

Child Safeguarding Statement of Scoil Phádraig BNS

Scoil Phádraig 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 [insert school name] 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 **Mr Cathal Carr (Principal)**
- 3 The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is **Mrs Nuala Tuthill (Acting Deputy Principal)**
- 4 The Relevant Person is **Mr Cathal Carr (Principal)**
(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 of Scoil Phádraig 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.

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](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 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.
- In Scoil Phádraig the Board has appointed the above named DLP as the "relevant person" (as defined in the Children First Act 2015) to be the first point of contact in respect of the child safeguarding statement.
- 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 DES website or will be made available on request by the school.

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 25th September, 2023

This Child Safeguarding Statement was reviewed by the Board of Management on 8th October, 2024

Signed: 	Signed: 
Chairperson of Board of Management	Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Date: <u>8/10/24</u>	Date: <u>8/10/24</u>
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Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment (of any potential harm)

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 DLP& DDLP to attend PDST face to face training All Staff to view Túsla training module & any other online training offered by PDST BOM records all records of staff and board training
One to one teaching	Med	Harm by school personnel	School has policy in place for one to one teaching SEN Policy Glass panel in doors Glass in window Desk between pupil and teacher
Care of Children with special needs, including intimate care needs	High	Harm by school personnel	Policy on intimate care SNA policy
Toilet areas	High	Inappropriate behaviour by pupils or staff	SEN Policy SPHE RSE
Curricular Provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay safe.	Med	Non-teaching of same	School implements SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe in full
LGBT Children/Pupils perceived to be LGBT	Low	Bullying	Anti-Bullying Policy Code of Behaviour SPHE

Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils	Med	Harm from older pupils, unknown adults on the playground	Arrival and dismissal supervised by Teachers Supervision Policy
Managing of challenging behaviour amongst pupils, including appropriate use of restraint	High	Injury to pupils and staff	Restraint Policy Code Of Behaviour Training for teachers to be provided
Sports Coaches	Med	Harm to pupils	Policy & Procedures in place Garda Vetting Guidelines
Students participating in work experience	Low	Harm by student	Child Safeguarding Statement. Garda Vetting Guidelines
Recreation breaks for pupils	High	Harm to pupils Injury to pupils	Supervision Policy Code of Behaviour Anti-bullying Policy SPHE, RSE and Stay Safe implemented in full
Classroom teaching	Low	Harm by school personnel Harm by pupils	Code of Behaviour Anti-bullying Code of Conduct
Outdoor teaching activities	Low	Injury to pupils Harm to pupils	Code of Behaviour Anti-bullying Health & Safety – first aid
Sporting Activities	Med	Changing rooms Harm/injury to pupils	PE Policy/Safety Statement Bus company insurance Two adults to be present at training/matches after school
School outings	High	Harm to pupils Injury to pupils Harm to pupils by others	School Tour Policy RSE, SPHE, Stay Safe
Annual Sports Day	Med	Injury to pupils Harm to pupils	Code of Behaviour Health and Safety Policy Supervision Policy – (is it mentioned)

Use of classes in Scoil Bhride	Med	Harm to pupils Injury to pupils Children arriving late	Supervision Policy – (is it mentioned) Children who are late to be escorted to girls school by staff
School transport arrangements	Low	Harm to pupils by others Harm to pupils by pupils	Supervision Policy
Management of challenging behaviour amongst pupils, including appropriate use of restraint where required	High	Harm to pupils by others Harm to teachers by pupils Self harm by pupils	Restraint policy?? Health & Safety SEN Policy Training to be provided to staff
Administration of Medicine Administration of First Aid	Med	Harm due to incorrect administration of medicines or first aid	First Aid Policy Health & Safety Policy Training to be provided to staff
Curricular provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe	Low	RSE, Stay Safe & SPHE curricula not implemented	School implements in full the Stay Safe Programme & the SPHE curriculum
Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst pupils	Med	Harm due to bullying of a child	Anti-bullying Policy Code of Behaviour SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe Parents informed of what constitutes bullying
Training of school personnel in child protection matters	Med	Teachers not aware of Child Protection Procedures Risk of harm not being recognised by staff Insufficient training provided by	All staff provided with copies of Child Safeguarding Statement. Child Protection procedures made available to staff Encourage staff & BOM to avail of training Record of all staff and BOM members training

		Department of Education and Science	
Use of external personnel to supplement curriculum (eg. Violin, Football, Dancing, Hurling, Rugby etc.)	Med	Harm to pupils by other adults	School adheres to Garda Vetting legislation Teacher to be present at all times
Care of pupils with specific vulnerabilities/needs such as • Pupils from ethnic minorities/migrants • Members of the Travelling community • Lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender (LGBT) children • Pupils perceived to be LGBT • Pupils of minority religious faiths • Children in care • Children on CPNS	Med	Harm to pupils by other pupils, teachers or staff Verbal abuse Bullying	Anti-bullying policy Code of Behaviour Implementation of Stay Safe programme & SPHE curriculum
Recruitment of school personnel including - • Teachers • SNA's • Caretaker/Secretary/Cleaners • Sports coaches • External Tutors/Guest Speakers • Volunteers/Parents in school activities • Visitors/contractors present in school during school hours • Visitors/contractors present during after school activities	Med	Harm not recognised or properly or promptly reported	Child Safeguarding Statement & DES procedures made available to all staff Staff to view Tusla training module & any other online training offered by PDST Vetting Procedures Policy of Parents / Volunteers Policy on Visiting Contractors???

Use of Information and Communication Technology by pupils in school	High	Bullying due to inappropriate use of IT, social media, phones etc Inappropriate access to material on the internet, social media Reproduction of images/messages	ICT policy/Acceptable Use Policy Anti-Bullying Policy Code of Behaviour SPHE
Students participating in work experience in the school	Med	Harm to pupils Risk of harm not being recognised	Garda Vetting procedures in place
Student teachers undertaking training placement in school	Med	Risk of harm to pupils Risk of harm not being recognised	Garda Vetting procedures in place
Use of video/photography/other media to record school events	Med	Inappropriate use of video/photographs	ICT Policy/Taking of Images of Pupils policy Permission required from parents Vetting procedures
After school use of school premises by other organisations		Harm not recognised or properly reported Access to sensitive/private information	Garda vetting procedures in place Staffroom not to be used by outside groups/organisations

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 2017*

In undertaking this risk assessment, the board of management has endeavoured to identify as far as possible the risks of harm that are relevant to this school and to ensure that adequate procedures are in place to manage all risks identified. While it is not possible to foresee and remove all risk of harm, the school has in place the procedures listed in this risk assessment to manage and reduce risk to the greatest possible extent.

This risk assessment has been reviewed by the Board of Management on Monday 7th November 2022. It will be reviewed as part of the school's annual review of its Child Safeguarding Statement.

Signed  Date 8/10/24

Chairperson, Board of Management

Signed Carlisle Curren Date 8/10/24

Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

