

St. Patrick's NS, Harestown Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment

Child Safeguarding Statement

St Patrick's National School, Harestown 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. Patrick's National School 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 **Amanda Rowland (Principal)**
- 3 The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is **Anne Boland (Deputy Principal)**
- 4 The Relevant Person is **Amanda Rowland (Principal)**
(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. This person can also be the DLP)
- 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](https://www.gov.ie) 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 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 27th September 2023.

This Child Safeguarding Statement was reviewed by the Board of Management on 23rd Sept. 2025 [most recent review date].

Signed: Philip Lurij
Chairperson of Board of Management

Signed: Amanda Rowland
Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Date: 23/09/25.

Date: 23/09/25

Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment

Written Assessment of Risk of St. Patrick's National School, Harestown

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 NS, Harestown.

List of school activities	The school has identified the following risk of harm in respect of its activities –	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	• Risk of harm not being recognised by school personnel • Risk of harm not being reported properly and promptly by school personnel	The school - • Has provided each member of school 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 • Maintains records of all staff and board member training • The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation and relevant DE circulars in relation to recruitment and Garda vetting
Class Teaching	• Risk of harm not being recognised by school personnel • Risk of harm not being reported properly and promptly by school personnel • Risk of child being harmed in the school by member of school personnel • Risk of child being harmed in the school by another child • Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children in school	• All school personnel provided with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement • The Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools (revised 2023) are made available to all school personnel and school personnel required to adhere to same • All registered teaching staff are required to adhere to the Children First Act 2015 and its Addendum (2019) • Staff are encouraged to avail of all training • Vision panels on all classroom entrances
Care of children with special needs	• Risk of harm in one-to-one teaching, counselling, coaching situation	• All school personnel provided with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement

One-to-one teaching/counselling/interviewing Movement breaks with SNAs	• Risk of harm not being recognised by school personnel • Risk of harm not being reported properly and promptly by school personnel • Risk of child being harmed in the school by member of school personnel • Risk of harm to children with SEN who have particular vulnerabilities, including medical vulnerabilities	• The Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools (revised 2023) are made available to all school personnel • The school has a Special Educational Needs policy • Special Education classes centrally located with viewing windows • Teachers and SNAs working with pupils in Autism classes attend relevant training
Toileting Issues Toileting accidents	• Risk of child being harmed in the school by member of school personnel • Risk of harm to child while a child is receiving intimate care • Risk of harm to children with SEN who have particular vulnerabilities, including medical vulnerabilities	• The school has an intimate care policy/plan in respect of students who require such care. • Individual toileting policy agreed with parents where ongoing issues have been identified
Toilet Areas	• Risk of child being harmed in the school by member of school personnel • Risk of child being harmed in the school by another child • Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children in school • Risk of harm to children with SEN who have particular vulnerabilities, including medical vulnerabilities	• Code of Behaviour in place • The school has a supervision policy to ensure appropriate supervision of children during, assembly, dismissal and breaks and in respect of specific areas such as toilets, changing rooms etc. • The school has an intimate care policy/plan in respect of students who require such care.
Curriculum provision in respect of Stay Safe and RSE	• Risk of harm due to non-teaching of material	• The school implements in full the Stay Safe Programme and SPHE curriculum as per whole school plan • Cúntas Míósúil to be completed by teachers at the end of every month, verifying that curriculum has been taught
After-school activities	• Risk of child being harmed by a member of school personnel • Risk of child being harmed in the school by another child	• Garda Vetting by school for adults involved • Garda Vetting obtained from affiliated organisation if applicable • No individual sessions

	• Risk of child being harmed by volunteer or visitor to the school	• Staff/BOM member present in school • Supervised dismissal to parent/guardian
Morning Assembly	• Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children in school	• Code of Behaviour in place • Full supervision of school yard from 8.40am • Pupils in Autism Classes are escorted on their buses and supervised on arrival of their buses to school
Evening Dismissal	• Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children in school	• Infants handed over to parent or known adult • Pupils in Autism Classes are escorted on their buses • Parents let school know if change to routine • Children supervised as they exit school • Children remain on school grounds if no adult present • Teachers alerted if pupil is not to be released to a particular adult
Early Collection	• Risk of child being harmed in the school by a member of school personnel • Risk of child being harmed in the school by another child • Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children in school	• Parent/guardian to report to office for child to be collected • Child has to be signed out before leaving • Parent to contact school to notify in advance • Parent to be contacted if unannounced person arrives to collect a child
Managing Challenging Behaviour	• Risk of harm due to inadequate code of behaviour • Risk of harm due to bullying of child • Risk of child being harmed in the school by another child	• Code of Behaviour in place • The school has a Health and Safety policy in place • Individual Behaviour Plans formulated where necessary • The school has a 'Bí Cineálta' policy for preventing and addressing bullying behaviour which fully adheres to the requirements of the Department's 'Bí Cineálta' Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools
School Breaks	• Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children in school • Risk of harm due to inadequate code of behaviour • Risk of harm due to bullying of child	• 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, changing rooms etc. • Code of Behaviour in place • 'Bí Cineálta' policy in place

Participation of pupils in and preparation for Religious ceremonies	• Risk of child being harmed by a member of school personnel, a member of staff of another organisation or other person while child participating in out of school activities	• The school has in place a policy and clear procedures in respect of school outings • Accompanied by at least two staff members or vetted adults
School Outings and Field Trips	• Risk of child being harmed by a member of school personnel, a member of staff of another organisation or other person while child participating in out of school activities	• The school has in place a policy and clear procedures in respect of school outings • Accompanied by at least two staff members or vetted adults
Administration of Medicine Administration of First Aid Dealing with physical trauma	• Risk of child being harmed in the school by a member of school personnel.	• The school has in place a policy and procedures for the administration of medication to pupils • The school has a procedure in place for notifying staff of pupils with allergies and stores the necessary medical equipment onsite in a safe manner. • Staff to receive training/demonstration in the use of medical equipment e.g. Epipen/Anapen • The school has in place a policy and procedures for the administration of First Aid • First Aid refresher training provided for all staff in 2023/24 academic year
Prevention and dealing with bullying issues	• Risk of harm due to inadequate code of behaviour • Risk of harm due to bullying of child • Risk of harm due to non-teaching of material • Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children in school	• 'Bí Cineálta' policy in place • Stay Safe Programme implemented as per whole school plan • Supervision policy in place • Positive school atmosphere promoted
Use of external personnel: • To supplement curriculum • To coach sport and extra-curricular activities	• Risk of child being harmed by a member of staff of another organisation or other person while child participating in school and out of school activities.	• The school has in place procedures for the use of external sports coaches • Confirmation of vetting from umbrella organisation • Teacher remains present at all times • No unsupervised access to pupils
Recruitment of school personnel: • Teachers • SNAs	• Risk of harm not being recognised by school personnel • Risk of harm not being reported properly	• The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation and relevant DE circulars in relation to recruitment and Garda vetting

• Bus Escort • Secretary • Caretaker • Substitute teachers	• and promptly by school personnel • Risk of child being harmed in the school by member of school personnel	• References checked before offer of employment is made • School induction for new employees • Employing regular substitutes as far as is possible
Parent Volunteers Recruitment	• Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children in school • Risk of child being harmed by parent volunteer	• The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation and relevant DE circulars in relation to recruitment and Garda vetting • No unsupervised access to pupils • Teacher is present at all times
Use of Information and Communication Technology (ICT)	• Risk of harm due to bullying of child • Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children in school • Risk of harm due to children inappropriately accessing/using computers, social media, phones and other devices while at school	• Internet safety training bi-annually for 2nd to 6th Class and for parents and staff • The school has an Acceptable Use Policy in place and has communicated this policy to parents • Code of Behaviour in place • Supervised class access to internet • Internet filters in place • No pupil personal digital devices allowed in school
Work experience students	• Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children in school	• Students must be vetted by base school • No unsupervised access to pupils • Induction meeting with principal
Student Teachers	• Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children in school	• Students must be vetted by training college • No unsupervised access • School information card and induction meeting with principal
Use of video/cameras	• Risk of harm due to children inappropriately accessing/using computers, social media, phones and other devices while at school	• The school has an Acceptable Use Policy in place and has communicated this policy to parents • No uploading of personal photos or videos to social media • Permission sought and obtained for pupils to be in photos and/or videos • No pupils names published on website
Swimming	• Risk of child being harmed by a member of staff of another organisation or other person	• Child Protection Policy of swimming pool operator sought and obtained in advance

	while child participating in school and out of school activities	- Swimming policy in place - At least 2 teachers/vetted adults supervising
Transport to and from school events	Risk of child being harmed by a member of staff of another organisation or other person while child is being transported to and from school activities.	- The school has in place a policy and clear procedures in respect of school outings - All bus drivers to be vetted by the operator
Parents' Council events	- Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children in school - Risk of child being harmed by parent - volunteer	- No unsupervised access during school hours - Parents' Council members to be vetted through school
School concerts/invited events	- Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children in school - Risk of child being harmed by parent - volunteer	- All events supervised by school staff/Garda vetted parent volunteers - No unsupervised access
Online learning platforms	Risk of harm due to inappropriate use of online remote teaching and learning communication platform such as an uninvited person accessing the lesson link, students being left unsupervised for long periods of time in breakout rooms.	- The school has an Acceptable Use Policy in place, to include provision for online teaching and learning remotely, and has communicated this policy to parents - Meeting rooms used with agreed protocols in place - Meetings locked to prevent unknown persons from entering

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.