

# Child Safeguarding Statement & Risk Assessment 23/24



## Child Safeguarding Statement

St. Philomena's NS is a primary school providing primary education to pupils from Third 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. Philomena'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 Geraldine Gaffey
- 3 The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is Grainne Moran
- 4 The Relevant Person is Geraldine Gaffey  
(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:

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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.
- 6 The following procedures/measures are in place:
- In relation to any member of staff who is the subject of any investigation (however 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

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- 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 reviewed by the Board of Management on

Signed: Marie White

Signed: 28/9/23

Chairperson of Board of Management.  


Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Date: 28/9/23.

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## Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment

### Written Assessment of Risk of St. Philomena'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 Post-Primary Schools (revised 2023)*, the following is the Written Risk Assessment of St. Philomena's NS.

List of School Activities	Risk Level	The School has identified the following Risk of Harm	The School has the following Procedures in place to address risk identified in this assessment
Training of school personnel in Child Protection matters	High	Harm not recognised or reported promptly	Child Safeguarding Statement & DES procedures made available to all staff All Staff to view Túsla training module & any other online training offered by PDST
One to one teaching	Med	Harm by school personnel	BOM records all records of staff and board training School will devise a policy for one to one teaching Open doors SEN Policy Stay Safe
Toilet areas	Med	Harm from pupil to pupil	Teacher discretion is used in terms of usage
Curricular Provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay safe.	Med	Non-teaching of same	School implements SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe in full
LGBTQ+ Children/Pupils perceived to be LGBT	Low	Bullying	Anti-Bullying Policy Code of Behaviour
Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils	Med	Harm from older pupils, unknown adults on the playground	Arrival starts at 8.50 and is supervised by Principal Teacher. Dismissal is supervised by Class Teachers

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Sports Coaches	Med	Harm to pupils	Visiting tutors from reputable organisations with appropriate vetting. Give a copy of Safeguarding procedures and Risk Assessment to all coaches. Teacher present at all times.
Students participating in work experience	Low	Harm by student to pupils	Work experience Policy Child Safeguarding Statement Vetting procedures Stay Safe
Recreation breaks for pupils	Med	Bullying	Anti-Bullying Policy Supervision Policy
Classroom teaching	Low	Harm by school personnel	Child Safeguarding Statement and DES procedures made available to all staff Stay Safe
One-to-one counselling	Med	Harm to pupils	One-to-one counselling operating procedures in place Child Safeguarding Statement Vetting procedures Stay Safe programme is fully implemented
Outdoor teaching activities	Med	Harm to pupils by a member of the public	
School outings	Med	Harm to pupils by a member of the public	School Tour policy Stay Safe programme fully implemented
Annual Sports Day	Med	Harm to pupils	Adequate supervision at all times
Fundraising events involving pupils	Med	Harm to pupils by a member of the public	Stay Safe programme is fully implemented
Use of toilets/changing areas on school outings and activities , e.g. in the gym/GAA/Harriers/swimming pool.	Med	Harm to pupils	Adequate supervision at all times Stay Safe

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Administration of Medicine	Med	Harm to pupils	Administration of medication policy
Administration of First Aid	Low	Harm to pupils	Procedures in place
Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst pupils	Med	Harm to pupils	Anti-Bullying Policy SPHE Kindness Week
Use of external personnel to supplement curriculum	Med	Harm to pupils	Vetting requirements fully adhered to Teacher present at all times Sign in and Sign out book
Care of pupils with specific vulnerabilities/ needs such as <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pupils with SEN</li> <li>• Pupils from ethnic minorities/migrants</li> <li>• Members of the Traveller community</li> <li>• Lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender (LGBTQ+) children</li> <li>• Pupils perceived to be LGBTQ+</li> <li>• Pupils of minority religious faiths</li> <li>• Children in care</li> <li>• Children on CPNS (Child protection Notice)</li> </ul>	Med	Bullying	Anti-Bullying Policy Code of Behaviour
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> </ul>	Low	Harm not recognised 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 PDST

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• External Tutors/Guest Speakers</li> <li>• Volunteers/Parents in school activities</li> <li>• Visitors/contractors present in school during school hours</li> <li>• Visitors/contractors present during after school activities</li> </ul>	Med	Bullying	<p>Vetting Procedures</p> <p>Policy of Parents / Volunteers to be completed</p> <p>Policy on Visiting Contractors to be completed</p> <p>AUP policy</p> <p>Anti-Bullying Policy</p> <p>Code of Behaviour</p>
<p>Use of Information and Communication Technology by pupils in school</p>	Med	Harm by student	<p>Work experience policy</p> <p>Child Safeguarding Statement</p> <p>Vetting procedures</p> <p>Stay Safe</p>
<p>Student teachers undertaking training placement in school</p>	Low	Inappropriate sharing of photos	<p>Parental permission required on enrolment form</p>
<p>Use of video/photography/other media to record school events</p>	Low	Harm to pupils	<p>AUP policy</p>
<p>Use of Mobile Phones</p>	Med	Harm to pupils by a member of the public	<p>Stay Safe programme is fully implemented</p> <p>Adequate supervision at all times</p>
<p>Transport for school events</p>	Med	Harm to pupils by a member of the public	<p>Adequate supervision at all times</p> <p>Stay safe programme fully implemented</p>
<p>Use of off-site facilities for school activities (St. Marys)</p>	Med	Harm to pupils	<p>Child safeguarding statement</p> <p>Vetting procedures</p>
<p>School transport arrangements including use of bus escorts</p>	Med	Harm to pupils	<p>Intimate care needs policy</p> <p>Child safeguarding statement</p> <p>Vetting procedures</p> <p>Stay Safe programme is fully implemented</p>
<p>Care of children with special educational needs, including intimate care where needed.</p>	Med	Harm to pupils	

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DEIS/ Literacy/ Numeracy Summer Camps	Low	Harm by school personnel	Child Safeguarding Statement and DES procedures made available to all staff. Stay Safe
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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)*