

# Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment

**St. Aidan's National School, Clonroche** 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 2017](#) and [Tusla Guidance on the preparation of Child Safeguarding Statements](#), the Board of Management of **St. Aidan's National School, Clonroche** 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 2017 as part of this overall Child Safeguarding Statement

**2 The Designated Liaison Person (DLP) is Norma Doyle.**

**3 The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is Pamela Denton.**

4 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.

5 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 2017 and to the relevant agreed disciplinary procedures for school staff which are published on the DE 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 DE 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 2017, including in the case of registered teachers, those in relation to mandated reporting under the Children First Act 2015.
- In this school the Board has appointed the above named DLP as the “relevant person” (as defined in the Children First Act 2015) to be the first point of contact in respect of the school’s child safeguarding statement.
- 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 DE 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.

- 6 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.
- 7 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 13/03/2018

This Child Safeguarding Statement was reviewed by the Board of Management on 12/11/2021.

This Child Safeguarding Statement was reviewed by the Board of Management on 20/09/2022.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Chairperson of Board of Management

Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Date: 20/09/2022

Date: 20/09/2022

## Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment

### Written Assessment of Risk of St. Aidan's National School, Clonroche.

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 2017*, the following is the Written Risk Assessment of **St. Aidan's National School, Clonroche**.

#### 1. List of school activities

1. School Outings.
2. Use of toilet/changing areas in school.
3. Annual Sports Day.
4. Fundraising events involving pupils.
5. School transport arrangements including use of bus escorts.
6. Care of children with special educational needs, including intimate care.
7. Management of challenging behaviour amongst pupils, including the use of restraint where required.
8. Administration of medicine.
9. Administration of First Aid.
10. Curricular provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe.
11. Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst pupils in person or online.
12. Training of school personnel in child protection matters.
13. Use of external personnel to supplement curriculum, sports and other extra-curricular activities.
14. Care of pupils with specific vulnerabilities / needs such as members of the traveller community, pupils perceived to be LGBT, children in care.
15. Use of external personnel to support sports and other extra-curricular activities.
16. Students participating in work experience.
17. Student teachers undertaking training placement in school.
18. Online teaching and learning remotely.

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

1. Risk of child being harmed by a member of staff of another organisation or other person.
2. Risk of child being harmed in the school by another child.
3. Risk of child being harmed in the school by another child.
4. Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children.
5. Risk of harm due to bullying of a child.
6. Risk of harm by school personnel.
7. Risk of harm due to inadequate code of behaviour.
8. Risk of child being harmed in school by a member of school personnel.
9. Risk of child being harmed in school by a member of school personnel.
10. Stay Safe Programme not adequately differentiated for children with special educational needs.
11. Risk of harm due to bullying of child.
12. Risk of harm not being recognised or reported promptly.
13. Risk of child being harmed by volunteer/visitor.
14. Risk of harm due to bullying of child.
15. Risk of harm in coaching situation.

16. Risk of child being harmed in the school by work experience personnel.
17. Risk of harm not being recognised by school personnel.
18. Risk of harm due to inappropriate use of online remote teaching and learning platforms, such as an uninvited person accessing the lesson link and students being left unsupervised for long periods of time.

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

1. The school has in place a policy and clear procedures in respect of school outings.
2. The school has in place a yard supervision policy to ensure appropriate supervision of children in respect of toilets, changing rooms etc.
3. The school has in place a policy for the administration of first aid.
4. The school has in place a supervision policy.
5. The school has in place an anti-bullying policy.
6. The school has in place a policy on intimate care.
7. The school has in place a code of behaviour for pupils.
8. The school has in place a policy for the administration of medicine.
9. The school has in place a policy for the administration of first aid.
10. The school implements in full the SPHE, RSE and Stay Safe curriculum. The school utilises the Stay Safe SEN resources as recommended by the NCSE and the PDST.
11. The school implements in full the anti- bullying policy, the Internet Acceptable Use Policy (AUP). Guidance from Webwise is adhered to.
12. Child Safeguarding Statement and DES procedures made available to all staff. DLP and DPLP to attend PDST face to face training or relevant webinars. All staff to view Túsla training module and any other online training offered.
13. The school has in place a policy and procedures for the use of external persons to supplement same.
14. The school implements in full the anti- bullying policy.
15. The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation and relevant DE circulars in relation to recruitment and Garda vetting.
16. The school has in place a policy and procedures in respect of students on work experience.
17. The school has in place a policy and procedures in respect of students on teaching practice.
18. The school has an Acceptable Use Policy in place, to include provision for teaching and learning remotely, and has communicated this policy to the parents

**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 2017*

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.

**Reviewed: March 2022 by Jean Goff. Next review: March 2023**