

Child Safeguarding Statement

Saint Patrick's NS

Harestown

Saint Patrick's National School Harestown 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 2017](#) and [Tusla Guidance on the preparation of Child Safeguarding Statements](#), the Board of Management of Saint Patrick's National School 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 2017 as part of this overall Child Safeguarding Statement
- 2 The Designated Liaison Person (DLP) is Fiachra Bell (Principal)
- 3 The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is Anne Boland (Deputy Principal)

4 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.

5 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 2017 and to the relevant agreed disciplinary procedures for school staff which are published on the DE 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 DE 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 2017, including in the case of registered teachers, those in relation to mandated reporting under the Children First Act 2015.
- In this school the Board has appointed Fiachra Bell DLP as the “relevant person” (as defined in the Children First Act 2015) to be the first point of contact in respect of the schools 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 DE website or will be made available on request by the school.

6 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.

7 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 31-1-22 [date].

This Child Safeguarding Statement was reviewed by the Board of Management on 31-1-22 [most recent review date].

Signed: Rev. Patrick P. Bell

Signed: Finbar Bell

Chairperson of Board of Management

Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Date: 31/1/22

Date: 31-1-22

Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment

Written Assessment of Risk of Saint Patrick's National School

In accordance with section 11 of the Children First Act 2015 and with the requirement of Chapter 8 of the *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017*, the following is the Written Risk Assessment of Saint Patrick's National School

List of School Activities	The school have identified the following risk of harm in respect of the activity	The school has the following procedures in place to address the risks of harm identified in this assessment.
---------------------------	--	--

<p>Training of school personnel in Child Protection matters</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Harm not recognised or reported promptly or properly 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Copies of Child Safety Statement (CSS) and risk assessment(RA) distributed to all school personnel. Copy of Des procedures 2017 available in school staffroom and office for consultation DLP and DDLP availed of face to face CP training All staff have completed Túsla and PDST training Túsla certificates collected from staff School registered with PDST for completing training workshop BOM members have completed Túsla online training programme BOM members attended Stay safe Training
<p>Class Teaching</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Harm not being recognised by school personnel Harm by school personnel 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Copies of Child Safety Statement (CSS) and risk assessment(RA) distributed to all school personnel. Copy of Des procedures 2017 available in school staffroom and office for consultation All new staff members are given copies of CSS and RA. Staff are encouraged to avail of training Records are maintained of training. Vision panels on all classroom entrances.
<p>Care of children with special needs One to one teaching / counselling/interviewing Movement breaks with SNA</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Harm by school personnel Failure to recognise and report promptly 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Copies of Child Safety Statement (CSS) and risk assessment(RA) distributed to all school personnel. Copy of Des procedures 2017 available in school staffroom and office for consultation Policy in place for special ED teaching Permission sought from parents Learning support classes centrally located with viewing windows

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SNA's work under the direction of the teacher and report to the teacher
Toileting Issues Toileting accidents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Harm by school personnel 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> School has toileting and intimate care policy in place Individual toileting policy agreed with parents where there are ongoing issues
Toilet Areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inappropriate behaviour Harm by other pupils Harm by school personnel 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Code of behaviour in place Controlled access to the toilet areas Segregated toilet areas for boys and girls Adult supervision from outside Toileting policy
Curriculum provision in respect of STAY SAFE and RSE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Non teaching of material 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> School implements SPHE ,RSE and Stay Safe as per school plan . Cúntas Míosúil to be completed at the end of the month Teachers to verify
After school activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Harm to children 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Garda vetting by school for adult involved Garda vetting from affiliated organisation if applicable No Individual sessions Staff/ BOM member present in school Supervised dismissal to parent/ guardian
Morning Assembly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Harm by other pupil Harm by unknown adult 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Code of behaviour Full Supervision of school yards from 8.40a.m. (Parents informed)
Evening Dismissal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Harm by other pupil Harm by unknown adult 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Infants handed over to parent or known adult Parents phone school if change to routine Children supervised as they exit Children remain on school grounds if no adult present Teachers alerted if pupil is not to be released to a particular adult
Early Collection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Harm by adult Harm by unknown adult 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collected from office Signed out

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parent to phone school re arrangements • Parent to be contacted if unannounced person arrives for collection • Temporary arrangements for covid 19 where adult must phone ahead and come to the gate
Managing challenging behaviour	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harm to self • Harm to other children & Staff • Bullying 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Code of behaviour in place • Health and safety policy in place • Individual behaviour plans formulated where necessary. • Anti bullying policy in place
School breaks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bullying • Harm to other pupils 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children supervised at all times • School supervision policy and rota in place • School code of behaviour • Anti Bullying policy
Participation of pupils in and preparation for religious ceremonies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harm to pupils 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accompanied by two staff members or vetted adults
School Outings and Field trips	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harm by unknown adults • Harm by other children • Unfamiliar areas • Harm to pupils 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School tours/ field trips policy • Accompanied by two staff members or vetted adult • Risk assessment carried out • Administration of medication policy • First Aid procedures
Administration of Medication Administration of first Aid Dealing with physical trauma	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harm to pupils 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Administration of medication policy • First Aid procedures
Prevention and Dealing with Bullying Issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harm to pupils • Failure to follow procedures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anti Bullying policy in place and reviewed annually. • STAY SAFE programme implemented • Supervision policy • Positive school atmosphere promoted
Use of external personnel <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To supplement curriculum • To coach sport and extra curricular activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harm to pupils • Failure to report 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Confirmation of vetting from umbrella organisation. • Teacher remains present at all times • No unsupervised access
Recruitment of school personnel <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teachers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harm to pupils 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vetting guidelines adhered to • References checked

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SNa • Secretary Caretaker • Short term Substitute teachers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harm not recognised or promptly reported 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School induction • Employing regular substitutes as far as is possible
Parent Volunteer Recruitment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harm to pupils 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Garda vetting • No Unsupervised access
Use of ICT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bullying • Access to inappropriate material • Harm by unknown person 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Internet safety training biannually rang 2-6 and for parents and staff • Acceptable use policy in place • Code of behaviour in place • Supervised class access to internet • Internet filters in place • No pupil personal digital devices allowed to be used in school
Work experience students	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harm to pupils 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vetting from base school • No unsupervised access • Induction meeting with principal
Student Teachers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harm to Pupils 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vetting from college • No unsupervised access • School Information card and induction meeting with principal
Use of video /cameras	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harm to pupils through misuse of digital content 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No uploading of personal videos to social media • Permission sought for photos and videos • No pupil names on website • Pupils not allowed access to www unsupervised
Swimming	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harm to children by others 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Code of behaviour • Child protection policy of swimming pool sought • Swimming policy • At least two adults supervising
Transporting children to and from school events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harm to children 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bus to be organised by school

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parents to transport their own children • Children always supervised by teachers on bus • All bus drivers to be vetted by the company • Parents to liaise with each other to arrange private lifts • No unsupervised access during school hours • P.C members to be vetted through school
Parent's council events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harm to children 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All events supervised • No unsupervised access
School concerts / invited Events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harm to children 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy in place • Meeting rooms used • Protocols in place • Meetings locked
Online learning Platforms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harm to children 	

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 was completed by the Board of Management in 2018 and has been reviewed annually since .It will be reviewed on an annual basis as part of the school’s annual review or as required .Every effort will be made to follow the procedures therein

Drogheda Garda Station	0479874200
Child & Family Centre Navan	0469098560

Signed: Rev. Patrick J. Phe.

Chairperson of Board of Management

Date: 3/1/22.

Signed: Frachun Bell

Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Date: 3/1/22