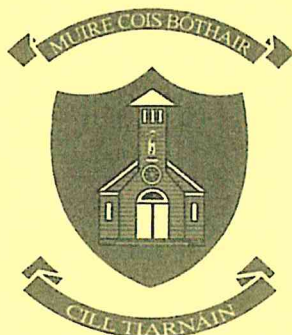


Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment Our Lady of the Wayside NS



For:	Our Lady of the Wayside National School
At:	Ballybetagh Road, Kiltarnan, Dublin, D18CY28

This school is a: (tick appropriate) ☒ 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):

Fiona Downes

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

Sandra Cunningham

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

Name of Relevant Person

Fiona Downes

(In schools this person is the DLP)

Relevant Person can be contacted on:

01-2955682

principal@ourladyofthewaysidens.ie

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, or in an ETB school the Chief Executive or their delegate:

Nigel Start

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, or in an ETB school the chief executive or their delegate, 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:
 - ~ 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
Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils	- Harm from other pupils/ unknown adults on the school premises. - Gates/Parents collecting children at the Church gates. - Young siblings (who are not pupils) in the yard before school, unattended. - Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children in school - Parents collecting late or others collecting. - Children being released from/by someone other than the class teacher. - Parents requesting children cross to them on the far side of the road for collection raising road-safety concerns.	- All school personnel are provided with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment. - Arrival and Departure Procedures – specified gates. - Pupils not on premises before 8.40 except those attending specific permitted activity. - Health and Safety Statement. - Security access codes are in place on all external entrance doors. - External gate secured at 9.00 a.m. - All visitors and adults are required to report to and wait in the school office. - Blue car park gates should not be used when pupils are entering/exiting. - Class teachers will engage with parents of younger children and confirm each child's arrangements for dismissal. - Yard duty rota to ensure adequate supervision at lunch time. - Written permission to be provided by collecting parent to collect a child other than their own child. - Hand-over protocol in place – uncollected children will be brought back into the office and a phone call to be made to parents. - Secretary to inform class teacher if pupils is collected during lunch time. - Parents are required to collect children from the school side of the road in accordance with the school's supervision and dismissal procedures. Any staff member that has a concern raises this with the parents or principal
Recreation breaks for pupils	- Injury to pupils/bullying behaviour. - Harm not recognised or properly or promptly reported - Children not obeying school rules. - Use of movies/digital content in class – age appropriate.	- Supervision rota in place. - Bi-Cinealta Policy - Code of Behaviour - Acceptable Use Policy (AUP) for staff and pupil if screen is being used. - Content to age appropriate as per Irish Film Classification Office and pre-watched before showing to students.
Classroom teaching	- Harm by others - Slips/trips/falls	- Glass in class door - Class should not be left unattended/without teacher supervision. - Staff are aware of safety in classroom – belongings stored carefully, not blocking exits etc. - Safety Statement.

Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment– January 2026

List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
One-to-one teaching	Harm by school personnel	Glass panel in doors
Outdoor teaching activities	- Harm by/ to school personnel. - Harm due to inadequate supervision. - Flight Risk by pupils.	- School side gate is kept locked during school hours. - Staff familiar with area to be used for outside teaching activity and to check for ice/hazard and return inside immediately if needed. - Class exit and return as a group under teacher supervision at all times.
Online teaching and learning remotely	- Harm by/ to school personnel. - Risk of harm caused by a member of school personnel accessing/circulating inappropriate material via social media, texting, digital device or other manner.	- Teachers working remotely on Zoom calls are shadowed by another staff member. - The school has an Acceptable use policy in place which includes provision for online teaching and learning remotely, communication with parents around policy.
Sporting activities	- Risk of harm to child by a member of school personnel. - Risk of injury. - Transport- use of field or activities outside of school grounds. - Public facilities- risk of harm from members of the public using them at the same time. - Risk of harm from other adults/ other children during the outing.	- Trips and Tours Form in place- full compliance required with this. - Children are in the care of staff member, vetted parents may assist. - Clear arrangements around collection/dismissal.
School outings	- Transport - Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children while attending activities off school grounds during school time - Lack of knowledge of venue - Public facilities- risk of harm from members of the public using them at the same time. - Risk of harm from other adults/ other children during the outing. - Risk of child being harmed by a member of school personnel, a member of staff or another organisation or other person while a child is participating in out-of-school activities e.g. school tour	- Trips and Tours Form in place- full compliance required with this - Risks and procedures discussed with the classes before each trip. - Individual consideration for those with limited mobility or alternative needs to ensure maximum inclusion in the activity. Risk assessment if deemed necessary.
Swimming Lessons	- Transport - Risk of harm to children when changing/ using a public toilet - Lack of knowledge of the venue - Risk of child being harmed by a member of school personnel, a member of staff or another organisation when a child is participating in swimming lessons. - Public facilities- risk of harm from members of the public using them at the same time	- Trips and Tours Form in place- full compliance required with this - Risks and procedures discussed with the classes before each trip. - Changing procedure in place. - Parent volunteers remain in gallery.

Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment– January 2026

List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
Use of toilet/changing/shower areas in schools	- Inappropriate behaviour by children/staff - Use of toilet from after school activities / from yard during breaks or toilets on corridors - Risk of harm while child is using the toilet or changing	- Supervision procedure – children should be in pairs. - During break times rules in place – permission given by a teacher on duty. - Specific toilets have been assigned for use at after school activities - Code of Behaviour - Anti- Bullying Policy
Annual Sports Day	- Risk of injury moving sport equipment. - Public facilities- risk of harm from members of the public using them at the same time. - Parents taking children without telling teacher. - School is more open on a day like this. - Risk from crossing the road.	- Children must stay with their class group. - The departure and arrival of children must be supervised rigorously by the class teacher with additional staff available to assist with road crossing as required. - Parents and visitors to be aware of distinct pupil and staff areas. - Potential use of ETB toilet facilities on the day, supervised by staff member. - Equipment moved outside of school times if possible. - No heavy equipment lifted.
Fundraising events involving pupils	- Risk of images shared without permission - Risk of harm from others.	- Consent sought for any images shared. - BOM permission for fundraiser to be carried out.
Use of off-site facilities for school activities including ETB field.	- Risk of area/building being unfamiliar. - Public facilities- risk of harm from members of the public using them at the same time. - Pupils injured on road when crossing. - Pupil becomes unwell/injured when on field.	- Children must stay with their class group. - The departure and arrival of children must be supervised rigorously by the class teacher with additional staff available to assist with road crossing as required. - Risk assessment completed if deemed necessary for event or for particular pupils. - Principal informed when class are using the field. - Teacher will request second adult if deemed necessary. - Teacher brings phone. - Children not allowed cross road/return to school without supervision.
School transport arrangements including use of buses.	- Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children while attending out-of-school activities. - Risk of volunteer parent not being aware of any specific needs of a child.	- School trips form. - Specific additional support may be provided on trips to specific children. - Seat belts should be worn.

Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment – January 2026

List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
Care of children with special educational needs, including intimate care where needed	- Harm by school personnel or by other children - Provision of change of clothes for "accidents" and how these are used. - Inability to communicate any harm.	- Toileting Guidelines - Non-verbal pupils can be encouraged to draw pictures, point etc to communicate their thoughts. - Administration of medicines policy and Bi-Cinealta Policy. - Careful individual considerations around Stay Safe for vulnerable children – see.
Management of challenging behaviour amongst pupils, including appropriate use of restraint where required	Injury to pupils and staff	- Code of Behaviour - Health and safety Policy - Bi-Cinealta Policy - Risk Assessment - 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
Management of provision of food and drink	- Possible allergies - Risk of burns/fire. - Risk of choking.	- Photo of children with allergies displayed in the classroom and staffroom and medical plan for those that require it. - Oven room (Hot school lunches)- pupils not allowed and special cool door ovens. - Cooker in staff room and little kitchen not to be left unattended. - First Aid Training on staff.
Administration of medicine	- Incorrect administration of medicine. - Risk of harm to children with special educational needs who have particular vulnerabilities, including medical vulnerabilities, by members of school personnel - Child not willing to take medication	- Administration of Medicine policy in place. - Individual medical plans as required. - Epipens, inhalers etc. to be stored in line with policy and remain accessible at all times - Principal, secretary and class teacher have hard copy of any emergency medical plans and forms. - Medical care plans and details to be uploaded securely to Aladdin.
Administration of First Aid	- Risk of harm to children by members of school personnel during administration - Risk of harm to children with special educational needs who have particular vulnerabilities, including medical vulnerabilities, by members of school personnel	- First Aid policy in place 'Bump Books' recorded and parents contacted after head injuries during school hours.
Curricular provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe	Non- Teaching of same	- The school implements in full the Social, Personal, and Health Education (SPHE) curriculum. - Staff engaging continuously in training regarding safety of children. - Evidence of above being taught in Cuntas Miosúil. - Annual reminder from Leadership Team on dates to start Stay Safe.

Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment– January 2026

List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
Prevention and dealing with bullying behaviour amongst pupils	Bullying behaviour	- Neurodiversity Week - Bí Cineálta - Kindness Week - Stay Safe Programme - Clear reporting procedures for any potential bullying/discrimination: investigated in line with Bí Cineálta policy
Training of school personnel in child protection matters	- Mandatory training not completed by all staff - Delays in reporting concerns due to lack of confidence or knowledge	- Record of training maintained by principal. - Clearly display DLP and Deputy DLP details throughout the school. - Child Safeguarding Statement & Children - First made available to all staff - DLP & DDLP attend specific child protection training - Staff to complete training as requested.
Use of external personnel to supplement curriculum	- Harm to pupils by outside visitor. - Harm due to lack of supervision	- Class Teacher to remain with the class. - Visitors Garda vetted in line with requirements. - Visitor Lanyard to be worn.
Use of external personnel to support sports and other extra-curricular activities	- Harm due to unvetted personnel - One-to-one contact with pupils without adequate safeguards	- Ensure Garda Vetting is completed in line with guidelines. - Principal to maintain a central register of vetted external personnel, including dates of vetting and roles..
Care of pupils with specific vulnerabilities/needs	- Harm by school personnel - Inability to communicate any harm	- Toileting Guidelines - Seek alternative communication methods with support from external professionals to help child communicate. - Administration of medicines recorded - Specific staff trained in behavioural response training as required. - Additional Needs Policy.
Pupils who may experience discrimination to include those from ethnic/religious minorities/migrants/ members of the Traveller community/ pupil who are/are perceived to be Lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender (LGBT) children	- Harm by bullying behaviour. - Harm caused by potential discrimination/unkindness.	- Vigilance of staff - Neurodiversity Week - Bí Cineálta - Kindness Week - Stay Safe Programme - Clear reporting procedures for any potential bullying/discrimination: investigated in line with Bí Cineálta policy - Diversity reflected in bilingual library books.

Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment– January 2026

List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
Children in care	- Harm not recognised or properly or promptly reported - Risk of images or personal information being shared	- Principal to take guidance from Tusla in relation to informing/not-informing relevant staff on particular situation. - Images of children not to be shared.
Children on Tusla's Child Protection Notification System (CPNS) or children in care	- Reason for placement on the CPNS and risks to individual pupils will vary from case to case. - Harm not recognised or properly or promptly reported - Risk of images or personal information being shared	- If a child is placed on CPNS or for a child in care, the principal will take the decision to share relevant information with a limited number of staff. The purpose is to balance child safety with data minimisation. - The Principal will inform those who s/he deems essential to keeping the child safe on a case by case basis of the actions that may be required in response to specific circumstances– These staff may include the DDLP, Class Teacher, School Secretary, SET Teacher SNA and potentially the School Leadership Team. She will inform them individually and they will be briefed on the need for confidentiality. - When children listed on the CPNS transfer between classes/teachers, it is the responsibility of the Principal to pass on information. - For children in care, the Principal to take guidance from Tusla in relation to informing/not-informing relevant staff on particular situation. - Images of children not to be shared.
Children with medical needs	- Incorrect administration of medication. - Incorrect Record Keeping. - Incorrect storage. - Child not willing to take medication. - Confidentiality. - Risk of harm to children with special educational needs who have particular vulnerabilities, including medical vulnerabilities	- Administration of Medication policy. - Epipens, inhalers etc.to stored carefully and remain accessible at all times. - Principal, Secretary and Class Teacher have hard copy of any emergency medical plans and forms.
Recruitment of school personnel including teachers/SNAs, caretakers/secretaries/cleaners and sport coaches	- Risk of child being harmed by a member of school personnel or outside coach - Harm not recognised or reported promptly	- All school personnel are provided with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment - The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation. - All staff are Garda vetted prior to starting. - Statutory Declaration and Form of Undertaking signed - Given copy of Child Protection Safety Statement and Risk Assessment - The school adheres to the relevant Department of Education and Youth circulars in respect of recruitment
External Tutors/Guest Speakers eg. Gymnastics, Spanish Lessons.	- Harm to pupils. - Confidentiality.	- The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda Vetting legislation and relevant DES Circulars in relation to recruitment and Garda Vetting. - All visitors must be Garda Vetted via the school in addition to their own vetting procedures.

Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment– January 2026

List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
	• Risk of images/recordings of pupils being shared inappropriately and/ or online. • Harm due to disclosure not being report correctly.	• Visitors must sign in and out in office. • Visitors must wear visitors' lanyards at all times. • Visitors are never left unsupervised with pupils. • Consent/ permission sought in line with school's Acceptable Usage Policy.
Volunteers/Parents in school activities	• Harm to pupils. • Confidentiality. • Harm due to disclosure not being report correctly.	• The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation. • All visitors must be Garda Vetted via the school in addition to their own vetting procedures. • Visitors must sign in and out in office. • Visitors must wear visitors' lanyards at all times. • Parents are never left unsupervised with pupils.
Visitors/contractors present in school during school hours	• Harm to pupils. • Harm to staff.	• All trade professionals are fully registered and insured. • The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation. • Visitors must sign in and out in office. • Visitors must wear visitors' lanyards at all times. • All works must be cleared by the Principal. • Visitors are never left unsupervised with pupils. • Contractors' equipment must never be used/ left in vicinity of pupils/ staff members.
Visitors/contractors present during after-school activities	• Harm to pupils. • Harm to staff.	• All trades professionals are fully registered and insured. • The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation. • Visitors must sign in and out in office. • Visitors must wear visitors' lanyards at all times. • Visitors are never left unsupervised with pupils. • All works must be cleared by the Principal. • Contractors' equipment must never be used/ left in vicinity of pupils/ staff members. • All equipment and areas of work must be left in a safe manner before the school opening the next day. • After school provider should stay/remain in the assigned area/rooms.
Participation by pupils in religious ceremonies/religious instruction external to the school	• Risk of harm to child by a member of another organisation	• Parents bring and remain with their child.
Use of Information and Communication Technology by pupils in school, including social media	• Bullying behaviour. • Staff not complying with school policies and procedures • Risk of harm caused by a member of school personnel communicating with pupils in an appropriate manner via social media, texting, digital device • Risk of harm caused by a member of school personnel accessing/ circulating inappropriate material via social media, texting, digital device	• Acceptable Use Policy in place- read and agreed upon by all families and members of staff upon registration with the school, and made available to everybody each year • Anti-Bullying policy in place • ICT policy in place • School Code of Behaviour procedures followed • Individual Computers not used during break times within specific permission. • iPad class manager procedure in place

Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment– January 2026

List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
	- Risk of harm due to children inappropriately accessing/ using computers, social media, phones and other devices while at school. - Sharing of personal images/ being recorded etc., without consent	- Internet Safety procedures in place - Mobile Phone policy in place
Application of sanctions under the school's Code of Behaviour including detention of pupils, confiscation of phones etc.	Risk of harm during investigation into behaviour in small group or individually.	- School Code of Behaviour. - Door with glass panel. - Potential second adult present
Students participating in work experience in the school	- Harm by student. - Injury to student. - Inappropriate behaviour/comments etc	- Work experience Guidelines - Co-Ordination of TY Students assigned to nominated Post Holder. - Child Safeguarding Statement. - Class teacher present at all times. - TY Student will be vetted (where possible) based on age. - TY student will not be in sole care/alone with children.
Students from the school participating in work experience elsewhere		
Student teachers undertaking training placement in school	- Harm by student. - Injury to student. - Inappropriate behaviour/comments etc	Class teacher present at all times (unless Student teacher is acting in a substitute capacity)
Use of video/photography/other media to record school events	Sharing or access of material without consent.	- No names to accompany photos/videos - Parents to act responsibly at school events. - School Internet is restricted (PDST) - Acceptable Use Policy - Parental permission sought in line with the AUP policy - Malware software on all school devices
After-school use of school premises by other organisations	Risk of pupil being harmed by a member of staff from another organisation.	- That all staff are vetted via the school in addition to their own vetting procedures. - That staff are requested to show and display evidence of staff child protection training. - That staff have proof of adequate insurance to cover said activity. - Responsible for the supervision and dismissal of the pupils from the after school activity. - Risk of pupil being harmed by a member of staff from another organisation. - Signed agreement in place between school/provider.

Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment– January 2026

List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
Use of school premises by other organisations during school day	Risk of pupil being harmed by a member of staff from another organisation.	- Popins Club staff are vetted via the school in addition to their own vetting procedures. - Popins Club staff are requested to show and display evidence of staff child protection training. - All organisations who use the school (HSE etc.) have access to the Child Safeguarding Statement. - Signed agreement in place between school/provider.
Breakfast club	- Risk of harm to a child by a member of another organisation - Risk of lack of supervision, in particular at arrival and dismissal time	- All members of staff must be Garda Vetted by their own organisation and through the school's Vetting procedures. - All members of staff must have completed Child Protection training. - The organisation must have Child Protection Procedures and Risk Assessment documents in display clearly and accessible to everybody. - All members of staff are provided the opportunity to contribute to the school's Risk Assessment. - The organisation must have their own insurance. - Procedures must be in place for supervision, arrival and dismissal. - Signed agreement in place between school/provider.
Cycle Training	Risk of harm to a child by a member of another organisation	- Parental consent sought. - Vetted in line with legislation. - Careful selection of Cycle Safety Trainer with reference check.
Chill out Room	- Risk of harm through lack of supervision if child enters ahead of staff member. - Risk of kitchen equipment on Staff room side of the room including hot burko, toaster, oven, knives etc.	- Clear child zone marked in the room, child not allowed to use other area. - Knives kept out of reach. - 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 – burko, hot toaster etc.
Classroom store rooms.	Risk of harm/injury from items falling, climbing shelves etc.	- Children not allowed in store room unless accompanied by adult. - Rooms to be kept locked with keys stored out of reach of children in that class. - No dangerous chemicals or harmful substances to be stored in store rooms.
PE Storage Area and Shutter	- Risk of harm/injury to child/adult from equipment. - Risk of injury on metal stairwell. - Rick of shutter use by those unfamiliar with it.	- Pupils get/return equipment with adult supervision. - Pupils are told rules around no entry to storage area/stairs etc. - Shutter to be only opened and closed by authorised staff members.

Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment– January 2026

List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
Car Park Area	- Numerous entrances – harm to children while cars are parking. - Cars entering the carpark outside of permitted times. - Pupils entering via Church gate without looking/being seen by drivers parking/reversing into spots.	- No entry to school grounds prior to 8.40, with specific exceptions. - Yellow cones to sit at both entrances to indicate no entry – they are removed by management once double car gates are closed and supervision is in place in line with our procedures. - No entry before school or before 4.35 to school car park by parents.
Cleaners Storage Room	Risk of harm from chemicals and cleaning equipment.	Storage room is kept locked at all times while children are on the premises.

Additional pages may be added as required

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, and that the inclusion of an example of a policy or procedure on these lists does not make it mandatory. 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:

- > Identify, as required under the Children First Act, 2015, any risks of harm that may exist in respect of the school's activities.
- > Identify and assess the adequacy of the various procedures already in place to manage those risks of harm.
- > Identify and put in place any such additional procedures as are considered necessary to manage any risk identified.

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 activity.

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.

Examples of School Activities which schools may draw from, as appropriate

1. Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils
2. Recreation breaks for pupils
3. Classroom teaching
4. One-to-one teaching
5. One-to-one learning support
6. One-to-one counselling
7. Outdoor teaching activities
8. Online teaching and learning remotely
9. Sporting activities
10. School outings
11. School trips involving overnight stay
12. School trips involving foreign travel
13. Use of toilet/changing/shower areas in schools
14. Provision of residential facilities for boarders
15. Annual Sports Day
16. Fundraising events involving pupils
17. Use of off-site facilities for school activities
18. School transport arrangements including use of bus escorts
19. Care of children with special educational needs, including intimate care where needed
20. Care of any vulnerable adult students, including intimate care where needed
21. Management of challenging behaviour amongst pupils, including appropriate use of restraint where required
22. Management of provision of food and drink
23. Administration of medicine
24. Administration of First Aid
25. Curricular provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe
26. Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst pupils
27. Training of school personnel in child protection matters
28. Use of external personnel to supplement curriculum
29. Use of external personnel to support sports and other extra-curricular activities
30. Care of pupils with specific vulnerabilities/needs
31. Pupils from ethnic minorities/migrants
32. Members of the Traveller community

33. Lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender (LGBT) children
34. Pupils perceived to be LGBT
35. Pupils of minority religious faiths
36. Children in care
37. Children on Tusla's Child Protection Notification System (CPNS)
38. Children with medical needs
39. Recruitment of school personnel including teachers/SNAs, caretakers/secretaries/cleaners and sport coaches
40. External Tutors/Guest Speakers
41. Volunteers/Parents in school activities
42. Visitors/contractors present in school during school hours
43. Visitors/contractors present during after-school activities
44. Participation by pupils in religious ceremonies/religious instruction external to the school
45. Use of Information and Communication Technology by pupils in school, including social media
46. Application of sanctions under the school's Code of Behaviour including detention of pupils, confiscation of phones etc.
47. Students participating in work experience in the school
48. Students from the school participating in work experience elsewhere
49. Student teachers undertaking training placement in school
50. Use of video/photography/other media to record school events
51. After-school use of school premises by other organisations
52. Use of school premises by other organisations during school day
53. Breakfast club
54. Homework club/evening study
55. Children attending boarding schools or living away from home

Examples of Risks of Harm

1. Risk of harm not being recognised by school personnel
2. Risk of harm not being reported properly and promptly by members of school personnel
3. Risk of harm where members of school personnel have not received appropriate training
4. Risk of child being harmed in the school by a member of school personnel
5. Risk of child being harmed in the school by another child
6. Risk of child being harmed in the school by a volunteer or visitor to the school
7. Risk of child being harmed by a member of school personnel, a member of staff of another organisation or other person while a child is participating in out-of-school activities, e.g. school trip, swimming lessons

8. Risk of harm due to inappropriate use of online remote teaching and learning communication platform, such as an uninvited person accessing the lesson link, students being left unsupervised for long periods of time in breakout rooms
9. Risk of harm due to bullying of a child
10. Risk of harm due to racism
11. Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children in school
12. Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children while attending out-of-school activities
13. Risk of harm due to inappropriate relationship/communications between a child and another child or adult
14. Risk of harm due to children inappropriately accessing/using computers, social media, phones and other devices while at school
15. Risk of harm to children with special educational needs who have particular vulnerabilities, including medical vulnerabilities
16. Risk of harm to child while a child is receiving intimate care
17. Risk of harm due to inadequate code of behaviour
18. Risk of harm in one-to-one teaching, counselling, coaching situations
19. Risk of harm caused by a member of school personnel communicating with pupils in an inappropriate manner via social media, texting, digital device, or other manner
20. Risk of harm caused by a member of school personnel accessing/circulating inappropriate material via social media, texting, digital device or other manner
21. Risks where children are living away from home or attending boarding facilities

These are examples of policies and procedures that may be used to address Risks of Harm

1. All school personnel are provided with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment
2. The Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025 are made available to all school personnel
3. School personnel are required to adhere to the Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025 and all registered teaching staff are required to adhere to the Children First Act 2015 as well as supporting the continued implementation of the best practice guidance set out in Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children 2017 and its addenda, including the Addendum to Children First 2019 and 2025
4. 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
5. The school implements in full the Stay Safe Programme
6. The school implements in full the Social, Personal, and Health Education (SPHE) curriculum
7. The school implements in full the Wellbeing Programme at Junior Cycle
8. 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
9. 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.
10. The school undertakes anti-racism awareness initiatives

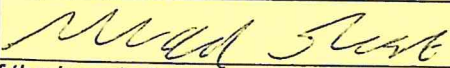
11. The school has a yard/playground supervision policy to ensure appropriate supervision of children during assembly, dismissal and breaks and in respect of specific areas such as toilets, changing rooms etc.
12. The school has in place a policy and clear procedures in respect of school outings
13. The school has a health and safety policy
14. The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation
15. The school adheres to the relevant Department of Education and Youth circulars in respect of recruitment
16. The school has a code of conduct for school personnel (teaching and non-teaching staff)
17. The school complies with the agreed disciplinary procedures for teaching staff
18. The school has a special educational needs policy
19. The school has an intimate care policy/plan in respect of students who require such care
20. The school has in place a policy and procedures for the administration of medication to pupils
21. The school has provided each member of school staff with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment
22. The school ensures all new personnel are provided with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment
23. The school encourages personnel to avail of relevant training
24. The school encourages board of management members to avail of relevant training
25. The school maintains records of all personnel and board member training
26. The school has in place a policy and procedures for the administration of First Aid
27. The school has in place a code of behaviour for pupils
28. 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
29. The school has in place a policy governing the use of smartphones and tablet devices in the school by pupils as per Circular 38/2018 and the national guidelines
30. The school has in place a Critical Incident Management Plan
31. The school has in place a Home School Liaison policy and related procedures
32. The school has in place a policy and procedures for the use of external persons to supplement delivery of the curriculum
33. The school has in place a policy and procedures for the use of external sports coaches
34. The school has in place a policy and clear procedures for one-to-one teaching activities
35. The school has in place a policy and procedures for one-to-one counselling
36. The school has in place a policy and procedures in respect of student teacher placements
37. The school has in place a policy and procedures in respect of pupils undertaking work experience in the school
38. The school has in place a policy and procedures in respect of pupils of the school undertaking work experience in external organisations
39. The school has in place a policy in relation to assisting members of school personnel in respect of disclosures of retrospective abuse
40. The school has considered the questions in Appendix 1 of the Child Protection and Safeguarding Procedures for Boarding Facilities Associated with Recognised Schools 2023 and implemented the necessary risk mitigation measures

Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment– January 2026

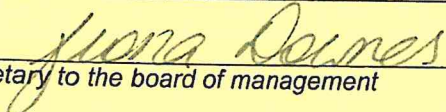
In accordance with Section 11 of the Children First Act 2015 and with the requirements of Chapter 9 of the Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025, the following is the written Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment.

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 reviewed by the board of management on 19th January 2026 (*most recent review date*)

Signed:*		Date: 19 Jan 2026
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Chairperson of the board of management

Signed:*		Date: 19 Jan 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 January 2027 (*expected review date*)

** Document to be printed and signed with original signatures*

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

This may be in the form of specifying the online location for the procedures (Department of Education and Youth website www.gov.ie/childprotectionschools and/or the school website), providing a link to the Children First National Guidance 2017 [Children First National Guidance 2017.pdf](#), and stating the number and location of hard copies of these procedures available in the school.

One hard copy of Child Protection Procedures and Children First Guidelines are available in the staff room or by request form the Principal or Deputy Principal.

They can also be found online at:

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

https://www.tusla.ie/uploads/content/Children_First_National_Guidance_2017.pdf