



ST. JOSEPH'S N.S. BALLYBROWN

Mandatory Template 1: Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment

Child Safeguarding Statement

St. Joseph's NS 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 \(revised 2023\)](#) and [Tusla Guidance on the preparation of Child Safeguarding Statements](#), the Board of Management of St. Joseph's NS 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 Séamus Barry.
- 3 The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is Sarah Keyes
- 4 The Relevant Person is Séamus Barry.

(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](https://www.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](https://www.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.
- The various procedures referred to in this Statement can be accessed via the school's website, the [gov.ie](https://www.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 8/10/25 [date].

This Child Safeguarding Statement was reviewed by the Board of Management on 8/10/25 [most recent review date].

Signed: [Signature]
Chairperson of Board of Management

Signed: Seamus Barry
Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Date: 9/10/25

Date: 9/10/25

Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment

Written Assessment of Risk of St. Joseph's NS

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 PostPrimary Schools (revised 2023)*, the following is the Written Risk Assessment of St. Joseph's NS.

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 Staff not following policies and procedures New Staff not informed of schools child protection procedures	Child Safeguarding Statement & DES procedures made available to all staff DLP& DDLP to attend Oide face to face training on new Child Protection procedures All Staff to view Túsla training module & any other online training offered by Oide In house Child Protection training during Croke Park Hours BOM records all records of staff and board training
One to one teaching	Harm by school personnel	School has policy in place for one to one teaching

	Staff not following policies and procedures	Open doors Table between teacher and pupil Glass in window
Care of Children with special needs, including intimate care needs	Harm by school personnel Staff not following policies and procedures	Policy on intimate care
Use of Toilet areas and changing areas	Inappropriate behaviour Bullying Harm to pupils Staff not following policies and procedures	Usage and supervision procedures in place Health and Safety Policy Vetting procedures
Curricular Provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay safe.	Non-teaching of same Staff not following policies and procedures	School implements SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe in full
Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils	Harm from older pupils, unknown adults on the playground	Arrival and dismissal supervised by Teachers Health and Safety policy
Managing of challenging behaviour amongst pupils, including appropriate use of restraint	Injury to pupils and staff Staff not following policies and procedures	Health & Safety Policy Code of Behaviour Use of NCSE Relate Document Training for staff where deemed necessary
Sports Coaches	Harm to pupils	Supervision Procedures in place

		Health and Safety Policy Vetting Procedures
Students participating in work experience	Harm by student	Work experience Policy Child Safeguarding Statement Vetting Procedures
Recreation breaks for pupils	Accidents while playing Bullying Staff not following policies or procedures	Supervision of pupils Health and Safety Policy Code of Behaviour/Bi Cinealta Policy Health promoting schools and Active Schools Initiatives (Kindness week etc) SPHE curriculum fully implemented
Classroom teaching	Injury to pupils. Abuse of pupils.	Adequate supervision. Code of Behaviour Health and Safety Policy Code of Behaviour/Bi Cinealta Policy
Visitors to the school	Injury to pupils. Abuse of pupils.	All visitors must report to reception and sign log. Visitors will receive a Lanyard to identify them Health and Safety Policy
Outdoor teaching activities	Injury to pupils	Adequate supervision.

		Health and Safety Policy Code of Behaviour/Bi Cinealta Policy
Sporting Activities	Injury to pupils	Adequate supervision Health and Safety Policy Code of Behaviour/Bi Cinealta Policy Vetting procedures
Homework club (When in operation)	Injury or abuse of pupil	Adequate supervision Vetting procedures
School trips/outings	Injury to pupils Unknown adults Child missing	Adequate levels of Supervision Health and Safety Policy Code of Behaviour/Bi Cinealta Policy Vetting procedures
Annual Sports Day	Injury to pupil	Adequate levels of supervision
Fundraising events involving pupils	Harm/Injury to pupil	Adequate levels of supervision Vetting procedures
Use of off-site facilities for school activities	Injury to pupil Unknown adults Child missing	Adequate levels of supervision Health & Safety Policy Vetting procedures

School transport arrangements	Injury to pupil	Adequate levels of supervision. Vetting procedures
Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst pupils	Bullying of pupils Harm to pupils Staff not following procedures and policies	Adequate levels of supervision. Code of behaviour/Bi Cinealta policy. Inservice for teachers and other staff. Targeted lessons. Health & Safety Policy Health Promoting schools & Active Schools initiatives SPHE curriculum fully implemented
Use of external personnel to supplement curriculum/sports and extra-curricular activities	Abuse of pupils	Adequate levels of supervision. Vetting procedures.
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	Abuse of pupils. Bullying. Abuse not recognised or reported.	Child Safeguarding Statement & DES procedures made available to all staff Staff to view Tusla training module & any other online training offered by Oide Vetting Procedures Code of Behaviour/Bi Cinealta Policy

• Pupils of minority religious faiths • Children in care		
Use of school premises by other organisation during school day	Abuse of pupils or staff	Child Safeguarding Statement & DES procedures made available to all staff Staff to view Tusla training module & any other online training offered by Oide Vetting Procedures
Use of Information and Communication Technology by pupils in school and including online teaching and remote learning when applicable.	Bullying	ICT policy Anti-Bullying Policy Code of Behaviour Acceptable Usage Policy Mobile Phone Agreement with parents (Smartphonefree Ballybrown)
Student teachers undertaking training placement in school	Abuse of pupils.	Insurance policy provided by College Vetting procedures
Use of video/photography/other media to record school events	Cyberbullying Pornography Digital alteration/circulating material online	Parental permission Data Protection policy Acceptable Usage policy
Volunteers/Parents	Harm to pupils	Vetting Procedures

		Adequate supervision
Administration of First Aid	Injury/Harm to pupils	Staff training in First Aid Health & Safety policy Administration of Medicine Policy
Administration of Medicine	Injury/Harm to pupils	Staff training in First Aid Health & Safety policy Administration of Medicine Policy

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 Board of Management on 8/10/25. It will be reviewed as part of the school’s annual review of its Child Safeguarding Statement.

Signed  Date 9/10/25
Chairperson, Board of Management

Signed  Date 9/10/25
Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management