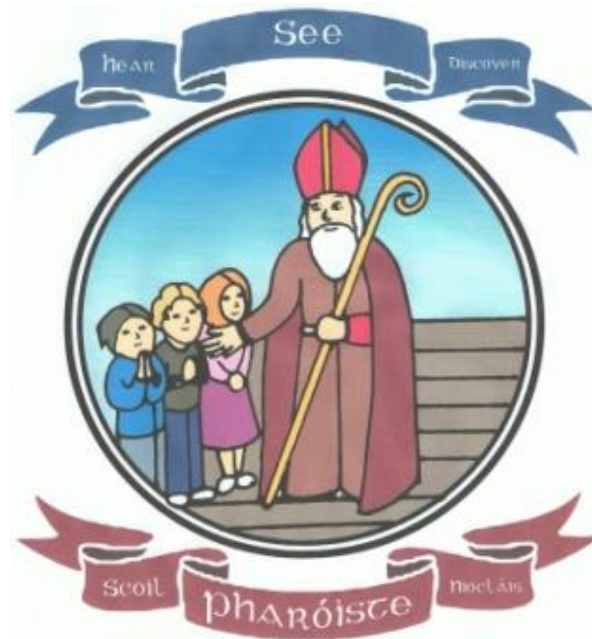




St. Nicholas' Parochial School

Child Safeguarding Statement

October 2023

Child Safeguarding Statement

St. Nicholas' Parochial School 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. Nicholas' Parochial 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 Wendy Lynch
- 3 The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is Carol McLoughlin
- 4 The Relevant Person is Wendy Lynch
- 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 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 (Revised 2023), 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.

- 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 14th September, 2021.

This Child Safeguarding Statement was reviewed by the Board of Management on 12th September, 2023.

Signed: 

Chairperson of Board of Management

Date: 24/10/2023

Signed:

Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Date: 24/10/2023

Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment

Written Assessment of Risk of St. Nicholas' Parochial School

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. Nicholas' Parochial School.

1. List of school activities

- Training of school personnel in Child Protection matters
- Curricular Provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay safe
- Care of children with special educational needs
- One to one teaching
- Classroom teaching
- Attending to toileting and intimate care needs
- Use of communal toilet areas
- Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils
- Management of challenging behaviour amongst pupils, including appropriate use of restraint where required
- Cover provided by substitute teachers/SNAs
- Students participating in work experience
- Student teachers/SNAs undertaking a training placement in school
- Recreation breaks for pupils
- Outdoor teaching activities
- School Outings/Sporting Activities
- Annual Sports Day
- Administration of First Aid
- Administration of medicine
- Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst pupils
- Recruitment of school personnel, including-
 - Teachers/SNA's
 - Caretaker/secretary/Cleaners
 - External coaches
 - External Tutors/Guest Speakers
- Use of off-site facilities for school activities
- Use of volunteers/parents to help with supervision during school trips and/or delivery of the curriculum
- Visitors/contractors present during after school hours
- 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
 - Pupils of minority religious faiths
 - Children in care
 - Children on Tusla's Child Protection Notification System (CPNS)
 - Children with medical needs
- Use of Information and Communication Technology by pupils in school, including social media

(including use of mobile phones)

- Use of video/photography/other media to record school events
- Participation by pupils in religious ceremonies
- Transport of pupils by car
- Application of sanctions under the school's Code of Behaviour (detention of pupils, confiscation of phones, etc.)
- Fundraising events involving pupils:
 - GOAL jersey day
 - Pancake Tuesday
 - Charity sale of work

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

- Risk of harm not being recognised by school personnel
- Risk of harm not being reported properly and promptly by school personnel
- Risk of harm in one-to-one teaching, coaching situation
- Risk of child being harmed by a member of school personnel
- Risk of child being harmed by volunteer or visitor to the school
- Risk of child being harmed while in receipt of intimate care
- Risk of harm to children with SEN who have particular vulnerabilities
- Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children in school
- Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children while attending out of school activities
- Risk of harm by a member of staff of another organisation or other person while participating in out of school activities
- Risk of harm due to non-teaching of the SPHE, RSE & Stay safe programmes
- Risk of child being harmed by another pupil
- Risk of harm by unknown adults on the playground
- Risk of harm to students by substitute SNA/teacher
- Risk of harm to students by student on work experience
- Risk of harm to students by student teachers
- Risk of harm to students by trainee SNAs
- Risk of harm due to bullying
- Risk of harm due to cyber bullying
- Risk of harm due to racism
- Risk of harm by unknown adults
- Risk of harm by parents/guardians involved in school activities
- Risk of staff not following policies & procedures
- Risk of pupils taking and sharing photos of others
- Risk of harm caused by a child communicating with other children in an inappropriate manner via social media, texting, digital device or other manner
- Risk of harm caused by a pupil accessing/circulating inappropriate material via social media, texting, digital device
- Risk of harm due to children inappropriately accessing/using computers, social media, phones and other devices while at school
- Risk of harm caused by member of school personnel communicating with pupils in an inappropriate manner via social media, texting, digital device or other manner
- Risk of harm caused by member of school personnel accessing/circulating inappropriate material via social media, texting, digital device
- Risk of harm due to inappropriate relationship/communications between child and another child or adult
- Risk of harm due to inappropriate use of recorded material

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

- Child Safeguarding Statement & DES procedures made available to all staff
- School Personnel are required to adhere to the *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools (revised 2023)* and all registered teaching staff are required to adhere to the *Children First Act 2015* and its Addendum (2019)
- DLP has attended PDST face to face training
- DDLP has attended face to face training
- All Staff have viewed the Túsla training module & any other online training offered by PDST
- School maintains records of all staff and board training
- The school has a Health & Safety Policy
- The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation and relevant DE circulars in relation to recruitment and Garda vetting
- There is adequate supervision in classrooms
- The school has a policy on toileting and intimate care in place
- The school has a supervision policy to cover communal toilet areas in place
- The school implements in full the SPHE curriculum
- The school implements in full the RSE & Stay Safe Programmes
- The school has an Anti-Bullying Policy which fully adheres to the requirements of the Department's *Anti-Bullying Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools*
- Parents have been reminded that our school Anti-Bullying and SPHE Policies are available on our school website.
- There are clear procedures in place regarding arrival and dismissal of pupils
- There is a Health and Safety Policy in place
- The school has a Special Educational Needs policy
- The school has a policy and procedures in place for the administration of medication to pupils
- A number of staff have completed in-depth training in Restorative Practice
- The school has a Code of Behaviour in place and available online
- There are procedures in place in respect of students undertaking work experience
- The school's Child Safeguarding Statement is made available to student teachers
- There is a Visitors' Policy in place which includes procedures in place for student teachers/ SNAs undertaking a training placement in the school, external sports coaches & persons to supplement delivery of the curriculum
- There is a Supervision Policy in place to ensure appropriate supervision of children during assembly, dismissal and breaks and in respect of specific areas such as toilets, corridors, etc.
- The school undertakes anti-racism awareness initiatives, e.g., '*Show Racism the Red Card*', when available
- There is a Supervision Policy in place which covers supervision in respect of school outings (including bus journeys), field trips and sporting activities
- There are clear procedures in place regarding our Annual Sports Day
- Doors are kept open while administering first aid
- The school has an ICT Acceptable Use Policy in place and has communicated this policy to parents
- Parents of children preparing for Confirmation and Communion in lessons external to the school deal directly with the relevant church and arrange transport for their own children to and from lessons, masses, practices, etc.
- Public transport will be used when possible
- Mini buses/coaches will be hired to transport students to events such as Santry Sports when feasible
- Alternative arrangements will be made when inclement weather prevents children from walking to All Saints Church for various services
- There is glass in all classroom doors

- When teaching one-one, doors are kept open
- A blanket permission slip is signed by all parents of children in Junior Infants which includes parental consent on the use of children's images on the school website
- There are clear procedures in place regarding parents photographing/recording school events
- There are clear procedures in place regarding storage of videos/photographs of children
- The school has a Critical Incident Management Plan in place

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 was reviewed by the Board of Management on 24/10/2023. It shall be reviewed as part of the school's annual review of its Child Safeguarding Statement.