

# *St. Patrick's National School*

## *Child Safeguarding Statement 2025/2026*

St. Patrick's NS 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 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 NS, 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 ***Kate Crossan***
- 3 The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is ***Fiona Boyle***
- 4 The Relevant Person is ***Kate Crossan***  
(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 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](#) 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.

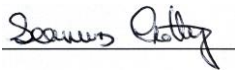
- In accordance with the Children First Act 2015 and the Addendum to Children First (2019), the Board has carried out an assessment of any potential for harm to a child while attending the school or participating in school activities. A written assessment setting out the areas of risk identified and 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.

**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 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 01/03/2018.

This Child Safeguarding Statement was reviewed by the Board of Management on 03/12/2025.

Signed: 

Chairperson of Board of Management

Date: 03/12/2025

Signed: 

Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Date: 03/12/2025

## *Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment*

### *Written Assessment of Risk of St. Patrick's NS*

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 St. Patrick's NS.

<b>List of School Activities</b>	<b>The School has identified the following Risk of Harm</b>	<b>The School has the following Procedures in place to address risk identified in this assessment</b>
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 face to face training All Staff to view Túsla 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	SEN Policy Garda Vetting. Child Safeguarding Statement. All school personal will maintain reasonable and effective supervision of pupils. Supervision Policy. Names of DLP and DDLP clearly visible in main entrance. Table between teacher and pupil Glass in window
Care of Children with special needs, including intimate care needs	Harm by school personnel	Garda Vetting Supervision Policy Staff Training on Child Protection

List of School Activities	The School has identified the following Risk of Harm	The School has the following Procedures in place to address risk identified in this assessment
Toilet areas	Inappropriate behaviour	Supervision policy Intimate Care Policy
Curricular Provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay safe.	Non-teaching of same	School implements SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe in full
LGBT Children/Pupils perceived to be LGBT	Bullying	Bí Cineáltas Policy Code of Behaviour Stay Safe Programme
Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils	Harm from other pupils or unknown adults.	Arrival and dismissal supervised by teachers / SNAs CCTV Traffic Management Plan
Managing of challenging behaviour amongst pupils, including appropriate use of restraint	Injury to pupils and staff	Health & Safety Policy Code Of Behaviour
Sports Coaches	Harm to pupils	Procedures in place -All school personal will maintain reasonable and effective supervision of pupils. Garda Vetting.
Recreation breaks for pupils	Harm to pupils	Bí Cineáltas Policy Code of Behaviour. Garda Vetting. Child Safeguarding Statement. All school personal will maintain reasonable and effective supervision of pupils. Supervision Policy.
Classroom teaching	Harm to pupils	Bí Cineáltas Policy Code of Behaviour. Garda Vetting. Child Safeguarding Statement.

List of School Activities	The School has identified the following Risk of Harm	The School has the following Procedures in place to address risk identified in this assessment
Outdoor teaching activities	Harm to pupils.	Bí Cineáltas Policy Code of Behaviour. Garda Vetting. Child Safeguarding Statement. All school personal will maintain reasonable and effective supervision of pupils. Supervision Policy.
Sporting Activities	Harm to pupils.	Bí Cineáltas Policy Code of Behaviour. Garda Vetting. Child Safeguarding Statement. All school personal will maintain reasonable and effective supervision of pupils. Supervision Policy. Basketball/Football matches/training: school personnel must travel on bus with pupils maintaining a 15:1 ratio Swimming – two school personnel remain at changing room door. - Teacher to accompany pupil if they leave swimming lesson to go to the toilet.

<b>List of School Activities</b>	<b>The School has identified the following Risk of Harm</b>	<b>The School has the following Procedures in place to address risk identified in this assessment</b>
School outings/ Tours / Exhibitions	Harm to pupils	Bí Cineáltas Policy Code of Behaviour. Garda Vetting. Child Safeguarding Statement. All school personal will maintain reasonable and effective supervision of pupils. Supervision Policy. Procedures in place - personnel to accompany class teachers.
Annual Sports Day	Harm to pupils	Bí Cineáltas Policy Code of Behaviour. Garda Vetting. Child Safeguarding Statement. All school personal will maintain reasonable and effective supervision of pupils. Supervision Policy.
Fundraising events involving pupils	Harm to pupils	All school personal will maintain reasonable and effective supervision of pupils. Not mandatory to participate.
Use of off-site facilities for school activities	Harm to pupils	Bí Cineáltas Policy . Code of Behaviour. Garda Vetting. Child Safeguarding Statement. All school personal will maintain reasonable and effective supervision of pupils. Supervision Policy. Procedures in place - personnel to accompany class teachers as required
School transport arrangements	Harm to pupils	Pupils not permitted to travel in staff vehicles Supervision Policy Two adults accompany pupil, if walking a pupil home

List of School Activities	The School has identified the following Risk of Harm	The School has the following Procedures in place to address risk identified in this assessment
Administration of Medicine	Harm to pupils	Clear instruction given by doctor/parents. Administration of Medicine Policy
Administration of First Aid	Harm to pupils	Minor injuries treated by school personal. Parents informed of head injuries Serious injuries – parents requested to come to the school.
Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst pupils	Harm to pupils by another pupil	Bí Cineáltas Policy Code of Behaviour Curriculum - S.P.H.E/Stay Safe/RSE Supervision Policy
Recruitment of school personnel including - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Teachers</li> <li>• SNA's</li> <li>• Caretaker/Secretary/Cleaners</li> <li>• Sports coaches</li> <li>• External Tutors/Guest Speakers</li> <li>• Visitors/contractors present in school during school hours</li> <li>• Visitors/contractors present during after school activities</li> </ul>	Harm not recognised or properly or promptly reported	Child Safeguarding Statement & DES procedures made available to all staff  Staff to view Tusla training module & any other online training offered by Oide  Vetting Procedures  Supervision Policy
Use of Information and Communication Technology by pupils in school	Bullying	ICT policy Bí Cineáltas Policy Code of Behaviour

<b>List of School Activities</b>	<b>The School has identified the following Risk of Harm</b>	<b>The School has the following Procedures in place to address risk identified in this assessment</b>
Online Teaching and Learning Remotely	Harm due to inappropriate use of online remote teaching and learning platforms	Acceptable Usage Policy / ICT Policy Bí Cineáltas Policy Code of Behaviour School broadband filtering is on. See-Saw – teachers can monitor individual children’s work on iPads Secure Online platforms used. Seesaw Aladdin Apps downloaded by central administrator.
Application of sanctions under the school’s Code of Behaviour including detention of pupils, confiscation of phones etc.	Harm to pupils	Bí Cineáltas Policy Code of Behaviour Supervision Policy Acceptable Use Policy
Student teachers undertaking training placement in school	Harm to pupils	Garda Vetting. Staff to maintain reasonable and effective supervision. Provision of Joint Agreement from educational institution.
Use of video/photography/other media to record school event	Harm to pupils Recognition of pupils	Bí Cineáltas Policy Acceptable Usage Policy / ICT Policy Parents requested not to post digital material on social media

**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.

This risk assessment has been completed by the Board of Management on 03/12/2025. It will be reviewed as part of the school’s annual review of its Child Safeguarding Statement.