



Our Lady of the Wayside N.S.

Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment

Child Safeguarding Statement

Our Lady of the Wayside N.S. 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 Our Lady of the Wayside N.S. 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 **Fiona Downes**
- 3 The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is **Sandra Cunningham**
- 4 The Relevant Person is **Fiona Downes**

(The relevant person is one who can provide information in respect of how the child safeguarding statement was developed and will be able to provide the statement on request. This person can also be the DLP)

- 5 The Board of Management recognises that child protection and welfare considerations permeate all aspects of school life and must be reflected in all of the school's policies, procedures, practices and activities. In its policies, procedures, practices and activities, the school will adhere to the following principles of best practice in child protection and welfare:

The school will:

- recognise that the protection and welfare of children is of paramount importance, regardless of all other considerations;
- fully comply with its statutory obligations under the Children First Act 2015 and other relevant legislation relating to the protection and welfare of children;
- fully co-operate with the relevant statutory authorities in relation to child protection and welfare matters;
- adopt safe practices to minimise the possibility of harm or accidents happening to children and protect workers from the necessity to take unnecessary risks that may leave themselves open to accusations of abuse or neglect;
- develop a practice of openness with parents and encourage parental involvement in the education of their children; and
- fully respect confidentiality requirements in dealing with child protection matters.

The school will also adhere to the above principles in relation to any adult pupil with a special vulnerability.

- 6 The following procedures/measures are in place:

- In relation to any member of staff who is the subject of any investigation (howsoever described) in respect of any act, omission or circumstance in respect of a child attending the school, the school adheres to the relevant procedures set out in Chapter 7 of the *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools (revised 2023)* and to the relevant agreed disciplinary procedures for school staff which are published on the gov.ie 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 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 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 (if any) and the patron. It is readily accessible to parents and guardians on request. A copy of this Statement will be made available to Tusla and the Department if requested.
- 8 This Child Safeguarding Statement will be reviewed annually or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which this statement refers.

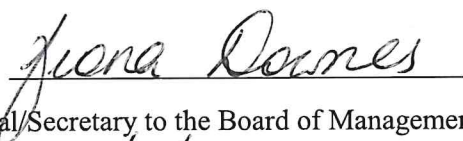
This Child Safeguarding Statement was adopted by the Board of Management on 22nd January 2024.

This Child Safeguarding Statement was reviewed by the Board of Management on N/A.

Signed: 

Chairperson of Board of Management

Date: 22 Jan 2024

Signed: 

Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Date: 22/1/24

Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment

Written Assessment of Risk of Our Lady of the Wayside N.S.

In accordance with section 11 of the Children First Act 2015 and with the requirements of Chapter 8 of the *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools (revised 2023)*, the following is the Written Risk Assessment of Our Lady of the Wayside N.S.

1. List of School Activities	2. The School has identified the following potential Risks of Harm	3. The School has the following Steps in place to address risks identified in this assessment
Overall School activities	Harm to pupils through lack of awareness/understanding of procedures re Child Protection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child safeguarding statement prominently displayed in school and posted on school website • Child Protection and vetting matters regularly referenced in school communications e.g. newsletters, website • Child Protection and vetting matters regularly referenced in school communications eg. Newsletters, website. • Relevant associated policies readily accessible on school website
Training of school personnel in Child Protection matters	Potential for harm not recognised or reported promptly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child Safeguarding Statement & procedures made available to all staff • DLP & DDLP training. • All Staff including SNAs and secretary to be regularly offered training. • BOM records all records of staff and board training.
One to one teaching	Harm by school personnel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School has practice in place for one to one teaching i.e. Distance to be kept between teacher and pupil Glass in window of teaching room/door open
Care of children with special needs, including intimate care needs.	Harm by school personnel or by other children Provision of change of clothes for “accidents” and how these are used.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parents to be called for “soiling accidents” • Intimate care policy in place. • Individual Care Plans list intimate care requirements for those with additional needs.
Toilet areas	Inappropriate behaviour by children/staff Use of toilet from after school activities / from yard during breaks or toilets on corridors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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

Use of video/photography/other media to record school events.	Permission not sought.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No names to go with any photos. • Parents to act responsibly at school events. • School Internet is restricted (PDST)
Application of sanctions under the school's Code of Behaviour including detention of pupils, confiscation of phones etc.	Interviewing of student.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School Code of Behaviour. • Mobile Phone Policy.
Remote Teaching	Harm by/ to school personnel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teachers working remotely on Zoom calls are shadowed by another staff member.

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)*

<p>Use of external personnel to supplement curriculum.</p>	<p>Harm to children</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda Vetting legislation and relevant DES Circulars in relation to recruitment and Garda Vetting. • Teacher remains with class.
<p>Care of pupils with specific vulnerabilities/ needs such as</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pupils from ethnic minorities/migrants • Members of the Traveller community • Lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender (LGBT) children • Pupils perceived to be LGBT • Pupils of minority religious faiths 	<p>Bullying</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anti- Bullying policy • Code of behaviour • Vigilance of staff • Stay Safe Programme
<p>Care of pupils with specific vulnerabilities/ needs such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children in care • Children on Child Protection Notification System (CPNS) 	<p>Reason for placement on the CPNS and risks to individual pupils will vary from case to case.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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.
<p>Online Safety - Use of Information and Communication Technology by pupils in school.</p>	<p>Bullying. Staff not following policies & procedures Access to inappropriate materials. Sharing of personal images/being recorded etc. without consent.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anti-Bullying Policy. • ICT Policy. • Acceptable Use Policy. • School Code of Behaviour. • No computers to be used during break times. • Internet Safety talks for children. • Mobile Phone policy.

Sports Coaches	Harm to pupils	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Procedures in place - Teachers stay with classes • Garda vetted for this school
Student teachers undertaking training placement in school	Inappropriate comments. Inappropriate dress.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Class teacher present at all times (unless Student teacher is acting in a substitute position).
T.Y. Students participating in work experience	Harm by student.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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.
Educational Trips/Matches/ Use of off- site venues for educational purposes.	Lack of knowledge of venue. Not enough Personnel. Transport. Other adults/other children.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trips and Tours Policy in place – full compliance required with this. • New trips checklist/form developed September 2023.
Annual Sports Day	Equipment. Moving of equipment. Lot of strangers there. Parents taking children without telling teacher. School is more open on a day like this.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children must stay with their class group. • The departure and arrival of children must be supervised rigorously by the class teacher. • Parents and visitors to be aware of distinct pupil and staff areas.
Cycle Training	Children go out on the road.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trainers Garda Vetted for this school.
Volunteers/Parents	Harm to pupils. Confidentiality.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda Vetting legislation and relevant DES Circulars in relation to recruitment and Garda Vetting.
Administration of Medicine	Record Keeping. Confidentiality. Storage. Child not willing to take medication.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Administration of Medication policy. • Epipens, inhalers etc.to stored carefully and remain accessible at all times.
Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst pupils.	Harm to children	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School Code of Behaviour • Anti -Bullying Policy

Curricular Provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe.	Non-teaching of same	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School implements SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe. • Leadership Team staff to ensure that aspects of SPHE are taught on whole school basis at same time.
Managing of challenging behaviour amongst pupils.	Injury to pupils and staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health & Safety Policy • Code of Behaviour • Pupil behaviour support plans where relevant
Daily arrival and departure of pupils	<p>Harm from other pupils/ unknown adults on the school premises.</p> <p>Gates/Parents collecting children at the Church gates.</p> <p>Young siblings (who are not pupils) in the yard before school, unattended.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arrival and Departure Procedures • Parents regularly reminded that the Board of Management does not accept responsibility for pupils before 8.40 a.m. • Pupils do not access the school grounds unless staff member is present at the gate. • Supervision Procedure • Health & Safety Policy • Codes on all external entrance doors • External doors closed 9.00 a.m. • Adults wait in the office. • Close car park gate. • Teachers to speak with classes to identify how each child goes home.
Departure of pupils from class or from after School Activities.	Parents collecting late or others collecting. Children being released from by someone other than the class teacher.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hand-over protocol in place – otherwise, children to 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.
Recreation breaks for pupils.	<p>Injury to pupils/Bullying.</p> <p>Harm not recognised or properly or promptly reported.</p> <p>Use of movies/digital content in class – age appropriate</p> <p>Children not obeying school rules.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy & Procedures in place. • Children remain in their places and may only leave to use the toilet by asking the adult on duty. • Health & Safety Policy. • School Code of Behaviour. • Parents or others not to directly approach own child or other child during yard time e.g. for collection for appointments. All visitors should report to the office in the first instance.
Classroom teaching	<p>Intimidation by pupils.</p> <p>Pupils pushing teachers etc.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School Code of Behaviour. • Teachers to speak to DLP if problems arise. • Teacher to have red card with name on it in the event of a need for assistance, which can be sent to neighbouring teacher.
Sporting Activities/ Changing for sport activities/ changing for school plays.	<p>Swimming- changing.</p> <p>Matches- behaviour, changing, transport.</p> <p>Inappropriate behaviour.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Changing procedure in place. • Where possible, pupils change in toilets in school for going to matches or participating in other events and go to change one by one.