



St. Patrick's N.S., Dalkey

## Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment

### Child Safeguarding Statement

St. Patrick's National School, Dalkey 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. 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 2017 as part of this overall Child Safeguarding Statement.
- 2 The Designated Liaison Person (DLP) is: **Mrs Jennie Kirwan, Principal.**
- 3 The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is: **Ms. Jenny Newton, Deputy Principal.**
- 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. The school will adhere to the following principles of best practice in child protection and welfare.

The school will:

- a. recognise that the protection and welfare of children is of paramount importance, regardless of all other considerations
- b. fully comply with its statutory obligations under the Children First Act 2015 and other relevant legislation relating to the protection and welfare of children
- c. fully co-operate with the relevant statutory authorities in relation to child protection and welfare matters
- d. 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
- e. develop a practice of openness with parents and encourage parental involvement in the education of their children; and
- f. 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.

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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, Mrs Jennie Kirwan, 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.

6 All registered teachers employed by the school are mandated persons under the Children First Act 2015.

7 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.

8 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.



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- 9 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.
- 10 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 **March 23<sup>rd</sup> 2021**.

This Child Safeguarding Statement was reviewed by the Board of Management on **February 1<sup>st</sup> 2022**.

Signed: *Bonnie Hayes*  
Chairperson of Board of Management  
Date: 1/2/22

Signed: *Junie Kincaid*  
Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management  
Date: 1/2/22

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## Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment

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

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

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-
<b>Training of school personnel in Child Protection matters</b>	Harm not recognised or reported promptly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Child Safeguarding Statement &amp; DE procedures made available to all staff</li> <li>- DLP&amp; DDLP to attend PDST face to face training</li> <li>- All Staff to view TUSLA training module &amp; any other online training offered by PDST</li> <li>- BOM records all records of staff and board training</li> </ul>
<b>One to one teaching Classroom teaching</b>	Harm by school personnel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- School has policy in place for one-to-one teaching</li> <li>- Open doors</li> <li>- Glass in window</li> </ul>
<b>Outdoor teacher activities Fire drill</b>	Harm by school personnel Flight risk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Health and Safety Policy</li> <li>- Out of bounds areas identified</li> <li>- Gates closed while outdoors</li> <li>- Whistle system</li> </ul>
<b>Recruitment of school personnel including - Teachers SNA's Caretaker/Secretary/Cleaners Sports coaches External Tutors/Guest Speakers Volunteers/Parents in school activities Visitors/contractors present in school during school hours Visitors/contractors present in school during after school hours</b>	Harm not recognised or properly or promptly reported	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Child Safeguarding Statement &amp; DE procedures made available to all staff</li> <li>- Staff to view TUSLA training module &amp; any other online training offered by PDST</li> <li>- Vetting Procedures</li> </ul>

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<b>Use of external personnel to supplement curriculum</b>	Harm to pupils by external personnel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Vetting Procedures</li> <li>- Two adults present at all times to include one staff member</li> <li>- Anti-Bullying Policy</li> <li>- Code of Behaviour</li> </ul>
<b>Use of external personnel to support sports and other extra-curricular activities</b>	Harm to pupils by external personnel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Vetting Procedures</li> <li>- Two adults present at all times</li> </ul>
<b>Care of Children with special needs, including intimate care needs – toileting, changing</b>	Harm by school personnel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Intimate Care Policy</li> <li>- Vetting Procedures</li> </ul>
<b>Administration of Medicine Administration of First Aid</b>	Harm to pupils	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- First Aid Seminar training for all staff.</li> <li>- Administration of Medicines Policy</li> <li>- Individual Healthcare plan with photo on display in staffroom</li> </ul>
<b>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 Child on CPNS Children with medical needs</b>	Harm to pupils Bullying Harm by school personnel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Anti-Bullying Policy</li> <li>- Code of Behaviour</li> </ul>
<b>Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils</b>	Harm from older pupils Harm by others	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Arrival and dismissal supervised by staff member</li> <li>- Gates closed during yard time.</li> <li>- Communication that school open for supervision from 8:20-2:00 to parents/guardians, no supervision for early drop off/ late collection</li> </ul>
<b>Recreation breaks for pupils</b>	Harm to pupils	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Breaks supervised by teachers and/or SNA</li> <li>- Gates locked at break times</li> </ul>

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<b>Application of sanctions under the school's Code of Behaviour</b>	Harm by school personnel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Code of Behaviour</li> <li>- Mobile Phone Guidelines</li> </ul>
<b>Managing of challenging behaviour amongst pupils</b>	Injury to pupils and/or staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Code of Behaviour</li> </ul>
<b>Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst pupils</b>	Bullying Harm/Injury to pupils	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Anti-Bullying Policy</li> <li>- Code of Behaviour</li> </ul>
<b>Use of video/photography/other media to record school events</b>	Harm to pupils Harm by school personnel Inappropriate use of digital data	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Written consent forms obtained from Parents/ Guardians</li> <li>- Data Protection Policy</li> </ul>
<b>Use of Information and Communication Technology by pupils in school</b>	Cyber-aggression Cyber-bullying Exposure to inappropriate content	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Internet Safety- use of Web Wise resources recommended</li> <li>- Data Protection Policy</li> <li>- Acceptable Use Policy</li> <li>- Anti-Bullying Policy</li> <li>- Code of Behaviour</li> <li>- PDST Technology in Education: Content Filtering System: Level 4</li> </ul>
<b>Use of Information and Communication Technology by pupils at home</b>	Harm to pupils Exposure to inappropriate content Cyber-bullying Cyber-aggression Inappropriate contact by other users	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Internet Safety- use of Web Wise resources recommended</li> <li>- Data Protection Policy</li> <li>- Acceptable Use Policy</li> <li>- Anti-Bullying Policy</li> <li>- Code of Behaviour</li> <li>- Parental/ Guardian consent obtained</li> <li>- Parental/ Guardian supervision</li> </ul>
<b>Curricular provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe</b>	Harm to pupil Exposure to inappropriate content Cyber-bullying Cyber-aggression Inappropriate contact by other users	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- RSE Policy</li> <li>- SPHE School Plan</li> <li>- Anti-Bullying Policy</li> <li>- Code of Behaviour</li> <li>- Parental/Guardian liaison &amp; reinforcement</li> <li>- Anti-Bullying Oversight by BOM</li> </ul>

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- RSE/Stay Safe Teacher Training</li> </ul>
<b>Training of school personnel in child protection matters</b>	Harm to pupil Harm to school personnel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- All staff Child Protection Training</li> <li>- DLP/DDLP Training</li> <li>- BOM Children First Training</li> <li>- Child Safeguarding Statement &amp; Risk Assessment</li> </ul>
<b>Student teachers undertaking training placement in school. Students participating in work experience in the school.</b>	Harm by student teacher Harm by student Harm to pupil	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Child Safeguarding Statement</li> <li>- Vetting Procedures</li> <li>- Supervision of student by Class Teacher</li> </ul>
<b>Sporting Activities Annual Sports Day</b>	Harm to pupils Injury to pupils Harm by others	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Policy &amp; Procedures in place</li> <li>- First Aid Box</li> <li>- First Aid Training</li> <li>- Supervised by Teachers, SNA and other adults</li> </ul>
<b>Fundraising events involving pupils</b>	Injury to pupils Flight risk Harm by others	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Fundraising events supervised by teachers</li> </ul>
<b>Use of off-site facilities for school activities</b>	Harm to pupils Flight risk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Teachers and extra personnel will be present to supervise</li> </ul>
<b>School transport arrangements including use of bus escorts</b>	Harm to pupils Harm by bus driver	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Teachers will be present</li> </ul>
<b>Use of school premises by other organisations</b>	Harm to pupils Harm to school personnel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Child Safeguarding Statement</li> </ul>
<b>Covid-19 School Access for Staff</b>	Harm to staff Risk of exposure to Covid-19 Risk of spread of Covid-19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Public health guidance</li> <li>- National return to work safely protocol</li> <li>- Departmental guidelines</li> <li>- Return to work protocol sheet</li> <li>- Declaration form</li> <li>- Adequate social distancing is in place</li> <li>- Adequate sanitation is in place</li> <li>- Appropriate education to staff on symptoms</li> </ul>

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<p><b>Covid-19 Return to School</b></p>	<p>Harm to staff  Harm to pupils  Harm to parents/ guardians  Harm to visitors  Risk of spread of Covid-19  Risk of exposure to Covid-19</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Public health guidance</li> <li>- Departmental guidelines</li> <li>- Adequate social distancing is in place</li> <li>- Adequate sanitation is in place</li> <li>- Appropriate education to staff, parents/guardians and pupils</li> <li>- Clear policy in place for parents/guardians to inform school</li> <li>- Clear process on tracking/ room access</li> <li>- Focus on positive well-being</li> </ul>
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**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.