

St. Joseph's N.S
Glenealy

Child
Safeguarding
Statement

Child Safeguarding Statement

St. Joseph's 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 St. Joseph's 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 Denise O'Brien
- 3 The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is Aine Brophy
- 4 The Relevant Person is Denise O'Brien

(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. In a school setting the relevant person shall be the designated liaison person.)

- 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 29/11/24

This Child Safeguarding Statement was reviewed by the Board of Management on 29/11/24

Signed: Eamonn O'Sullivan

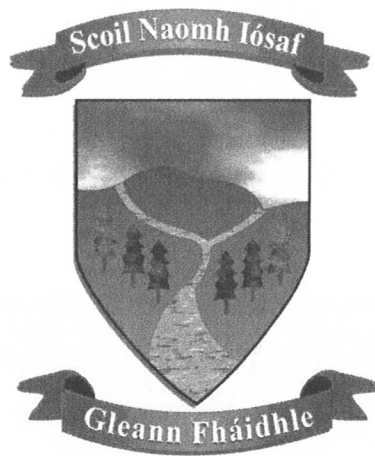
Chairperson of Board of Management

Date: 29/11/24

Signed: Dennis O'Brien

Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Date: 29/11/24



Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment

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 St. Josephs N.S

Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment

School activity	Risk identified	Risk level:	Procedure(s) in place to address identified risk	
MEDIUM LOW				
1	Child Protection training	Harm not recognised, reported promptly, or addressed appropriately	HIGH	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Child Safeguarding Statement</i> and DES procedures available to all school personnel;• DLP and DDLP to attend PDST face-to-face training;• re Staff, BOM, etc, records kept re<ul style="list-style-type: none">- knowledge of <i>Child Safeguarding Statement</i>- on-line training module (Tusla);• all visiting staff, coaches, etc to comply with Garda vetting;• Child Protection on Agenda at all BOM meetings.
2	One-to-one teaching	Harm by school personnel		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• See Policy
3	Care of children with additional needs (incl intimate care needs)	Harm by school personnel / others	HIGH	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• differentiated programmes for the teaching of RSE and the <i>Stay Safe</i> programmes, etc;• Intimate Care Policy
4	Toilet & cloakroom areas	Inappropriate behaviour by school personnel / others	HIGH	The school implements the following programmes: <i>Supervision Policy</i> in practice
5	Curriculum provision in <ul style="list-style-type: none">• SPHE• RSE• Stay Safe	Non-teaching of curriculum areas	MEDIUM	The school implements the following programmes: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>SPHE Curriculum</i> (incl RSE)• <i>Stay Safe Programme</i>• <i>Walk Tall Programme</i>
6	Care of pupils with specific vulnerabilities/ needs, incl <ul style="list-style-type: none">• ethnic minorities/ migrants• Traveller community• LGBT or transgender• those perceived to be LGBT• minority religious faiths• children in care	Bullying by school personnel / others	MEDIUM	The school implements the following programmes: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Code of Behaviour</i>• <i>Anti-Bullying Policy</i>
7	School tours & excursions (incl residential programmes)	Risk to children from school personnel / others	HIGH	Implementation of <i>Tours and Excursions Policy</i> (incl adequate supervision by adults, ref insurance company' guidelines; correct seatbelt usage, etc)

8	Toilet & changing areas at swimming pool	Inappropriate behaviour by school personnel / others	HIGH	The school implements the following programmes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Garda Vetting Policy</i> • <i>Supervision Policy</i>
9	Annual Fun/sports Day	Inappropriate behaviour by school personnel / others	HIGH	The school implements the following programmes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Supervision Policy</i>
10	Fundraising events involving pupils	Inappropriate behaviour by school personnel / others	HIGH	The school implements the following programmes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Supervision Policy</i>
11	Extra-curricular/Sports activities	Harm to pupils by school personnel / ...	HIGH	Garda Vetting Policy and procedures in place; supervision practices to be reviewed... need for 2 tutors/coaches or parental supervision required at all times
12	Use of off-site facilities for school activities	Inappropriate behaviour by school personnel / others	HIGH	The school implements the following programmes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Supervision Policy</i>
13	ICT usage by pupils and staff (incl use of video/ photography/ other media to record events)	Bullying and inappropriate behaviour by school personnel / others	LOW	<i>The following policies in practice:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>ICT Acceptable Use Policy</i> (incl on-line publication of photographs, etc) • <i>Code of Behaviour</i> • <i>Anti-Bullying Policy</i> (ref cyber-bullying) • <i>Mobile Phone Policy</i>
	Remote Teaching and Learning Online safety	Bullying and inappropriate Online behaviour	MEDIUM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Remote Teaching and Learning policy</i>
14	Management of challenging behaviour amongst pupils (incl appropriate use of restraint where required)	Injury to pupils and school personnel	MEDIUM	Policies in practice: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Code of Behaviour</i> • <i>Anti-Bullying Policy</i> • <i>Health and Safety Policy</i> • <i>Supervision Policy</i> • <i>Staff CPD</i>
15	Application of sanctions (ref <i>Code of Behaviour</i>), incl removal from class, detention, confiscation of phones, etc		MEDIUM	Policies in practice: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Code of Behaviour</i> • <i>Anti-Bullying Policy</i> • <i>Health and Safety Policy</i> • <i>Supervision Policy</i>

16	Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils	Harm to pupils by older children / adults	HIGH	Policies in practice: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Code of Behaviour</i> • <i>Anti-Bullying Policy</i> • <i>Supervision Policy</i> • Garda Vetting procedures; • <i>Child Safeguarding Statement</i>;
17	Recreation breaks	Harm to pupils	HIGH	Policies in practice: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Code of Behaviour</i> • <i>Anti-Bullying Policy</i> • <i>Supervision Policy</i> • Garda Vetting procedures; • <i>Child Safeguarding Statement</i>
18	Classroom teaching	Harm to pupils	LOW	Policies in practice: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Code of Behaviour</i> • <i>Anti-Bullying Policy</i> • <i>Supervision Policy</i> • Garda Vetting procedures; • <i>Child Safeguarding Statement</i>
19	Outdoor teaching	Harm to pupils	MEDIUM	Policies in practice: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Code of Behaviour</i> • <i>Anti-Bullying Policy</i> • <i>Supervision Policy</i> • Garda Vetting procedures; • <i>Child Safeguarding Statement</i>;
20	Sporting activities	Harm to pupils	MEDIUM	Policies in practice: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Code of Behaviour</i> • <i>Anti-Bullying Policy</i> • <i>Supervision Policy</i> • <i>Child Safeguarding Statement</i> • Garda Vetting Procedures
21	Students on school placement/work experience	Harm to pupils	MEDIUM	Supervision Policy Child Safeguarding Statement Garda Vetting Procedures

22	Volunteers/Visitors	Harm to pupils by school personnel/others	MEDIUM	Garda Vetting Procedures Child Safe guarding Statement & other relevant policies Visitor Sign In/Out Book
23	Health & Safety Matters	Risks to entire school community	HIGH	Annual Health & Safety Audit and report to BOM policies and procedures in practice
24	Administration of Medication and/or First Aid	Risk to child/children's health and well-being	HIGH	Regular communication with parents/guardians and outside agencies (as appropriate); Details of allergies etc & the required treatment easily accessible Medication Indemnity completed for all medication administered in school All medication stored securely
25	Recruitment of school personnel incl: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teachers • SNAs • Secretary • Caretaker • Cleaners • External Tutors • Guest Speakers • Parent Volunteers • Visitors/Contractors on site during school day/after school activities 	Harm not recognised or reported promptly or correctly	HIGH	Child Safeguarding Statement and Children First procedures available to all staff All staff, coaches etc. to complete on-line training (Tusla & PDST) Garda Vetting Procedures Extra Curricular Policy
26	Visiting guest tutors, speakers & facilitators	Harm to pupils	LOW	Visitors Sign in/Out book
27	Use of school premises by other organisations	Harm to pupils	MEDIUM	PTA After School Activities Policy

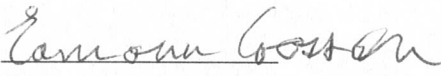
Important Note

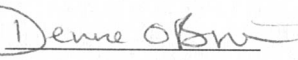
It should be noted that risk in the context of this risk assessment is the risk of "harm" as defined in the *Children First Act 2015*, and not general health and safety risk. The definition of harm is set out in Chapter 4 of the *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017*.

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 the 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 an annual risk assessment to manage and reduce risk to the greatest possible extent.

This risk assessment was completed by the Board of Management on September 2021.

It is reviewed by the Board of Management as part of the school's annual review of the *Child Safeguarding Statement* at the first Board meeting of each school year.

Signed: 
Chairperson
Board of Management

Signed: 
Principal

Date: 29/11/24

Date: 29/11/24

