**Child Safeguarding Statement 2023-2024**



**St.Patrick’s National School**

**Glencullen,**

**Dublin 18**

**Child Safeguarding Statement**

St Patrick’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](http://www.irishstatutebook.ie/eli/2015/act/36/enacted/en/pdf), [Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children 2017](https://assets.gov.ie/25844/b90aafa55804462f84d05f87f0ca2bf6.pdf), [the Addendum to Children First (2019)](https://assets.gov.ie/25819/c9744b64dfd6447985eeffa5c0d71bbb.pdf), the [Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools (revised 2023)](https://www.gov.ie/en/collection/12bee3-child-protection-procedures-in-schools/) and [Tusla Guidance on the preparation of Child Safeguarding Statements](https://www.tusla.ie/uploads/content/4214-TUSLA_Guidance_on_Developing_a_CSS_LR.PDF), the Board of Management of St Patrick’s National School 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 Ed Bourke
3. The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is Chloe Shimmins
4. The Relevant Person is Ed Bourke

(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.)

1. 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.

1. 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](https://www.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](https://revisedacts.lawreform.ie/eli/2012/act/47/revised/en/pdf) 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](https://www.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](https://www.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.

1. 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.
2. 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 26/9/23

This Child Safeguarding Statement was reviewed by the Board of Management on 26/9/23

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Signed: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Chairperson of Board of Management Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_­­­­­­­\_

**Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment**

**Written Assessment of Risk of [name of school]**

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 PostPrimary Schools (revised 2023)*, the following is the Written Risk Assessment of [name of school].

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| 1. **List of school activities** | 1. **The school has identified the following risk of harm in respect of its activities –** | 1. **The school has the following procedures in place to address the risks of harm identified in this assessment -** |
| Pupils arriving between 9.10 and 9.20 | Inadequate supervision of pupils  Bullying by other pupils | Supervision of children by their parents  Code of Behaviour  Anti-Bullying Policy  Code of Conduct for Parents & Visitors |
| Daily dismissal of pupils at 2 pm (Infant classes) and 3pm (First to Sixth Classes) | Children being collected by adults not known to them.  Children being collected by incorrect parent in cases of family conflict or where barring orders are in place  Children not being collected at all  Inappropriate conduct of parents/ childminders/family members on site  Bullying by other pupils | Code of Conduct for Parents & Visitors  Infants & 1st class pupils are handed over to the parent/ guardian/childminder by the teacher.  Senior pupils who are not collected know the rule is to return into the school where the teacher will phone the parent.   In cases where the parent cannot collect a child, the parent is expected to inform the school and give the name of the person who will collect the child.  Pupils who are collected late to wait in corridor with supervising teacher. Other staff to remain present in school.  In the case of family conflict where an instruction has been given to the school that a named person is not to collect the child and attempts to do so, the parent who normally collects the child will be contacted without delay. In the meantime, the Principal will prevent, insofar as is practicable, the parent from taking the child from the school.   In the case where a barring order is in place, and a parent against whom the barring order is in place attempts to collect the child, the other parent and An Garda Síochána will be contacted without delay. In the meantime, the Principal will prevent, insofar as is practicable, the parent from taking the child from the school. |
| Entry & exit of school building | Harm by visitors to school  Flight risks | All doors to be locked & gates closed at 9.40am every day with entry only via supervised Reception door.  All doors to be locked after recreation breaks. |
| Recreation breaks | Inadequate supervision of pupils Bullying by other pupils  Harm by Senior volunteer pupils | Adequate supervision of pupils   Anti-Bullying Policy  Protocols for Volunteers  All doors to be opened by teacher on yard duty |
| Whole class teaching | Harm by school personnel | Classroom doors fitted with glass panels  Two or more members of staff present in some classes, e.g. class teacher and special needs assistants  Storerooms out of bounds to pupils |
| In-class group teaching | Harm by school personnel | SEN policy  Minimum of two school personnel present  Storerooms out of bounds to pupils |
| Small group learning support teaching in a SEN room | Harm by school personnel | SEN policy  Classroom doors fitted with glass panels  Storerooms out of bounds to pupils |
| One to one learning support teaching in a learning support room | Harm by school personnel | SEN policy  Classroom doors fitted with glass panels  Storerooms out of bounds to pupils  Door to remain open |
| One to one complex needs teaching in a learning support room | Harm by school personnel | SEN policy  Classroom doors fitted with glass panels  Storerooms out of bounds to pupils  Door to remain open |
| SNA’s travelling with child to SEN room, removing for movement break or comforting when upset | Harm by school personnel | SEN policy  Remain in corridor or at front foyer/reception area |
| Care of children with special educational needs, including  intimate care needs | Harm by school personnel Sexual abuse | Child Safeguarding Statement   Implementation of Child Protection Procedures Two adults present at all times  SNA policy  SEN policy |
| Care of pupils with specific vulnerabilities/needs, e.g. children of the Travelling Community, migrants, children of minority religious faiths, children in care, LGBT children, pupils perceived to be LGBT, children on the Child Protection Notification System | Harm by school personnel Bullying by peers | Compliance with all legislation and DES circulars regarding Garda Vetting  Anti-Bullying Policy  Culture of Respect document |
| Use of toilet facilities around school | Harm by school personnel  or peers  Inappropriate behaviour | Toilets are in classroom and therefore supervised by teacher during class time  Rule that only one child is allowed in a toilet at any time  Junior children who need toilet from yard are accompanied by Senior pupil who waits at external exit door but has view of pupil entering bathroom  Senior pupils who need toilet from yard use the 4th class room with peer waiting at external door  After schools tutors/coaches in hall should stand at hall door while coaching to ensure safety of child using external toilets  PE hall: pupils using the hall for PE should use the public toilets beside the hall. Teacher should direct lesson from doors of the hall while pupils use the toilet. |
| Curricular provision in respect of SPHE, RSE and Stay Safe | Non-teaching or inadequate teaching of material | School implements SPHE, RSE and Stay Safe in full |
| Teaching of the Physical Education Curriculum in the school  hall / yard | Harm by school personnel | PE Plan  Glass panel in hall doors |
| Teaching of the Science Curriculum in outdoors settings in the school grounds and/or in local settings away from the school | Harm by school personnel | Minimum of two members of staff present in so far as possible  Science Plan |
| School tours | Harm by school personnel, parent volunteers or by employees of tour centres  Bullying by peers | School Tour policy  Minimum of two members of staff present at all times |
| Sporting activities:   * school teams in Cumann na mBunscol competitions in football and hurling, local football, hurling and rugby blitzes, including training and games * in-school tag rugby training by Leinster Branch coach * In school training with external coaches | Harm by school personnel or external personnel  Inappropriate relationship/communications between child & another adult/child  Bullying by peers | Child Safeguarding Statement provided to all personnel, both internal and external   Minimum of two school personnel present at all external training sessions and matches  Teacher / SNA is present at in-school coaching sessions by external coaches  Pupils changing into sportwear to do so in a manner preserving dignity & privacy |
| Swimming at Meadowbrook Pool | Harm by school personnel, parent volunteers or external personnel  Inappropriate relationship/communications between child & another adult/child  Inappropriate recording (video or photograph) of pupils at pool / changing areas  Subsequent inappropriate  use and/or circulation of material via social media, texting, digital device or other manner | Child Safeguarding Statement provided to all personnel, both internal and external   Minimum of two school personnel present at all swimming lessons for supervision of toilets, changing rooms & boarding bus  Teacher / SNA is present at poolside during swimming sessions by external coaches  Mobile Phone & Electronic device policy  Swimming Policy  Pupils changing to do so in a manner preserving dignity & privacy |
| Active Schools Week | Harm by school personnel and/or parents or other spectators  Inappropriate recording (video or photograph) of pupils  Subsequent inappropriate  use and/or circulation of material via social media, texting, digital device or other manner | All school staff present  Parents/spectators  separated from sports area  Mobile Phone & Electronic Device policy |
| Christmas Concert/Performances & plays | Harm by school personnel and/or parents or other spectators  Inappropriate recording (video or photograph) of pupils  Subsequent inappropriate  use and/or circulation of material via social media, texting, digital device or other manner | All school staff present  Mobile Phone & Electronic Device policy  Pupils changing into costume to do so in a manner preserving dignity & privacy |
| Choir with parent volunteer | Harm by volunteer  Inappropriate relationship/communications between child & another adult/child  Inappropriate recording (video or photograph) of pupils  Subsequent inappropriate  use and/or circulation of material via social media, texting, digital device or other manner | Child Safeguarding Statement provided to all personnel, both internal and external    School staff present for  rehearsals & concerts  School Tour policy for external events/competitions |
| Fundraising or social events organised by Parents’ Association | Harm by school personnel and/or parents/guardians | Child Safeguarding Statement and DES Procedures made available to all relevant parents  Minimum of two parents present  School staff present insofar as possible  Code of Conduct for Parents & Visitors |
| Fundraising events organised by pupils | Harm by school personnel, peers and/or visitors to the event | School staff present  Pupils not left alone in hall during organisation  Code of Conduct for Parents & Visitors |
| Participation in religious ceremonies | Harm by parish personnel  Inappropriate relationship/communications between child & another adult/child | Child Safeguarding Statement and DES Procedures made available to all relevant parish personnel  Preparation for sacraments takes place in an open area such as the church  Confessions take place in an open area  School staff present at all times |
| Administration of First Aid | Harm by school personnel | Correct administration of First Aid  First Aid training for school personnel  First Aid administered in open area in view of others |
| Administration of medication | Incorrect administration of medication | Administration of Medication Policy  Parents must request administration of medication from BOM  & sign indemnity form  Parent must maintain supply of correct medication  in date   Parent must supply school with correct instructions on administration, including correct dose, time and method |
| Volunteers/Parents | Harm to pupils | Vetting Procedures  Policy for Parents/Volunteers  Code of Conduct for Parents & Visitors  School Tour policy |
| Recruitment of school personnel including teachers, SNAs, caretaker, secretary, cleaners, etc. | Harm by school personnel  Harm not recognised  or promptly reported | Compliance with all legislation and DES circulars regarding Garda Vetting  Child Safeguarding Statement and DES Procedures made available to all new personnel |
| Recruitment of contractors & maintenance staff during school hours and/or during after schools activities | Harm by personnel  Harm not recognised  or promptly reported | Compliance with all legislation and DES circulars regarding Garda Vetting  Child Safeguarding Statement and DES Procedures made available to all new personnel  Code of Conduct for Parents & Visitors |
| Recruitment of sports coaches, external tutors, guest speakers, parents support in school activities | Harm by personnel  Harm not recognised  or promptly reported | Compliance with all legislation and DES circulars regarding Garda Vetting  Child Safeguarding Statement and DES Procedures made available to all new personnel  Code of Conduct for Parents & Visitors |
| Training of school personnel  in child protection and welfare matters | Harm not recognised or reported promptly to the DLP or DDLP | Child Safeguarding Statement supplied to all school personnel.  DES Child Protection Procedures made available to all school personnel.  BOM records all records of staff and board training  DLP& DDLP to attend PDST face to face training  All Staff to view Tusla training module & any other online training offered by PDST  BOM members to attend available training from CPSMA  Induction of new personnel  Presentation of certificate of participation in Tusla online training |
| Prevention & dealing of bullying amongst pupils | Bullying  Harm by personnel  Harm not recognised  or promptly reported | Implementation of Anti-Bullying Policy  and                                            Code of Behaviour  Glass panel in Principal’s office  Stay Safe programme  Walk Tall programme |
| Use of IT among pupils | Cyberbullying  Exposure to inappropriate material | Digital Learning Plan incorporating:  Anti-Bullying Policy  Code of Behaviour  Acceptable Use Policy  Mobile Phone & Electronic device policy  NCTE Safety applications on school server  Staff always present during pupil use of IT |
| Use of video/photography/other media to record school events | Inappropriate use and/or circulation of material via social media, texting, digital device or other manner | Mobile Phone & Electronic Device Policy  Staff Protocols & Procedures  Communication to parents at whole school events |
| Use of external personnel to support curriculum | Harm by external personnel  Inappropriate relationship/communications between child & another adult/child | Child Safeguarding Statement provided to all personnel  Class teacher present at all times  Compliance with all legislation and DES circulars regarding Garda Vetting |
| Extra-curricular activities by school personnel | Harm by school personnel | No one to one activities to take place; always a group of pupils or activity to be cancelled  After Schools Activity policy |
| Extra-curricular activities provided by tutors/coaches other than school personnel | Harm by external personnel  Inappropriate relationship/communications between child & another adult/child | Compliance with all legislation and DES circulars regarding Garda Vetting  Child Safeguarding Statement and DES Procedures made available to all new personnel  After Schools Activity policy  Glass panels in all classroom and hall doors  Pupils changing into sportswear to do so in a manner preserving dignity & privacy |
| Management of challenging behaviour among pupils | Injury to pupils or staff | Code of Behaviour  Health & Safety Statement |
| Application of sanctions under School’s Code of Behaviour including detention of pupils, removal from class, confiscation of phones, etc. | Harm by school personnel | Code of Behaviour  Glass panels in all classrooms & Principal’s office doors |
| Student teachers on School Placement | Harm by student teacher  Inappropriate relationship/communications between child & another adult/child | Garda Vetting carried out by relevant college Child Safeguarding Statement and DES Procedures  made available to student teacher  Policy on Work experience & Student Placement  Class teacher and/or school personnel remains in the classroom while student teacher is teaching |
| Transition Year students on Work Experience. | Harm by TY student  Inappropriate relationship/communications between child & another adult/child | Garda Vetting sought if student is 16 years of age  & over  Child Safeguarding Statement and DES Procedures made available to TY student  Policy on Work experience & Student Placement  Class teacher remains in the classroom with TY student |

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| **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.

**Examples of activities, risks and procedures**

The examples listed in this document are provided to assist schools in undertaking their risk assessment under the Children First Act, 2015. Schools should note that this list of examples is not intended to be exhaustive. It is the responsibility of each school to ensure, as far as possible, that any other risks and procedures that are relevant to its own particular circumstances are identified and specified in the written risk assessment and that adequate procedures are in place to address all risks identified.

It is acknowledged that schools already have in place a range of policies, practices and procedures to mitigate the risk of harm to children while they are participating in the activities of the school and that some school activities will carry low or minimal risks of harm compared to others. In the context of the risk assessment that must be undertaken by schools, the Children First Act, 2015 refers to risk as “any potential for harm”. Therefore, it is important that, as part of its risk assessment process, each school lists and reviews all of its various activities (which shall include identifying those that may carry low risk of harm as well as those that carry higher risks of harm). Doing so will help the school to (1) identify, as required under the Children First Act, 2015, any risks of harm that may exist in respect of the school’s activities, (2) identify and assess the adequacy of the various procedures already in place to manage those risks of harm and (3) identify and put in place any such additional procedures as are considered necessary to manage any risk identified.

The Addendum to Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children published in January 2019 clarifies that organisations providing relevant services to children should consider the specific issue of online safety when carrying out their risk assessment and preparing their Child Safeguarding Statement.

The Guidance on Continuity of Schooling for primary and post-primary schools (April 2020) advises of the importance of teachers maintaining the safe and ethical use of the internet during distance learning and assisting parents and guardians to be aware of their role also. Schools should ensure that their Acceptable Use Policy (AUP) informs and guides remote or distance learning activity.

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)*.