



St. Patrick's Junior School

TENNIS COURT LANE, SKERRIES, CO. DUBLIN.

K34 D799

Principal: Máire Ní Chróinín

Deputy Principal: Lynsey Dungan

Roll Number: 16333Q

RCN: 20118839

ST. PATRICK'S JNS CHILD SAFEGUARDING STATEMENT

This statement and its accompanying risk assessment were reviewed, updated and approved by the Board of Management of the school at a meeting on the 10th of October 2023.

Designated Liaison Person:

Máire Ní Chróinín.

Deputy Designated Liaison Person:

Lynsey Dungan.



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Child Safeguarding Statement

St. Patrick's JNS Skerries is a junior primary school providing primary education to pupils from Junior Infants to Second 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 Túsla Guidance on the preparation of Child Safeguarding Statements, the Board of Management of St. Patrick's JNS, Skerries, 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 **Máire Ní Chróinín**
- 3 The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is **Lynsey Dungan**
- 4 The Relevant Person is **Máire Ní Chróinín**
(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:



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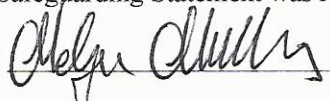
- In relation to any member of staff who is the subject of any investigation (howsoever described) in respect of any act, omission or circumstance in respect of a child attending the school, the school adheres to the relevant procedures set out in Chapter 7 of the *Child Protection Procedures for Primary 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 Túsla, 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.

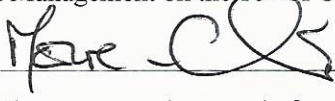
- 7 This statement has been published on the school's website and has been provided to all members of school personnel, the Parents' Association (if any) and the patron. It is readily accessible to parents and guardians on request. A copy of this Statement will be made available to Túsla and the Department 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 the 10th of October 2023.

This Child Safeguarding Statement was reviewed by the Board of Management on the 10th of October 2023.

Signed: 
Chairperson of Board of Management

Date: 10/10/2023

Signed: 
Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Date: 10/10/2023

Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment

Written Assessment of Risk of St. Patrick's Junior National School, Skerries.

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. Patrick's JNS, Skerries].

1. List of school activities

Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils Recreation breaks for pupils Classroom teaching One-to-One teaching One-to-One learning support One-to-One counselling Small group teaching/learning support/counselling Outdoor teaching activities (incl. use of the school garden) Online teaching and learning remotely Sporting activities (incl. 10@10) School Choir Maths Week Engineers Week Science Week Play Therapy Sessions Roots of Empathy School Outings Use of off-site facilities for school activities School "Buddies" (JI/6 th Class) Paired Reading (1 st / 4 th Class) Use of toilet/changing/shower areas in school Use of the "Calm Room" facilities Annual Sports for All Week Fundraising events involving pupils (Cake Sale, Hallowe'en events, non-uniform days) School transport arrangements including use of bus escorts Care of Children with additional needs, including intimate care where needed Management of challenging behaviour amongst pupils, including appropriate use of restraint where required Management of provision of food and drink Administration of Medicine Administration of First Aid Curricular provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst pupils Training of school personnel in child protection matters Use of external personnel to supplement the curriculum (eg violin lessons) Use of external personnel to support sports and other extra-curricular activities (soccer, hockey, GAA training) Care of pupils with specific vulnerabilities/needs such as 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
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Children in care
 Children with additional needs
 Children on Tusla's Child Protection Notification System (CPNS)
 Recruitment of school personnel including
 Teachers/SNAs
 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
 Participation by pupils in religious ceremonies/religious instruction external to the school
 Presence of family members of pupils during school celebrations (eg Grandparents' Day, First Holy Communion Breakfast)
 Use of Information and Communication Technology by pupils in school, including social media
 Application of sanctions under the school's Code of Behaviour including detention of pupils, confiscation of phones etc
 Students participating in work experience in the school (Transition Year)
 Student teachers undertaking training placement in the school
 Use of video/photography/other media to record school events
 After school use of school premises by other organisations
 Use of school premises by other organisation during school day
 Breakfast Club
 Homework club/evening study

2. The school has identified the following risk of harm in respect of its activities -

- Risk of harm not being recognised by school personnel
- Risk of harm not being properly reported properly and promptly by school personnel
- Risk of child being harmed in the school by a member of school personnel
- Risk of child being harmed in the school by another child
- Risk of child being harmed in the school by volunteer or visitor to the school
- Risk of child being harmed by a member of school personnel, a member of staff of another organisation, parent volunteer or other person while child participating in out of school activities e.g. school trip, Sports for All Week activities in Community Centre Field, GAA training in Community Centre etc, particularly when visiting toilet facilities off site.
- Risk of harm due to inappropriate use of online remote teaching and learning communication platform, such as an uninvited person accessing the lesson link, pupils being left unsupervised for long periods of time in breakout rooms
- Risk of harm due to open nature of the fencing around the school
- Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of gates, when open, or gates being left open in error.
- Risk of harm due to bullying of child
- Risk of harm due to racism
- Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children in school
- Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children while attending out of school activities
- Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children while moving around the school
- Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision during transitions between school and out of school activities

- Risk of harm due to inappropriate relationship/communications between a child and another child
- Risk of harm due to inappropriate relationship/communications between a child and an adult
- Risk of harm due to children inappropriately accessing/using computers, social media, phones and other devices while at school
- Risk of harm to children with additional needs (SEN) who have particular vulnerabilities
- Risk of harm to child while the child is receiving intimate care
- Risk of harm due to inadequate code of behaviour
- Risk of harm in one-to-one or small group teaching, counselling, coaching situations
- Risk of harm caused by member of school personnel communicating with pupils in an inappropriate manner via social media, texting, digital device or other manner.
- Risk of harm caused by members of school personnel accessing/circulating inappropriate material via social media, texting, digital device or other manner.
- Risk of child being harmed in the school at drop off time in the morning when all external school entrances are open.
- Risk of child being harmed in the school at pick up times in the afternoon when large numbers of children are collected at the same time.
- Risk of harm when children are picked up by adults not known to the teacher (where notice has not been given by parents that someone new will be collecting the child from school).
- Risk of harm during performance of the Christmas Plays, when a large number of parents and other relatives of our pupils are on site.
- Risk of harm when capturing images of groups of pupils during these performances on electronic devices (Phone cameras, tablet computers, video recorders).
- Risk of harm inherent in publishing of pupils' images to social media sites without the permission of pupils' parents.
- Risk of harm when children are unsupervised on jobs/messages on the school premises.

3. The school has the following procedures in place to address the risks of harm identified in this assessment -

- All school personnel are provided with a copy of the school's *Child Safeguarding Statement*
- The *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools (revised 2023)* are made available to all school personnel.
- School Personnel are required to adhere to the *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools (revised 2023)* and all registered teaching staff are required to adhere to the *Children First Act 2015* and its Addendum (2019).
- The school implements in full the Stay Safe Programme
- The school implements in full the SPHE curriculum.
- The school has an Anti-Bullying Policy which fully adheres to the requirements of the Department's *Anti-Bullying Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools*
- The school undertakes anti-racism awareness initiatives.
- The school undertakes inclusion and diversity initiatives.
- The school has a yard/playground supervision policy to ensure appropriate supervision of children during assembly, dismissal and breaks and in respect of specific areas such as toilets, changing rooms etc.
- The school has in place a policy and clear procedures in respect of school outings and out of school activities.
- The school has a health and safety statement.
- The School has a Garda Vetting Policy

- The school adheres to the requirements of Garda vetting legislation and relevant DE circulars in relation to recruitment and Garda Vetting.
- The school has a code of conduct for school personnel (teaching and non-teaching staff)
- The school complies with the agreed disciplinary procedures for teaching staff
- The school has an Additional Needs Provision of Support (Special Educational Needs) Policy
- The school has an intimate care policy/plan in respect of pupils who require such care
- The school has in place a policy and procedures for the administration of medication to pupils
- The school has provided each member of school staff with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement & Risk Assessment
- The school ensures all new staff are provided with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment
- The school encourages staff to avail of relevant training.
- The school encourages Board of Management members to avail of relevant training.
- The school maintains records of all staff and Board of Management training.
- The school has in place a policy and procedures for the administration of First Aid.
- The school has in place a code of behaviour for pupils.
- The school has in place a policy and clear procedures in respect of school outings.
- The school has an Acceptable Use Policy in place, to include provision for online teaching and learning remotely, and has communicated this policy to parents.
- The school has in place a policy governing the use of smart phones and tablet devices by pupils as per circular 0038/2018
- The school has in place a Critical Incident Management Plan.
- The school has in place a Parent Teacher Communication Policy and related procedures.
- The school has in place a policy and procedures for the use of external sports coaches.
- The school has in place a policy and procedures for the use of external persons to supplement delivery of the curriculum.
- The school has in place a policy and clear procedures for small group and one-to-one teaching activities.
- The school has in place a policy and procedures for one-to-one counselling.
- The school has in place a policy and procedures in respect of student teacher placements.
- The school has in place a policy and procedures in respect of students undertaking work experience in the school.

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)*

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 Statement and Risk Assessment were reviewed by all staff members on the 29th of August 2023.

It was reviewed and approved by the Board of Management on the 10th of October 2023

Appendix 1

Protocol authorising immediate action

The following protocol authorises immediate action under section 7.2 of the '*Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools (revised 2023)*'.

Primary schools other than primary schools under the patronage of an ETB

In the context of these procedures, where circumstances warrant it, as an essential precautionary measure in order to protect the children in the school, the chairperson of the Board of Management is authorised by the school authority to direct an employee to immediately absent himself or herself from the school without loss of pay until the matter has been considered by the employer. It is very important to note that the action under the protocol is intended to be precautionary and not disciplinary. The action under this protocol is an interim measure pending the employer's consideration of the matter.

The employee will be invited to a meeting with the chairperson of the board of management, the purpose of which is to inform the employee of the allegation and the action being taken. The employee may be accompanied by an appropriate person of his or her choice and will be so advised.

In any event, the employee will also be advised of the matter, in writing.

The chairperson of the Board of Management shall also make a record of the meeting which shall be retained on the relevant case file.