

Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment



For:	St. Mary's Church of Ireland N.S.
At:	Waterpark, Carrigaline, Co. Cork P43V243

This school is a: ☒ primary ☐ post-primary ☐ special school

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) and 2025, Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025 and Child Safeguarding: A Guide for Policy, Procedure and Practice, 2nd ed. (Tusla, 2024), the board of management has adopted the Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment set out in this document.

The board of management has adopted and will implement fully and without modification the department's Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025 as part of this overall Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment.

Name of the Designated Liaison Person (DLP):

Ms. Olive Bradfield

Name of the Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP/DDLP):

Mrs. Lynne McCarthy

In the absence of the DLP, the Deputy DLP shall assume responsibilities of the DLP

Name of Relevant Person

Ms. Olive Bradfield

(In schools this person is the DLP)

Relevant Person can be contacted on:

021 4371995

carrigalinens@gmail.com

Under the Children First Act 2015 Relevant Person means a person who is appointed by a provider of a relevant service to be the first point of contact in respect of the Child Safeguarding Statement. This person is nominated by the board of management to manage and provide oversight of child protection concerns/allegations of child abuse.

Name of Chairperson of the board of management:

Mrs. Brenda Haubold

In the event that both DLP and DDLP are absent and unavailable, and where there is no staff member formally acting in their role, the chairperson of the board of management assumes the role of DLP.

The board of management recognises that child protection and safeguarding permeate all aspects of school life and must be reflected in all of the school's policies, procedures, practices and activities. In all of these, 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 happening to children and protect members of school personnel from the necessity to take unnecessary risks that may leave themselves open to accusations of child abuse.
- Develop a practice of openness with parents and encourage parental involvement in the education of their children.
- Fully respect confidentiality requirements as set out in the Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025 in dealing with child protection matters.
- Adhere to the above principles in relation to any vulnerable adult.

Procedures and Measures in Place

Our Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment has been developed in line with requirements under the Children First Act 2015, the *Children First: National Guidance 2017*, and *Child Safeguarding: A Guide for Policy, Procedure and Practice, 2nd ed. (Tusla, 2024)*, and the *Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025*. In addition to the procedures listed in our risk assessment, the following procedures support our intention to safeguard children while they are availing of our service:

> Procedure for the Management of Allegations of Abuse or Misconduct against School Personnel Relating to a Child Availing of Our Service

~ Where any member of school personnel is the subject of any investigation in respect of any act, omission or circumstance in relation to a child attending the school, the school is required to adhere to the relevant procedures set out in Chapter 7 of the *Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025* and to the relevant agreed disciplinary procedures for school staff which are published on the gov.ie website.

> Procedure for the Safe Recruitment and Selection of School Personnel to Work With Children

~ The school is required to adhere to the requirements of the Vetting Act. The selection or recruitment of staff and their suitability to work with children, requires the school to adhere 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 Youth and available on the gov.ie website and as outlined in Chapter 10 of the procedures.

~ A written protocol is in place authorising immediate action for cases which require an employee to be immediately absented from school for child safeguarding reasons.

> Procedure for Provision of and Access to Child Safeguarding Training and Information, Including the Identification of the Occurrence of Harm

~ The school provides information and training to members of school personnel in relation to the identification of the occurrence of harm (as defined in the 2015 Act) as follows:

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- ~ The school has provided each member of school personnel, including any new members of school personnel, (employees and volunteers, board of management members, student teachers and those on work experience) with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment.
- ~ The school ensures that members of school personnel have availed of relevant training and completed child protection training.
- ~ The school encourages board of management members to avail of any relevant training and complete child protection training.
- ~ The board of management ensures that records of all staff and board member child protection training are maintained.

> Procedure for the Reporting of Child Protection or Welfare Concerns to Tusla

- ~ All members of school personnel are required to adhere to the procedures set out in the *Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025*, in relation to reporting of child protection concerns to Tusla. Mandated reporting applies to all registered teachers and any other mandated person who may be employed by the school, for example a chaplain or nurse. A full list of those people who are mandated persons is set out in Appendix 1 procedures.

> Procedure for Maintaining a List of the Persons (if any) in the Relevant Service Who Are Mandated Persons

- ~ There is a procedure in place to maintain a list of mandated persons. Schools may on occasion employ additional staff who are mandated by virtue of their profession. This list will include all registered teachers and identify additional employees that are not registered teachers.

> Procedure for Appointing a Relevant Person (In schools this person is the DLP)

- ~ There is a procedure in place for appointing a relevant person.

The various procedures referred to in this Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment can be accessed via the school's website, the gov.ie website or will be made available on request by the school.

In accordance with the Children First Act 2015, the Addendum to Children First 2019 and 2025, and the *Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025*, the board of management 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.

Note: The procedures and measures in place outlined above, are not intended as exhaustive list. Individual boards of management shall also include in this section such other procedures and measures that are of relevance to the school.

This statement has been published on the school's website or will be made available on request by the school. It has been provided to all members of school personnel, the parents' association (if any), the patron and parents. A copy of this statement and risk assessment will be made available to Tusla and the department if requested.

This Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment will be reviewed annually or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which this statement refers.

Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
1.	Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils	Harm from older pupils and harm from unknown adults on the playground Child not collected on time	Arrival (after 8.40am) and dismissal supervised by teachers. Infants handed to parents at home-time. 1 st Class and 2 nd Class walk out to parents with Teacher
2.	Recreation breaks for pupils	Harm by school personnel	• The school has a suitable yard/playground supervision roster for both teaching staff and SNA's to ensure appropriate supervision of children during recreation breaks • Yard/Supervision Rota to ensure appropriate supervision of children during breaks. • Code of Behaviour
3.	Visitors/contractors present in school during school hours	Risk of someone unauthorised accessing the premises without signing in at school reception.	• Ensure that doors are closed at all times. • All adults are required to report to reception prior to entering the school building. • CCTV recordings of school surroundings
4.	Hot Lunch Scheme	Harm to pupil	• Garda Vetted personnel • Limited interaction with pupils
5.	One-to-one SET Teaching One on one SNA care; Principal or teacher meeting one-on-one with a pupil	Harm by school personnel	• Special Education Policy • Parents are informed and provide consent if children are withdrawn from class on a regular basis. • Glass panels/windows are installed in the doors of SET classrooms. • Window blinds, where fitted, will remain open during pupil contact time.
6.	Outdoor teaching activities	Harm to pupils	• Health and Safety Statement • Ensuring adequate supervision • Pre-teaching of routines

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7.	Volunteers/Parents in school Parent Association Activities	Harm to a pupil whilst attending a Parents' Association event	• All Parents' Association events are sanctioned in advance by the Board of Management (or principal if no board meeting scheduled) • Parents' Association Committee members will be garda vetted • All members of the PA will provide reasonable and effective supervision of all pupils attending PA events.
8.	Use of video/photography/other media to record school events	Harm to pupils	• Only shared on Aladdin app otherwise permission sought. • Data Protection Policy • Pupils are not permitted to have mobile phones during school hours • Parents may only record or photograph events for personal use
9.	School outings/Tours Use of off-site facilities for school activities	Harm by a member of Staff of another organisation or other person while participating in out of school activities, Harm due to inadequate supervision	• Ensuring adequate supervision • Health and Safety Statement • Code of Behaviour • Pre-teaching of routines
10.	Use of Toilet In school	Inappropriate behaviour	• Code of Behaviour • Health and Safety Statement • Classroom teaching (SPHE)

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
11.	Annual Sports Day	Harm by student/teacher/non-school personnel	• All activities must be sanctioned by Principal. • Health and Safety policy. • Principal ensures teachers/ancillary staff are fully aware of school procedures.

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	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
			● Child Safeguarding statement
12.	Students participating in work experience in the school Student teachers undertaking training placement in school	Harm not recognised or reported promptly by school personnel	● Health and Safety Statement ● All school personnel are provided with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment ● Garda Vetting as applicable ● Student fully supervised at all times by a member of school personnel
13.	Use of Information and Communication Technology by pupils in school.		● Secure Online Platforms used: Aladdin ● iPads – Apple Classroom – teacher can monitor individual children's work on iPads. ● Apps have to be downloaded by the central administrator. School broadband filtering is on. ● The school has an Acceptable Use Policy in place, to include provision for online teaching and learning remotely, and has communicated this policy to parents ● The school has in place a Mobile Phone and Electronic Devices Policy
14.	After-school use of school premises by other organisations	Harm by a member of an organisation	● Child Safeguarding Statement and DES Procedures made available ● Garda Vetting procedures followed
15.	Care of pupils with special educational needs, including intimate care when needed	Harm by school personnel	● The school has a special educational needs policy ● The school has an intimate care plan in respect of students who require such care

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	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
			● Health and Safety Policy ● School Support Plan
16.	Management of challenging behaviour amongst pupils, including appropriate use of restraint when needed	Harm by other pupils	Health and Statement Policy ● Code of Behaviour ● The school has complied with the Understanding Behaviours of Concern and Responding to Crisis Situations developed by the Department of Education and Youth to address uncertainty for staff on how to respond when facing crisis situations where there are concerns regarding physical safety
17.	Training of school personnel in Child Protection matters	Harm not recognised or reported promptly by school personnel	● All school personnel are provided with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment ● School personnel are required to adhere to the DES Procedures, and all registered teaching staff are required to adhere to the Children First Act 2015 ● DLP & DDLP to attend Child Protection refresh training ● Staff and board members are encouraged to avail of relevant training. ● Records of all Staff and board member training maintained ● Critical Incident Management Plan
18.	Administration of medicine	Harm by school personnel Harm to pupils	● Administration of Medicine Policy ● Staff training ● Emergency Action Plan displayed in school

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	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
19.	Administration of First Aid	Harm by school personnel Harm to pupils	● First aid training for staff
20.	Curriculum provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe	Non-teaching of same	School implements SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe programmes in full SPHE/RSE Policy
21	Prevention & Dealing with bullying amongst pupils	Harm by other pupils	● School authorities have a code of behaviour and an anti-bullying policy in place in accordance with the department's 'Bí Cineálta' procedures to prevent and address bullying in schools and as outlined in Circular 55/2024 ● The school implements in full the Stay Safe Programme ● The school implements in full the Social, Personal, and Health Education (SPHE) curriculum ● Organised events promoting positive relationships
22	Recruitment of school personnel including – Teachers, SNA's, Caretaker/Secretary/Cleaners, Sports coaches, External Tutors/Guest Speakers, Volunteers/Parents in school activities,	Harm not recognised or properly or promptly reported	● School's Child Safeguarding Statement & DES Procedures made available to all new Staff ● Staff to view Túsla training module & any other online training offered ● The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation ● Health and Safety Statement
23	School transport arrangements including the use of bus escorts	Harm to pupils	● Bus escort contracts and duties ● Garda Vetting
24	Use of external personnel to support sports & other extra-curricular activities	Harm not recognised or reported promptly	● Visitors and external coaches must check in at reception at the front

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	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
	Use of external personnel to supplement curriculum		entrance before accessing the main school building. ● Regular visitors to the school, e.g. external teachers, guest speakers, are Garda Vetted or a copy of their Garda vetting is provided to the school. ● Persons administering external programmes through another body will provide the school with confirmation of Garda Vetting from their relevant organisation and a copy of any appropriate insurance. ● Children are closely supervised by staff members during all school events in which visitors are invited to or are present in the school. ● Child Safeguarding Statement
25	Care of pupils with specific vulnerabilities/ needs such as • Pupils from ethnic minorities/migrants • Pupils enrolled in Special Classes • Pupils of minority religious faiths	Risk of harm due to bullying of a child Risk of harm due to racism etc	● New Bí Cinealta Anti-Bullying Policy, which fully adheres to the requirements of the DES ● Child Safeguarding Statement ● Code of Behaviour

Online Safety

The *Addendum to Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children 2017* 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 and Risk Assessment.

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 access

Risk in the context of this Child Safeguarding Statement and 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 the Children First Act 2015: 'harm' means, in relation to a child— (a) assault, ill-treatment or neglect of the child in a manner that seriously affects or is likely to seriously affect the child's health, development or welfare, or (b) sexual abuse of the child, whether caused by a single act, omission or circumstance or a series or combination of acts, omissions or circumstances, or otherwise.

Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment

In accordance with Section 11 of the Children First Act 2015 and with the requirements of Chapter 9 of the Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025, the following is the written Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment.

In undertaking this Child Safeguarding Statement and 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 Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment was adopted by the board of management on 11th June 2026

Signed: *		Date: 11-06-2026.
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Chairperson of the board of management

Signed: *		Date: 11.06.2026
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Principal/Secretary to the board of management

This Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment is expected to be reviewed again in June 2027

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Appendix - Location of copies of the Child Protection Procedures and Children First Guidance

- Hard copy in Principal's Office
- Hard copy in School Office
- Online Copy at

<https://www.gov.ie/en/department-of-education/policy-information/child-protection-procedures-in-schools/>