



St Patrick's National School

Collon Road, Slane, Co. Meath C15 NX78

(041) 982 4229

office@slanens.ie

www.slanens.ie

Roll No: 18040L

Principal:

Paul O'Donnell

Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment

Child Safeguarding Statement

St. Patrick's NS, Slane is a primary school providing primary education to pupils from junior infants to sixth class, as well as pupils with autism.

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 \(2019\)](#), [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. Patrick's NS, Slane 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 **Paul O'Donnell**
- 3 The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is **Lorna Gerrard**
- 4 The Relevant Person is **Paul O'Donnell**
(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.)

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- 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](https://www.gov.ie) website.



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- 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.



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- 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 14/12/2022.

This Child Safeguarding Statement was reviewed by the Board of Management on 01/10/2025.

Signed: *Richard Watterson*

Chairperson of Board of Management

Date: 08-10-2025

Signed: *Paul O'Donnell*

Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Date: 08-10-2025

Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment

Written Assessment of Risk of St. Patrick's NS, Slane

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 (revised 2023)*, the following is the Written Risk Assessment of St. Patrick's N.S.

1. List of school activities	2. The school has identified the following risk of harm in respect of its activities –	3. The school has the following procedures in place to address the risks of harm identified in this assessment -
Training of school personnel in Child Protection matters	Harm not recognised or reported promptly	• Child Safeguarding Statement & DE procedures made available to all staff • TUSLA Child Protection training to be completed every 3 years by staff • All staff to receive Child Protection Procedures training • BOM records all records of staff and board training
One to one teaching	Harm by school personnel	• Procedure in place for one to one teaching in SEN policy • Open doors • Table between teacher and pupil • Glass in window

Care of children with special needs, including intimate care needs and showering	Harm by school personnel	- Intimate Care policy - SNA policy - Two staff present to attend to intimate care needs - Communication with home & records kept
Toilet areas	Inappropriate behaviour	- Circulation through the school policy - Designated teacher on yard to co-ordinate pupil access to and from toilets. - Designated toilets during breaks
Curricular Provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe.	Non-teaching of same	- SPHE, RSE & Stay Safe implemented in full - RSE policy in place & curricular links available to parents on school website - Nótaí & cuntaisí míosúla na múinteoirí
Managing of challenging behaviour amongst pupils, including appropriate use of restraint	Injury to pupils and staff	- Health & Safety Policy - Code of Behaviour
Sports Coaches or external personnel to supplement the curriculum	Harm to pupils	- Policy & procedures in place - Coaches must present Garda vetting and other relevant documentation to school in advance - Class teacher must be present at all times and in charge
Recreation breaks for pupils	Harm to pupils by other pupils Bullying Inappropriate behaviour	- Yard supervision rota in place - Adequate yard supervision in place - Segregation of yard and field space - Equipment for both yards - Friendship group/station interventions - Code of Behaviour - Bí Cineálta Anti-Bullying Policy - First Aid policy and procedures in place

Classroom teaching	Harm from other pupils and staff	• Circulation Through the School policy • Code of Behaviour • Door open if in room alone with a child
Outdoor teaching activities	Harm to pupils Bullying	• Adequate supervision in place • Teacher present at all times • Outdoor Learning Policy and Risk Assessment
Online teaching and learning	Harm due to inappropriate use of online remote teaching and learning communication platform	• The school has an Acceptable Usage Policy in place, to include provision for online teaching and learning remotely
Use of tablet devices and smart phones in the classroom and in the course of the school day	Harm associated with misuse, abuse of devices and the various associated technologies	• The school has a whole school policy in place covering the use of tablet devices and smart phones in the classroom and during the school day as outlined in Circular 0038/2018 • Mobile Phone Policy
Sporting activities	Harm to pupils Bullying	• Bí Cineálta Anti-Bullying policy • Bus Safety Policy • First Aid, Accidents & Illness Policy • Competitions & Events Policy • Trips Policy • Extra-Curricular Policy • Bus Policy and buses to and from activities • First aid bag with personal medication where required • Contact list • Adequate supervision at all times • Sports Code of Conduct • Teachers must be present and in ultimate charge at all times



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School tours, trips and outings	Harm to pupils Bullying Inappropriate behaviour Risk of inappropriate communication between pupils via digital devices	• Bí Cineálta Anti-Bullying Policy • Mobile Phone Policy • Bus Safety Policy • First Aid, Accidents & Illness policy • Competitions & Events Policy • Trips Policy • Extra-Curricular Policy • Proper supervision arrangements & collection • Pupil-teacher ratio
Annual sports day	Harm to pupils by inappropriate communications between child and unknown adult, inadequate supervision & physical injury	• Sports Day timetable and organisation circulated to school community in advance • No photography or recording permitted by parents/visitors • Code of Behaviour & First Aid policy & procedures in place • Teachers present and in ultimate charge at all times
Fundraising events involving pupils	Harm to pupils by inappropriate communications between child and unknown adult, inadequate supervision & physical injury	• Adequate insurance • Safety Statement & first aid procedures in place • Event timetable, organisation & procedures circulated to school community in advance • Proper supervision arrangements & collection • Garda vetting for volunteers • Trips, Extra-Curricular & Bí Cineálta Anti-Bullying Policy • Proper supervision arrangements & collection • Pupil-teacher ratio • Competitions & Events policy

During & after school use of school by other individuals/groups/organisations	Harm to pupils	• BoM procedures in place and communicated to individual/ group/ organisation in advance • Proper supervision arrangements & collection • Garda vetting & adequate insurance • Certification of Child Protection training course
Management of challenging behaviour among pupils, including appropriate use of restraint where required	Physical harm to pupils & adults	• Code of Behaviour • Positive Handling Plan
Administration of medicine & First Aid	Physical harm to pupils and adults	• Administration of Medication & First Aid policy • Staff training for specific medical conditions, all staff working directly with pupils are informed of specific medical needs • Staff first aid training every second year • Procedures for first aid visible in first aid area & first aid record book in place
Swimming	Harm to pupils Bullying Inappropriate behaviour Harm from unauthorised persons	• Adequate supervision in changing areas by staff and Garda vetted parents, on the bank and in public viewing gallery • One pupil per small cubicle - except in the case of junior and senior infants who may share a small cubicle whilst being supervised by a teacher and/or parent volunteers • In the case of children with additional needs where parents need to be present, parents with own children change own children only • Qualified and certified coaches

Care of pupils with specific vulnerabilities/ needs such as:	Bullying	• Code of Behaviour • Frequent discussions on inclusion at school assemblies • SPHE Walk Tall & Stay Safe programme implemented • Bí Cineálta anti-bullying policy reviewed annually, including modelling dealing with challenging situations for pupils at assemblies.
Use of Information and Communication Technology by pupils in school	Bullying Risk of harm due to inappropriately accessing/using ICT devices while at school	• AUP policy • Bí Cineálta Anti-Bullying Policy • Code of Behaviour • NCTE filter on school broadband access
Students/student teachers participating in work experience in the school	Harm not being recognised by school personnel Risk of harm due to inappropriate relationship/communication between child and adult	• Student/Teacher Work Experience Policy • Garda vetting & insurance documentation • Teachers must be present and in ultimate charge at all times
Use of video/photography/other media to record school events	Risk of identification of individual child online	• AUP policy • Procedures in place communicated to individual/ group/ organisations in advance
Use of off-site facilities for school activities	Harm to pupils by inappropriate communications between child and unknown adult, inadequate	• Bí Cineálta Anti-Bullying, Bus, Trips & Extra-Curricular & Event policy • Code of Behaviour

	supervision & physical injury	• Garda vetting for volunteers • Proper supervision arrangements & collection • Pupil-teacher ratio
School transport arrangements including use of bus escorts	Harm to pupils by inappropriate communications between child and unknown adult, inadequate supervision & bullying	• Bus policy • Code of Behaviour & Bí Cineálta Anti-Bullying policy • Garda vetting for volunteers
Recruitment of school personnel including – • Teachers & SNA's • Caretaker/Secretary/Cleaners • Sports coaches • External Tutors/Guest Speakers • Volunteers/Parents in school activities • Visitors/contractors in school during & after school hours	Harm not recognised or properly or promptly reported	• Child Safeguarding Statement & DE procedures made available to all staff • Staff to receive Child Protection training/view Tusla training module/any other online training from Oide • Vetting Procedures • School Visitors. New Staff & Parental Involvement policies • Agreed disciplinary procedures for teaching staff
Application of sanctions under the school's Code of Behaviour including detention of pupils, confiscation of phones etc.	Risk of harm due to inadequate code of behaviour	• Code of Behaviour reviewed regularly by PA, staff and BoM • Mobile Phone policy • Bí Cineálta Anti-Bullying policy
Working with hens	Inappropriate behaviour	• Keeping Poultry in School policy • Circulation Through the School policy • Pupils work with hens during lunch break when area is being supervised by staff on the yard



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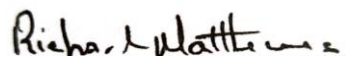
Principal:

Paul O'Donnell

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 procedures listed in this risk assessment to manage and reduce risk to the greatest possible extent.

This risk assessment has been completed by the Board of Management on the 25th September 2024. It will be reviewed as part of the school's annual review of its Child Safeguarding Statement.

Signed: 

Chairperson of Board of Management

Date 08-10-2025

Signed: 

Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Date: 08-10-2025