy of all Child Protection Policies from the organisations involved
The school has a Code of Conduct for School Personnel.
The school has in place a Code of Behaviour for Pupils
The school implements in full the Stay Safe Programme
The school implements in full the SPHE curriculum
The school has a Code of Conduct for School Personnel (teaching and non-teaching)
The school has a Policy on Intimate Care and Toileting.
The school has in place a Code of Behaviour for pupils.
The school uses secure and safe online platforms for remote teaching and learning – classdojo.
The school uses the secure platform zoom for remote classes and meetings.

[Redacted]

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.