

Child Safeguarding Statement

St Colman'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 Colman's NS 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 Lisa Callanan
- 3 The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is Adrian Dullaghan
- 4 The Relevant Person is Lisa Callanan

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](#) 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](#) 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](#) 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 Tulsa 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 5.10.2028 [date].

This Child Safeguarding Statement was reviewed by the Board of Management on 09.10.24 [most recent review date].

Signed: [Signature]
Chairperson of Board of Management

Signed: [Signature]
Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Date: 09/10/2024

Date: 09.10.2024

Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment

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 Colman's National School

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	(insert risks of harm identified in this section) Harm not recognised or reported promptly	(insert the procedures in place to address risks of harm in this section) Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment created collaboratively and distributed to all staff. DES procedures made available to all staff. All staff reminded of the TUSLA E-Learning Course DLP and DDLP to attend training. Records of all staff training maintained.
One to One teaching	Harm by school personnel	Opportunity to work with the door open Glass panel in classroom doors Opportunity to work in the classroom to support a child/children in a Team Teaching format Where possible a table to be kept between teacher and child.
Care of children with special needs, including intimate care needs.	Harm by school personnel	Respect and Dignity in the Workplace

		Two staff members caring for a child where appropriate Asking the child for permission to help them/access their equipment.
Toilet areas in classrooms	Inappropriate behaviour	Supervision by Staff Establishing school rules and revisiting Code of Behaviour
Toileting during yard	Inappropriate behaviour	Emphasise toileting before yard Children report back to the teacher on the yard once they return from the toilet. Use of toilets at the Halla only
Curricular provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe	Non teaching of same	Full implementation of SPHE, RSE and Stay Safe. Reinforcement of same with parents through Homework
Care of pupils with specific vulnerabilities such as Pupils from ethnic minorities/migrants Members of the traveller Community LGBTQ children Pupils perceived to be LGBTQ Pupils of minority religious faiths Children in care	Bullying	Anti-bullying Policy Friendship Week Wellbeing week Check and Connect Code of Behaviour Stay Safe SPHE
Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils	Harm from older pupils Unknown adults at the school grounds Children travelling on the bus	Arrival and dismissal supervised by the Principal Parent/guardian collect the children at the school gate/off the bus. Orchard Staff collect the children on their list inside the school wall
Managing of challenging behaviour amongst pupils	Injury to self or others	Code of Behaviour Health and Safety statement
Sports coaches	Harm to pupils	Vetting Disclosure for external coaches If possible, request safeguarding certificate

		Class teacher supervising at all times Visitor sign in/out
Students participating in work experience	Harm by student	Child Safeguarding Statement Vetting Disclosure Class teacher supervising at all times
Classroom teaching	Harm to pupils Inappropriate behaviour	Code of professional conduct Code of behaviour Anti-bullying policy Safeguarding Statement Vetting Disclosure Statutory Declaration form Form of Undertaking Teacher in loco parentis Incidents are documented and retained by the class teacher
Online Teaching	Harm to pupils Exposure to inappropriate material	Code of Behaviour Code of Professional Conduct Child Safeguarding Statement Parent as a primary caregiver present Child to access material in a room that is not a bedroom or bathroom and audible to a parent/guardian.
Outdoor teaching activities	Harm to pupils Inappropriate behaviour Injury to pupils/staff Flight risk	Code of professional conduct Code of behaviour Anti-bullying policy Child safeguarding statement Vetting disclosure Statutory Declaration Form and Form of Undertaking Teacher in loco parentis Incidents are documented Gates are closed and children supervised at the rear of the school Children on the front yard are supervised and gates closed

Sporting Activities	<p>Harm to pupils Inappropriate behaviour Injury to pupils/staff Flight risk Exposure to adults</p>	<p>More than one staff member on the premises during games/training Matches during school time Transport via school bus</p>
School Outings	<p>Harm to pupils Inappropriate behaviour Injury to pupils/staff Flight risk Exposure to other adults</p>	<p>More than one staff member for outings Code of Behaviour Parental consent prior to outings Teacher has access to parent details on Aladdin No child to be left alone with an external adults</p>
Sports Day	<p>Harm to pupils Inappropriate behaviour Flight risk Exposure to other adults</p>	<p>Gates closed Code of Behaviour</p>
Fundraising events involving pupils	<p>Harm to pupils Inappropriate behaviour Injury to pupils/staff Flight risk Exposure to other adults</p>	<p>Code of Behaviour Teacher present at all times Incidents documented Visitors sign in/out</p>
Administration of medicine and First Aid	<p>Harm to pupils/staff Inappropriate behaviour</p>	<p>No adult to be alone when administering Serious incidents to be recorded in the Accident Book Parents/Guardians to be notified of serious incidents Administration of medicine policy Staff Training</p>
Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst pupils	<p>Bullying</p>	<p>Anti-bullying policy Code of Behaviour Friendship Week Educational awareness</p>

		<p>Grow in Love programme SPHE Buddy Benches</p>
Use of external personnel for co curricular initiatives	Harm to pupils	<p>Vetting disclosure If possible, request safeguarding certificate Class teacher supervising at all times Visitor sign in/out</p>
<p>Recruitment of school personnel including Teachers SNA's Caretaker/Secretary/Cleaner Sports Coaches External tutors/Guest Speakers Volunteers/Parents in school activities</p>	Harm not recognised or properly/promptly reported	<p>Child Safeguarding Statement DES Procedures made available to all staff Staff to complete TUSLA training module online regularly Vetting Disclosure Statutory Declaration Form Form of Undertaking Code of Professional Conduct</p>
Use of school premises by other organisations during the school day	N/A	N/A
Use of IT and Digital devices in school	<p>Bullying Exposure to inappropriate content Exposure to adults online</p>	<p>AUP Anti Bullying Policy Code of Behaviour Teacher Presence SPHE Media Education Parent and pupil workshop in Online Safety No access to device without permission Internet safety week Links with Community Garda PDST Firewall</p>
Student teachers undertaking placement in the school	Harm to pupils	<p>Vetting disclosure Staff supervision except during inspections</p>

Use of video/photography/other media to record school events	Distribution of materials/ identifying information to unknown persons	Staff personnel use school devices Aladdin is password protected No child is named individually Parental consent sought for sharing on the school website/Facebook/local media etc
After school use of premises by other organisations	Harm to pupils Exposure to other adults Inappropriate behaviour	Child Safeguarding statement Verifying disclosure Statutory Declaration and Form of Undertaking
Changing for matches/training	Inappropriate behaviour Harm to pupil	Use individual toilets one at a time
Swimming lessons	Harm to pupil Exposure to other adults Inappropriate behaviour	Children to use individual cubicles SNA to remain at the door of the cubicle and teacher to remain nearby at all times One staff member to escort children to the toilet when required, the other remains on deck
Bus Journeys	Harm to pupil Exposure to other adult Inappropriate behaviour	Staff supervision No child left alone Code of Behaviour Every child remains seated and belted while bus is moving
Church Visits	Harm to pupils Exposure to adults Inappropriate behaviour	Staff Supervision at all times No child left alone and accompanied to the toilet Code of Behaviour

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.

Examples of activities, risks and procedures

The examples listed in this document are provided to assist schools in undertaking their risk assessment under the Children First Act, 2015. Schools should note that this list of examples is not intended to be exhaustive. It is the responsibility of each school to ensure, as far as possible, that any other risks and procedures that are relevant to its own particular circumstances are identified and specified in the written risk assessment and that adequate procedures are in place to address all risks identified.

It is acknowledged that schools already have in place a range of policies, practices and procedures to mitigate the risk of harm to children while they are participating in the activities of the school and that some school activities will carry low or minimal risks of harm compared to others. In the context of the risk assessment that must be undertaken by schools, the Children First Act, 2015 refers to risk as “any potential for harm”. Therefore, it is important that, as part of its risk assessment process, each school lists and reviews all of its various activities (which shall include identifying those that may carry low risk of harm as well as those that carry higher risks of harm). Doing so will help the school to (1) identify, as required under the Children First Act, 2015, any risks of harm that may exist in respect of the school’s activities, (2) identify and assess the adequacy of the various procedures already in place to manage those risks of harm and (3) identify and put in place any such additional procedures as are considered necessary to manage any risk identified.

The Addendum to Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children published in January 2019 clarifies that organisations providing relevant services to children should consider the specific issue of online safety when carrying out their risk assessment and preparing their Child Safeguarding Statement.

The Guidance on Continuity of Schooling for primary and post-primary schools (April 2020) advises of the importance of teachers maintaining the safe and ethical use of the internet during distance learning and assisting parents and guardians to be aware of their role also. Schools should ensure that their Acceptable Use Policy (AUP) informs and guides remote or distance learning activity.

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)*.