



**15676S**

**St Patricks National School**

**Policy**

**On**

**Child Safeguarding**

**St Patricks National School Wicklow Town** is a 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 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 Lorraine Dempsey
- 3 The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is Áine O Sullivan
- 4 The Relevant Person is Lorraine Dempsey  
(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. This person can also be the DLP)
- 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 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](http://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](http://gov.ie) 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](http://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](http://gov.ie) website or will be made available on request by the school.



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 7<sup>th</sup> September 2023

This Child Safeguarding Statement was reviewed by the Board of Management on 7<sup>th</sup> September 2023

Signed: *Sibhlin Dunne*

Chairperson of Board of Management

Signed: *horace B*

Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Date: *07/09/2023*

Date: *7/9/2023*

## Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment

### Written Assessment of Risk of St Patrick's National 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 Post-Primary Schools (revised 2023)*, the following is the Written Risk Assessment of St Patricks National School.

1. List of school activities	2. The school has identified the following risk of harm in respect of its activities –	3. The school has the following procedures in place to address the risks of harm 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 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	School has policy in place for one to one teaching Open doors Table between teacher and pupil Glass in window
Care of children with special needs, including intimate care needs	Harm by school personnel	Policy on intimate care
Toilet areas	Inappropriate behaviour	Usage and supervision policy

Curricular Provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay safe.	Non-teaching of same	School implements SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe in full
Managing of challenging behaviour amongst pupils, including appropriate use of restraint	Injury to pupils and staff	Health & Safety Statement Code Of Behaviour/Record Keeping Constant Supervision/Action Plan in place Liaise with outside agencies Staff training Behaviours of Concern Policy
Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils	Harm from other pupils, unknown adults on the playground Traffic on avenue Inappropriate behaviour	Arrival and dismissal Policy & Procedures Supervision Policy Teachers/SNAs Traffic Management Procedures in place Health & Safety Policy
Recreation breaks for pupils	Injury to pupils/Bullying Harm not recognised or properly or promptly reported Lack of supervision	Supervision and Anti-bullying Policy & Procedures in place Health & Safety Policy Code Of Behaviour
Classroom teaching	Bullying/ Injury Lack of supervision	Constant Supervision Code of Behaviour
Counselling	Harm to pupils	Policy on Supervision Awareness of code of conduct by provider and safeguarding measures in place Vetting procedures Policy on one to one work with outside agencies
Outdoor teaching activities	Bullying/ Injury Lack of supervision	Constant Supervision Code of Behaviour
Sporting Activities	Bullying/ Injury Lack of supervision	<sup>(Teacher)</sup> Constant Supervision Code of Behaviour



Choir		Bullying/ Injury Lack of supervision	Constant Supervision Code of Behaviour
Orchestra		Bullying/ Injury Lack of supervision	Constant Supervision Code of Behaviour
Use external personnel to supplement the curriculum		Harm to pupils Lack of supervision	Supervision Garda Vetting Parental Permission
Play Therapy		Harm to pupils	Garda Vetting Parental Permission Policy on working with outside agencies
Sports Coaches		Harm to pupils Bullying Injury Lack of supervision	Garda Vetting Procedures in place Constant Supervision Code of Behaviour
Students participating in work experience		Harm by student Lack of supervision Harm to pupils Confidentiality compromised	Work experience Policy Child Safeguarding Statement Supervision at all times not alone with pupils Garda Vetting
Educational Trips/Matches		Harm to pupils/ Bullying	Adequate Supervision Code of Behaviour
Use of toilet		Inappropriate Behaviour	Usage and supervision policy
Changing for sport activities		Harm to pupils/ Bullying Lack of supervision	Constant Supervision Code of Behaviour
Annual Sports Day		Harm to pupils Lack of supervision	Constant Supervision Code of Behaviour
Jungle Gym		Accidental fall Lack of supervision	Adequate supervision
Use of off-site facilities for school activities		Harm to pupils Lack of supervision	Constant Supervision Code of Behaviour /Educational Trips Policy

		Parental policy
School transport arrangements	Harm to pupils Harm not recognised or properly or promptly reported	Bus Safety Policy Escort Policy Constant Supervision Code of Behaviour
Volunteers/Parents	Harm to pupils	Vetting Procedures Policy for Parents/Volunteers
Administration of First Aid	Identifying proper risks	First Aid Policy
Administration of Medicine	Correct procedure and amount	Training for SNAs Parental Indemnity form signed. Administration of Medication form completed Photograph displayed in prominent place
Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst pupils	Harm to pupils Harm to staff	Constant Supervision Code of Behaviour Anti-Bullying Policy Anti-bullying initiatives Dignity in the Workplace Code of Conduct
Care of pupils with specific vulnerabilities/ needs such as <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pupils from ethnic minorities/migrants</li> <li>• Members of the Traveller community</li> <li>• Lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender (LGBT) children</li> <li>• Pupils perceived to be LGBT</li> </ul>	Bullying/ Difficulties with communication/ Cultural Differences/Difference	Code of Behaviour/ SPHE/Learning Support/ Grow in Love/ Friends for life/ Yellow Flag Activities Book off Beasties



<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pupils of minority religious faiths</li> <li>• Children in care</li> <li>• Children on CPNS</li> </ul>		
<p>Use of Information and Communication Technology by pupils in school</p>	<p>Bullying Staff not following policies &amp; procedures</p>	<p>ICT policy Anti-Bullying Policy Code of Behaviour Constant Supervision</p>
<p>Student teachers undertaking training placement in school</p>	<p>Harm to pupils</p>	<p>Constant Supervision by class teacher Code of Behaviour Garda Vetted by college shared with school</p>
<p>Use of video/photography/other media to record school events</p>	<p>Shared media Cyber bullying</p>	<p>Anti-Cyber Bullying Policy Webwise lessons Community Garda ICT Policy FUSE Programme</p>
<p>Isolation due to illness or challenging behaviour</p>	<p>Harm by/to school personnel</p>	<p>Ensure to follow proper and current guidelines and ensure appropriate distance maintained from child keeping in view of other school personnel if possible and alerting other personnel that they are dealing with a medical or behavioural incident. Please document date time and length of time spent with child until assistance arrives. Ensure hands free phone is taken to the room in case they need assistance Policy on restraint Staff CPD Training First Aid Training</p>

Administration of Medication Policy		
AUP Policy Code of Behaviour Remote Learning Policy	Harm by/to school personnel Harm to pupils Confidentiality	Online Learning/ Meetings
Maintain communication with home in so far as possible Follow Child Safeguarding Statement Outside agencies for support (SCP)	Harm to Pupils	Risk of harm COVID 19 due to Covid in a home environment that is potentially violent/abusive

**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.