



St. Patrick's Junior School

TENNIS COURT LANE, SKERRIES, CO. DUBLIN.

K34 D799

Principal: Máire Ní Chróinín
Deputy Principal: Gráinne Connolly

Roll Number: 16333Q
RCN: 20118839

Child Safeguarding Statement

St. Patrick's JNS Skerries is a 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 **Gráinne Connolly**

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. 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 Túsła, 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 Túsła and the Department of Education 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 23/09/2024.
This Child Safeguarding Statement was reviewed by the Board of Management on 23/09/2024.

Signed: 
Chairperson of Board of Management

Date: 23/09/2024

Signed: 
Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Date: 23/09/2024

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
- Small group teaching
- Outdoor learning activities (incl. use of the school garden)
- Online/remote teaching and learning
- Sporting Activities (incl. 10 @ 10)
- School Choir
- Maths Week
- Engineers Week
- Science Week
- Wellbeing Week
- Seachtain na Gaeilge
- School outings
- Roots of Empathy
- School "Buddies" (JI/6th class)
- Paired reading (1st & 4th class)
- Use of toilet/changing/shower areas in schools
- Use of the "Calm Room" facilities
- Use of the "Sensory Room" facilities
- Annual Sports for All Week
- Fundraising events involving pupils (cake sale, Hallowe'en events, non-uniform days)
Care of children with additional needs, including intimate care where needed
Management of challenging behaviour amongst pupils, including appropriate use of restraint where required
- Administration of Medicine
- Administration of First Aid
- Curricular provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe
- Prevention of and dealing with bullying amongst pupils
- Training of school personnel in child protection matters
- Use of external personnel to supplement 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
 - Pupils perceived to be LGBTQ+
 - Pupils of minority religious faiths
 - Children in Care
 - Children with additional needs
 - Children on 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
- Participation by pupils in religious ceremonies/religious instruction external to the School
- Presence of family members of pupils during school celebrations (e.g. Grandparents' Day, First Holy Communion breakfast)
- Use of Information and Communication Technology by pupils in school
- Application of sanctions under the school's Code of Behaviour.
- Students participating in work experience in the school (Transition Year)
- Student teachers undertaking professional placement in school
- Use of video/photography/other media to record school events
- After school use of school premises by other organisations

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

- Risk of harm not being recognised by school personnel (Low)
- Risk of harm not being reported properly and promptly by school personnel (Low)
- Risk of child being harmed in the school by a member of school personnel (Low)
- Risk of child being harmed in the school by another child (Low)
- Risk of child being harmed in the school by volunteer or visitor to the school (Low)
- 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. (Low)
- 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. (Low)
- Risk of harm due to the open nature of the fencing around the school (Low)
- Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of gates, when open, or gates being left open in error. (Medium)
- Risk of harm due to bullying of child (Low)
- Risk of harm due to racism (Low)
- Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children in school (Low)
- Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children while attending out of school activities (Low)
- Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children while moving around the school (Low)
- Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision during transitions between school and out of school activities (Low)
- Risk of harm due to inappropriate relationship/communications between child and another child (Low)
- Risk of harm due to inappropriate relationship/communications between a child and an adult (Low)
- Risk of harm due to children inappropriately accessing/using computers, social media, phones and other devices while at school (Low)
- Risk of harm to children with additional needs (SEN) who have particular vulnerabilities (Low)
- Risk of harm to child while a child is receiving intimate care (Low)
- Risk of harm due to inadequate code of behaviour (Low)

- Risk of harm in one-to-one or small group teaching, counselling, coaching situations (Low)
- 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 (Low)
- Risk of harm caused by members of school personnel accessing/circulating inappropriate material via social media, texting, digital device or other manner (Low)
- Risk of harm caused by member of school personnel accessing/circulating inappropriate material via social media, texting, digital device or other manner (Low)
- Risk of child being harmed in the school at drop off time in the morning when all external school entrances are open. (Medium)
- 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. (Medium)
- Risk of harm when children are picked up by adults not known to the teacher without notice being given by parents that they are doing so with parents' permission. (Medium)
- Risk of harm during performance of the Christmas Plays/Grandparents' Day, when a large number of parents and other relatives of our pupils are on site. (Medium)
- Risk of harm when capturing images of groups of pupils during these performances on electronic devices (phone cameras, tablet computers, video recorders). (Medium)
- Risk of harm inherent in publishing of pupils' images to social media sites without the permission of the pupils' parents. (High)
- Risk of harm when children are unsupervised on jobs/messages on the school premises. (Low)

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

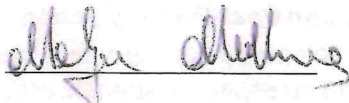
- All school personnel are provided with a copy of the school's **Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment**.
- The **Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools (revised 2023)** are made available to all school personnel
- School Personnel are required to adhere to the **Child 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 has codes of conduct for school personnel (teaching and non-teaching staff).
- The school has a Garda Vetting Policy
- The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation and relevant DES circulars in relation to recruitment and Garda vetting.
- The school complies with the agreed disciplinary procedures for teaching staff
- The school has a Health and Safety policy.
- The school has in place a Critical Incident Management Plan.
- The school implements in full the SPHE curriculum.
- The school implements in full the Stay Safe Programme.
- The school has in place a code of behaviour for pupils
- 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 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.
- The school has in place a policy and clear procedures in respect of school outings and out of school activities.
- The school has in place an ICT policy in respect of usage of ICT by pupils
- The school has an Additional Needs Provision of Support Policy (Special Educational Needs policy)
- The school has an intimate care policy/plan in respect of students who require such care

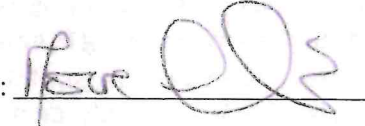
- The school has in place a mobile phone policy in respect of usage of mobile phones by staff members.
- The school has in place a policy and procedures for the administration of medication to pupils
- The school encourages staff to avail of relevant training
- The school encourages Board of Management members to avail of relevant training
- The school maintains records of all staff and board member training.
- The school has in place a policy and procedures for the administration of First Aid.
- The school has in place a Critical Incident Management Plan.
- 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 procedures for the use of external sports coaches.
- The school has in place a policy and clear procedures for one-to-one and small group teaching and supervision activities.
- 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.
- The school undertakes inclusion and diversity initiatives.
- The school has in place a policy and clear procedures in respect of school outings.
- The school has an Acceptable Use Policy in place which includes provision for online teaching and learning remotely and has communicated this policy to parents
- The school has a policy governing the use of smart phones and other smart devices 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 risk assessment has been completed by the BoM on **23/09/2024**. It shall be reviewed as part of the school’s annual review of its Child Safeguarding Statement in September 2025.

Signed: 
 Very Rev. Fr. Melvyn Mullins,
 Chairperson of BoM

Signed: 
 Máire Ní Chróinín
 Principal/Secretary to the BoM

Date: 23/09/2024

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