

S.S.PETER & PAUL'S N.S.



Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment

For:	SS. Peter and Paul's N.S.
At:	Horseleap, Moate, Co. Westmeath.

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):

Áine Groarke

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

Angelina Carey

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

Name of Relevant Person

Áine Groarke

(In schools this person is the DLP)

Relevant Person can be contacted on:

057 9335282

sspeterandpaulsns@gmail.com

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

Name of Chairperson of the board of management, or in an ETB school the Chief Executive or their delegate:

John Holloway

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
1.	Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils	Child could be left unsupervised Risk of inappropriate contact by adults Child wandering off Child picked up by wrong person.	Drop off and collection is supervised by a staff member at the gate, Staff present until last child collected. Clear written procedures communicated to parents (e.g. who is authorised to collect).
2.	Classroom teaching	Risk of bullying, neglect, physical or emotional harm by peers Inadequate supervision especially during class transitions	All school personnel are provided with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding and Risk Assessment. The Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025 are made available to all school personnel. Clear classroom supervision at all times. 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. The school encourages personnel and Board of Management members to avail of relevant training and maintains records of all training received. The school implements in full the Stay Safe Programme. The school implements in full the Social, Personal and Health Education (SPHE) curriculum. School authorities have a code of behaviour and an ant-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. Code of behaviour known to all pupils. Staff trained in recognising signs of harm / abuse. Regular discussion of safety / respectful behaviour (age-appropriate).

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
3.	One-to-one teaching	Risk of harm by teacher or support staff; risk not being recognised or reported; lack of visibility / supervision.	The school has a Special Educational Needs Policy. One-to-one support where possible conducted in a space with visibility (e.g. glass door, open room, in view of others). Staff aware of and trained in reporting obligations under Procedures. Record-keeping for one-to-one sessions (time, who present, reason). Where possible, a second adult or staff member nearby
4.	Recreation breaks for pupils	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children Risk of accidents, unsupervised behaviour, bullying, intrusion of unauthorised persons.	The school has a Health and Safety Policy in place. Adequate supervision rota at break times (teacher supervision). Boundaries defined (playground fencing or natural boundaries, gates locked). Gates locked during class times; visitor access controlled. Clear code of behaviour / playground rules; teaching of social skills / respectful behaviour.
5.	Outdoor teaching activities	Pupils may not be adequately supervised during outdoor lessons, increasing the risk of accidents or inappropriate behaviour. Pupils may be exposed to slips, trips, falls, or injuries from uneven ground, equipment, or natural elements. Pupils may come into contact with members of the public during outdoor learning activities. Adverse weather conditions (e.g. cold, heat, rain) may pose a risk to pupils' health and safety.	Appropriate teacher–pupil ratios are maintained at all times. Clear boundaries are established for outdoor learning areas. Teachers position themselves to maintain full visibility of pupils. Outdoor areas are visually checked by staff before use. Pupils are instructed on safe behaviour and use of equipment. Age-appropriate activities are planned. A first aid kit is accessible and staff are aware of emergency procedures Outdoor teaching takes place within the school grounds where possible. Clear instructions are given to pupils regarding interaction with others. Staff remain vigilant and ensure pupils stay together as a group. Weather conditions are assessed prior to outdoor teaching. Pupils are advised to wear appropriate clothing and footwear. Outdoor lessons are adapted, shortened, or cancelled if conditions are unsafe. Clear physical or verbal boundaries are identified. Pupils are regularly reminded of expectations. Roll calls are conducted at the beginning and end of sessions.

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
		Pupils may wander or leave the designated outdoor teaching area.	
6.	Online teaching and learning remotely	Risk of harm due to inappropriate use of online remote teaching and learning communication platform, such as an uninvited person accessing the lesson link	The school has an Acceptable Use Policy in place which includes provision for online teaching and learning remotely and this has been communicated to parents. Online teaching platforms approved by the school are used at all times. Staff use school-approved accounts only; personal accounts are not used. Online interactions are strictly educational and occur during agreed school hours. One-to-one online teaching is avoided where possible; if required, it is pre-approved and conducted in line with school policy. Pupils participate in online lessons from shared family spaces where possible. Teachers ensure appropriate visibility of participants during live sessions. Attendance is recorded for each online session. Parents/guardians are informed of online learning schedules and platforms. The school's Code of Behaviour applies to online learning. Clear expectations for respectful online conduct are communicated to pupils. Inappropriate behaviour is addressed promptly and recorded in line with school procedures. Chat functions, screen sharing, and private messaging are controlled by the teacher. Recording of lessons by pupils is not permitted. Filters, passwords, waiting rooms, and secure logins are used to prevent unauthorised access. GDPR-compliant platforms are used for all online teaching. Personal data, images, and videos of pupils are shared only where necessary and with parental consent. Online lessons are not recorded or stored. Staff receive guidance on safe and appropriate online teaching practices. Teachers are familiar with school policies on digital learning, child protection, and acceptable use. Parents/guardians are informed of expectations for pupil participation in online learning. Guidance is provided to families on supporting children to engage safely online. Secure passwords are used and changed regularly. Links to online sessions are shared securely and not publicly. Teachers monitor access and remove unauthorised participants immediately.

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
7.	Sporting activities	Inadequate supervision Injury or accidents during activities Unsafe or faulty equipment or facilities Poor behaviour or rough play Child protection concerns Inappropriate changing arrangements Use of external coaches or visitors Adverse weather or environmental conditions	Appropriate staff–pupil ratios are maintained at all times. Activities are age-appropriate and safety rules are clearly explained. Equipment and playing areas are checked prior to use; unsafe equipment is removed. The Code of Behaviour applies to all sporting activities. Activities take place in open, visible areas; no unsupervised one-to-one situations occur. Changing arrangements respect pupils' privacy and dignity and are appropriately supervised. External coaches are Garda vetted and supervised by school staff. They must be accompanied by school staff at all times. They are given a copy of the Child Safeguarding Statement. Weather conditions are assessed and activities adapted or cancelled if unsafe.
8.	School outings	Risk of harm outside school premises Accidents Unsupervised behaviour Transport risks Child lost or separated Encounter with strangers	Parental consent is obtained for each trip. Adequate adult-to-child ratio considering age and needs. Pre-visit risk assessment for destination (e.g. traffic, terrain, accessibility). Staff aware of child protection procedures; contact details carried; emergency plan (first aid, transport, supervision). On return, headcount and record kept.
9.	Use of toilet / changing areas in school	Lack of appropriate supervision Child protection concerns, including inappropriate behaviour or interactions Accidents or injuries (e.g. slips, trips, falls) Bullying or harassment Poor hygiene or cleanliness Inappropriate access to toilet/changing areas Lack of privacy or dignity for pupils	Clear supervision arrangements are in place while respecting pupils' privacy and dignity. Staff follow the school's Child Protection Procedures and Code of Behaviour at all times. Toilets and changing areas are regularly checked and maintained. 'Bí Cineálta' Policy applies to all areas of the school. Access to toilets/changing areas is monitored and restricted to pupils only. Pupils are taught appropriate behaviour and hygiene practices. Any concerns are reported promptly to the DLP in line with school procedures. Reasonable assistance is provided to pupils where required, in a respectful and age-appropriate manner

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
		Pupils remaining unsupervised for extended periods	
10.	Annual Sports Day	Inadequate supervision Injury or accidents Unsafe equipment or surfaces Poor behaviour or overcrowding Child protection concerns Adverse weather conditions	Adequate staff supervision is maintained at all times with clear organisation of activities. All events are age-appropriate and safety instructions are given to pupils in advance. Equipment and playing areas are checked prior to use and any unsafe items are removed. The school's Code of Behaviour applies. Activities take place in open, visible areas to support child safeguarding. Weather conditions are monitored and activities are adapted, postponed, or cancelled if conditions are unsafe.

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
11.	Care of children with special educational needs	Inadequate supervision or support Increased vulnerability to safeguarding concerns Communication difficulties leading to unmet needs Accidents or injuries during routines or activities Inconsistent care approaches Personal care needs not met appropriately Bullying or social isolation	Appropriate staffing and supervision levels are provided based on individual needs. Individual Education Plans, care plans, and risk assessments guide daily practice. Staff follow the school's Child Protection Procedures and Code of Behaviour at all times. Personal care is provided respectfully, in line with agreed procedures and parental consent. Staff receive training relevant to pupils' specific needs. Clear communication systems are in place between staff and parents/guardians. Anti-Bullying Policy applies and inclusion is actively promoted.
12.	Management of challenging behaviour amongst pupils	Risk of injury to pupils or staff Escalation of behaviour due to inappropriate responses Disruption to teaching and learning Increased safeguarding concerns	The school's Code of Behaviour and Behaviour Support Policy are implemented consistently. Positive behaviour strategies are prioritised and clearly communicated to pupils. Staff receive guidance and training in managing challenging behaviour safely. Individual behaviour support plans are developed where required.

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
		Inconsistent behaviour management approaches Emotional distress to pupils or others	Appropriate supervision is provided during high-risk times or activities. Incidents are recorded and communicated to parents/guardians as appropriate. Any safeguarding concerns are reported to the DLP in line with Child Protection Procedures. 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.
13.	Administration of medicine	Incorrect dosage or timing of medication Medication given to the wrong pupil Allergic reaction or adverse effects Lack of parental consent or unclear instructions Unsafe storage or handling of medication Pupil self-administering medication unsafely Staff not trained in administration procedures	The school has an 'Administration of Medicine Policy'. Written parental consent is obtained for all medication administered. Clear instructions regarding dosage, timing, and method are recorded and followed. Medication is stored securely, labelled correctly, and accessible only to authorised staff. Only trained staff administer medication. Records of all medication administered are maintained accurately. Emergency procedures are in place in case of allergic reactions or adverse events. Pupils are supported appropriately to self-administer medication under supervision where agreed.
14.	Administration of First Aid	Risk of injury to the pupil if first aid is administered incorrectly Risk of cross-contamination or infection Delay in providing care due to lack of supplies or knowledge Emotional distress to the pupil or others Risk to staff if procedures are not followed Potential for incorrect record-keeping or failure to inform parents/guardians.	All staff are trained in first aid procedures and refreshers are provided regularly. First aid kits are fully stocked, accessible, and checked routinely. Standard hygiene and infection control procedures are followed during treatment. Procedures for emergencies are clearly outlined and communicated to staff. Accurate records are maintained of all first aid administered and parents/guardians are informed as appropriate. Staff follow school policies to ensure their own safety and the safety of pupils while providing care.
15.	Curricular provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe	Pupils may feel uncomfortable or distressed when discussing sensitive topics.	All lessons are delivered in line with the Department of Education curriculum guidelines for SPHE, RSE, and Stay Safe. Teachers follow the school's Child Protection Procedures and report any safeguarding concerns immediately to the DLP.

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
		Risk of disclosure of abuse or safeguarding concerns during lessons. Inconsistent delivery of the curriculum leading to gaps in knowledge. Staff may be unsure of appropriate responses to sensitive questions. Potential for misinformation or misunderstanding. Risk of breaches of confidentiality. Some content may not be age-appropriate for certain pupils.	Staff receive training and guidance on handling sensitive issues and responding appropriately to disclosures. Lessons are planned to be age-appropriate and inclusive, using approved resources. Clear ground rules are established for class discussions, confidentiality is respected within the limits of child protection obligations, and parental engagement is encouraged to support learning. Teachers write to parents outlining the content of Stay Safe and RSE lessons prior to the lessons beginning.
16.	Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst pupils	Pupils may experience emotional, psychological, or physical harm due to bullying. Social isolation or exclusion may occur. Risk of escalation if incidents are not addressed promptly. Inconsistent responses by staff can undermine policy. Potential for repeated incidents if patterns are not monitored. Pupils may feel unsafe or reluctant to report incidents.	The school implements its 'Bí Cineálta Policy' consistently across all areas and activities. Staff are trained to recognise, prevent, and respond to bullying behaviour effectively. Clear procedures exist for reporting, investigating, and recording incidents. Supervision is maintained in classrooms, playgrounds, and other areas to reduce opportunities for bullying. Support is provided to both victims and perpetrators, including restorative approaches where appropriate. Parents and guardians are informed and involved as needed. Ongoing monitoring ensures patterns are identified and addressed.
17.	Use of external personnel to support sports and other extra-curricular activities	Risk of harm by unknown adults Inconsistent understanding of school safeguarding procedures Lack of oversight.	Ensure substitute teachers, coaches, volunteers have Garda vetting if required Provide them with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement and ensure they understand reporting procedures. Supervision by permanent staff whenever external adults are working with children. Record of which external adults are on site, dates, activities, contact details.

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
18.	Pupils from ethnic minorities / migrants	Risk of harm due to racism	The school promotes an inclusive and respectful environment through its Equality policy. Curriculum provision and school activities actively promote respect, cultural awareness, and anti-racism education. Staff are trained to recognise, prevent, and respond to racist incidents promptly and appropriately. Clear procedures are in place for reporting, investigating, and recording any incidents of racism. Supervision is maintained in classrooms, playgrounds, and other school areas to reduce opportunities for discriminatory behaviour. Pupils are supported through guidance, pastoral care, and restorative approaches where appropriate. Parents and guardians are informed and involved as necessary, and ongoing monitoring ensures patterns of concern are identified and addressed.
19.	Recruitment of school personnel	Risk of hiring individuals who may pose a threat to the safety or wellbeing of pupils. Incomplete or inaccurate references. Failure to detect past misconduct or safeguarding concerns. Inadequate Garda vetting. Unclear role descriptions leading to inappropriate delegation of responsibilities. Inconsistent application of recruitment policies.	The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation. The school adheres to the relevant Department of Education and Youth circulars in respect of recruitment. Comprehensive job descriptions and person specifications are prepared for all positions. Applicants provide references, qualifications, and employment history, which are verified. Interviews and selection processes are conducted fairly and consistently. Records of recruitment, vetting, and appointments are maintained securely. Child safeguarding and protection considerations are embedded in all recruitment decisions.
20.	Visitors / contractors present in school during school hours	Risk of unauthorised access to pupils. Potential child protection concerns. Disruption to teaching and learning. Accidents or injuries in classrooms or playgrounds. Breaches of school policies or confidentiality. Lack of awareness of	All visitors and contractors report to the principal on arrival. Staff accompany visitors or contractors where appropriate, and access is restricted to designated areas. Visitors are informed of relevant school policies, including Child Safeguarding Procedures and health and safety requirements. Contractors follow safety guidelines when working in school buildings or grounds.

Child Protection Statement and Risk Assessment

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
		school routines or emergency procedures.	All incidents or concerns involving visitors are recorded and addressed promptly. Emergency procedures are communicated to all visitors, and supervision ensures that pupils remain safe at all times.
21.	Participation by pupils in religious ceremonies / religious instruction external to the school	Risk of accidents or injury during travel to or participation in external religious events. Lack of adequate supervision. Inconsistent behaviour management outside school.	Parents/guardians provide consent for participation in external religious activities. Adequate staff supervision and appropriate pupil-to-staff ratios are maintained during travel and at the event. Clear instructions are given to pupils regarding expected behaviour and safety. Risk assessments are completed prior to off-site activities, including transport arrangements. Staff follow Child Protection Procedures and remain vigilant for safeguarding concerns. Communication with parents/guardians and external organisers ensures clear understanding of responsibilities. Emergency procedures are in place, and pupils' participation is voluntary, respecting their individual beliefs and welfare.
22.	Use of Information and Communication Technology by pupils in the school	Risk of online bullying. Inappropriate contact. Misuse of digital tools. Privacy/data breach.	Acceptable Use Policy for pupils and staff (digital safety). Supervised use of devices; minimal unsupervised access. Education of pupils on online safety. Clear reporting procedure for concerns relating to inappropriate online behaviour
23.	Students participating in work experience in the school	Risk of accidents or injury while performing tasks. Potential child protection concerns due to unsupervised interaction with pupils. Lack of clarity about roles and responsibilities. Inappropriate behaviour by or towards the student. Breaches of confidentiality.	All work experience students are Garda vetted where required and provided with an induction on school policies, routines, and child safeguarding procedures. Clear roles and responsibilities are outlined and supervised by assigned staff. Students are never left alone with pupils and follow the school's Code of Behaviour and Child Protection Procedures at all times. Tasks assigned are age-appropriate and safe. Confidentiality and professional boundaries are emphasised, and any incidents or concerns are reported immediately to the Designated Liaison Person. Ongoing monitoring ensures that work experience students are supported and that pupil safety is maintained throughout their placement.
24.	Use of video/photography/ other media to record school events	Images/videos taken or used without parental consent. Identification of a child who must not be	The school obtains written parental/guardian consent to take images or videos of pupils.

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
		publicly identifiable (child protection concern, court order). Inappropriate or intrusive images captured (e.g. children upset, injured, vulnerable). Misuse of images by third parties once shared (downloaded, reposted, altered). Unsupervised photography by parents/visitors capturing other children without permission. External media recording children without consent or publishing personal details. Risks associated with social media sharing by parents or others. Live-streaming events exposes children to unintended audiences without consent.	Children who must not be publicly identifiable are clearly flagged, and staff are reminded of their obligation to protect their identity. Staff and volunteers follow strict guidelines on recording, storage, sharing, and deletion of images and videos. Pupils are never recorded in vulnerable situations, and care is taken to avoid capturing inappropriate or intrusive images. External media are only permitted to record with prior written consent, under supervision, and in line with school policy. Social media use by staff, parents, or visitors is monitored and guided by school policies to prevent sharing of images without consent. Live-streaming of school events occurs only with explicit parental consent, ensuring that only authorised audiences can view content. Incidents of misuse are reported and addressed immediately according to school safeguarding procedures.

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.

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 2nd March 2026

This Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment is expected to be reviewed again on March 2027.

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

Online location for Child Protection Procedures:

Department of Education and Youth website www.gov.ie/childprotectionschools

Children First National Guidance 2017 [Children First National Guidance 2017.pdf](#),

A copy of 'Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025' is located on the shelf in the school office beside the computer.