



Coinnigh an solas ar lasadh

St Patrick's National School

Slane, Co. Meath

(041) 982 4229
office@slanens.ie
www.slanens.ie
Roll No: 18040L
Principal:
Paul O'Donnell

Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment

For:	St. Patrick's National School	(School Name)
At:	Collon Road, Slane, Co. Meath	(School Address)

This school is a: (tick appropriate) ☒ primary ☐ post-primary ☐ special school

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) and 2025, Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025 and Child Safeguarding: A Guide for Policy, Procedure and Practice, 2nd ed. (Tusla, 2024), the board of management has adopted the Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment set out in this document.

The board of management has adopted and will implement fully and without modification the department's Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025 as part of this overall Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment.

Name of the Designated Liaison Person (DLP):

Paul O'Donnell

Name of the Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP/DDLP):

Lorna Gerrard

In the absence of the DLP, the Deputy DLP shall assume responsibilities of the DLP

Name of Relevant Person

Paul O'Donnell

(In schools this person is the DLP)

Relevant Person can be contacted on:

0419824229

office@slanens.ie

Under the Children First Act 2015 Relevant Person means a person who is appointed by a provider of a relevant service to be the first point of contact in respect of the Child Safeguarding Statement. This person is nominated by the board of management to manage and provide oversight of child protection concerns/allegations of child abuse.

Name of Chairperson of the board of management, or in an ETB school the Chief Executive or their delegate:

Fr. Richard Matthews

In the event that both DLP and DDLP are absent and unavailable, and where there is no staff member formally acting in their role, the chairperson of the board of management, or in an ETB school the chief executive or their delegate, assumes the role of DLP.



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The board of management recognises that child protection and safeguarding permeate all aspects of school life and must be reflected in all of the school's policies, procedures, practices and activities. In all of these, 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 happening to children and protect members of school personnel from the necessity to take unnecessary risks that may leave themselves open to accusations of child abuse.
- Develop a practice of openness with parents and encourage parental involvement in the education of their children.
- Fully respect confidentiality requirements as set out in the Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025 in dealing with child protection matters.
- Adhere to the above principles in relation to any vulnerable adult.

Procedures and Measures in Place

- Our Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment has been developed in line with requirements under the Children First Act 2015, the *Children First: National Guidance 2017*, and *Child Safeguarding: A Guide for Policy, Procedure and Practice, 2nd ed. (Tusla, 2024)*, and the *Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025*. In addition to the procedures listed in our risk assessment, the following procedures support our intention to safeguard children while they are availing of our service:

Procedure for the Management of Allegations of Abuse or Misconduct against School Personnel Relating to a Child Availing of Our Service

- Where any member of school personnel is the subject of any investigation in respect of any act, omission or circumstance in relation to a child attending the school, the school is required to adhere to the relevant procedures set out in Chapter 7 of the *Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025* and to the relevant agreed disciplinary procedures for school staff which are published on the gov.ie website.



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Procedure for the Safe Recruitment and Selection of School Personnel to Work With Children

- The school is required to adhere to the requirements of the Vetting Act. The selection or recruitment of staff and their suitability to work with children, requires the school to adhere 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 Youth and available on the gov.ie website and as outlined in Chapter 10 of the procedures.
- A written protocol is in place authorising immediate action for cases which require an employee to be immediately absented from school for child safeguarding reasons.

Procedure for Provision of and Access to Child Safeguarding Training and Information, Including the Identification of the Occurrence of Harm

- The school provides information and training to members of school personnel in relation to the identification of the occurrence of harm (as defined in the 2015 Act) as follows:
- The school has provided each member of school personnel, including any new members of school personnel, (employees and volunteers, board of management members, student teachers and those on work experience) with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment.
- The school ensures that members of school personnel have availed of relevant training and completed child protection training.
- The school encourages board of management members to avail of any relevant training and complete child protection training.
- The board of management ensures that records of all staff and board member child protection training are maintained.

Procedure for the Reporting of Child Protection or Welfare Concerns to Tusla

- All members of school personnel are required to adhere to the procedures set out in the *Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025*, in relation to reporting of child protection concerns to Tusla. Mandated reporting applies to all registered teachers and any other mandated person who may be employed by the school, for example a chaplain or nurse. A full list of those people who are mandated persons is set out in Appendix 1 procedures.

Procedure for Maintaining a List of the Persons (if any) in the Relevant Service Who Are Mandated Persons

- There is a procedure in place to maintain a list of mandated persons. Schools may on occasion employ additional staff who are mandated by virtue of their profession. This list will include all registered teachers and identify additional employees that are not registered teachers.

Procedure for Appointing a Relevant Person (In schools this person is the DLP)

- There is a procedure in place for appointing a relevant person.



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The various procedures referred to in this Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment can be accessed via the school's website, the gov.ie website or will be made available on request by the school.

In accordance with the Children First Act 2015, the Addendum to Children First 2019 and 2025, and the *Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025*, the board of management 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.

Note: The procedures and measures in place outlined above, are not intended as exhaustive list. Individual boards of management shall also include in this section such other procedures and measures that are of relevance to the school.

This statement has been published on the school's website or will be made available on request by the school. It has been provided to all members of school personnel, the parents' association (if any), the patron and parents. A copy of this statement and risk assessment will be made available to Tusla and the department if requested.

This Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment will be reviewed annually or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which this statement refers.

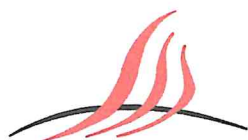


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List of School Activities	Risk Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/ Measures In Place To Mitigate Risk
Training of school personnel in Child Protection matters	Harm not recognised or reported promptly	- Child Safeguarding Statement & 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
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
Intimate care needs (toileting, showering, changing clothes, assisting with hygiene)	Harm to pupils and staff	- Intimate care needs policy developed and implemented - SNA policy - All staff performing intimate care have been vetted - A minimum of two adults are aware that intimate care is being provided - Where possible, two adults will be present in a visible location, while maintaining a child's dignity. - Parental consent is sought and documented before carrying out intimate care - An intimate care plan is drawn up by all relevant parties - A log of intimate care incidents is kept and shared with parents.
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 among 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	- Yard supervision rota in place - Adequate yard supervision in place



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	Inappropriate behaviour	- 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
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 - Appropriate 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



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		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 to be provided by external provider - Certification of Child Protection training course sought
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: - Pupils from ethnic minorities/migrants - Members of the Traveller community - Lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender (LGBT) children - Pupils perceived to be LGBT	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.



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- Pupils of minority religious faiths - Children in care		
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 supervision & physical injury	- Bí Cineálta Anti-Bullying, Bus, Trips & Extra-Curricular & Event policy - Code of Behaviour - 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 - Careraker/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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In accordance with Section 11 of the Children First Act 2015 and with the requirements of Chapter 9 of the Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025, the following is the written Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment.

In undertaking this Child Safeguarding Statement and 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 Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment was reviewed by the board of management on

30th September 2026 (most recent review date)

Signed:*		Date: 30-09-2026
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Chairperson of the board of management

Signed:*		Date: 30-09-2026
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Principal/ Secretary to the board of management

This Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment is expected to be reviewed again on

29th September 2027 (expected review date)

* Document to be printed and signed with original signatures



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Appendix 1 - Location of copies of the Child Protection Procedures and Children First Guidance

This may be in the form of specifying the online location for the procedures (Department of Education and Youth website www.gov.ie/childprotectionschools and/or the school website), providing a link to the Children First National Guidance 2017 [Children First National Guidance 2017.pdf](#), and stating the number and location of hard copies of these procedures available in the school.

- The Child Protection Procedures in Schools are available at www.gov.ie/childprotectionschools
- The Children First National Guidance 2017 is available at [Children First National Guidance 2017.pdf](#)
- There are two hard copies of the Child Protection Procedures 2025 available in our school. One copy is in the school office at the front of the school. The other is in the Principal's office.



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