



FOUNDED 1827

St. Andrew's NS

Child Safeguarding Statement

St. Andrew'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 2017](#) and [Tusla Guidance on the preparation of Child Safeguarding Statements](#), the Board of Management of St. Andrew's NS 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 Padraic Byrne

3 The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is Tanya Sewell

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 abovenamed DLP as the “relevant person” (as defined in the Children First Act 2015) to be the first point of contact in respect of the schools 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 20.03.2021

This Child Safeguarding Statement was reviewed by the Board of Management on 22.03.22

Signed: Sean Hourihane

Signed: Padraic Byrne

Chairperson of Board of Management
Management Date: 22.03.22

Principal/Secretary to the Board of
Date: 22.03.22

Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment

Written Assessment of Risk of St. Andrew's NS

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 [name of school].

1. List of school activities

1. Daily Arrival and Dismissal of Pupils
2. One to one teaching of children with behavioural issues
3. Movement of classes in the corridor
4. Outdoor activities – flight risk pupils
5. Sporting activities
6. School outings
7. Swimming
8. Walking to the church
9. School Trips with overnight stays
10. Annual Sports Days
11. Fundraising events involving pupils
12. Use of offsite facilities for school activities
13. After school activities

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

1. Without extra teacher we will need to think about how the children coming off the bus will be met. Also extra person needed to meet children with special needs and bring them to the class line up area or into the unit.
2. Risk of harm in one-to-one teaching etc. If a child has behavioural, anger management issues there is definitely a safety risk to teachers who need to teach in resource or learning support.
3. At times the corridors are very busy and children are often moving too fast and the junior classes of the school are met by the senior children going out the back door, there is a risk of children being knocked down/hurt by accident.
4. Child could easily decide to run away from class in open areas
5. Outings: Checking children on and off the buses, head counts on a regular basis, strict rules on walking with partners, no running as they walk along paths etc
6. Staff need training to ensure that they can recognise harm.
7. Risk of harm not being recognised by school personnel
8. Risk of harm not being reported properly and promptly by school personnel
9. Risk of child being harmed in the school by a member of school personnel
10. Risk of child being harmed in the school by volunteer or visitor to the school
11. Risk of child being harmed in the school by another child
12. Risk of child being harmed by a member of school personnel, a member of staff of another organisation or other person while child is participating in an out of school

- activities e.g. school trip, swimming lessons
13. Risk of harm due to bullying
 14. Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children in school
 15. Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children in school while attending out of school activities
 16. Risk of harm due to inappropriate relationship/communications between child and another child or adult.
 17. Risk of harm due to children inappropriately accessing/using computers, social media, phones and other devices while at school.
 18. Risk of harm caused by member of school personnel communicating with pupils in appropriate manner via social media, texting, digital devices.
 19. Risk of harm to child while receiving intimate care
 20. Risk of harm due to inadequate code of behaviour
 21. Risk due to administering medicine
 22. Risk of harm in respect of Covid 19
 23. Risk of harm in respect of remote learning

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

1. Staff may be used for morning duty or potential for all staff to use Croke park hours to supervise bus duties to 8:25 – partner teacher would bring both classes into school.
2. Policy for learning support teaching to be reviewed and procedures for one to one teaching added. Reviewed by start of September 2019.
3. 6th class students could act as Hall monitors to ensure that children are not running in the corridor and are walking on the left hand side of the corridor and that the older pupils give way to the younger pupils. Classes designated different entry/exit doors in mornings and afternoons to relieve congestion. Classes leaving assembly return to classrooms by different stairs/corridors.
4. Flight risk children need to be monitored before going out and closely monitored while taking part in outdoor activities looking for triggers or mood changes etc.
5. Policy needs to be in place for school personnel to follow for school trips/overnight stays that includes procedures for dealing with counting, monitoring children, children walking in pairs, consent forms, accidents, behaviour of pupils etc. St Andrews blue caps are purchased for Junior Infants and blue caps/high vis jackets are worn on outings. High vis jackets are worn (dependent on location) Junior Infants to 1st Class.
6. All staff have completed training in Child First – new staff/substitute teachers/teachers in training need to clearly know who the DLP and DDLP are in the school and what our procedures are.
7. All school personnel, visitors, volunteers and instructors in the school need to have garda vetting. Ensure all visiting personnel wear lanyards to show identification.
8. Children will be supervised at all times and review supervision policy by end of May.
9. All organisations where the children go on visits should be checked that their staff have garda vetting.
10. Anti-bullying Policy and Behaviour policy needs to be regularly updated and followed closely.
11. Policy for supervision of pupils both in school and on outdoor activities needs to be followed closely by all staff. School personnel will supervise children at all times, never leaving a class on their own. Children sent on messages should never be sent on their own. Teacher will lead their class when transitioning. At times of Fire Drill - each teacher should bring their laminated roll to ensure safety.
12. Monitoring of children's activities while using class computers: restriction of internet access to sites from Professional Development Service for Teachers (PDST) is being used throughout the school. Mobile Phone Policy needs to be reviewed and updated and must to be adhered to by the pupils – (consent letter from parents, giving phones to class

teacher at the beginning of the day – to ensure children do not have access to the internet on their phones, taking photos, uploading photos to social media, use on school tours etc.)

13. Acceptable Use policy for the Internet needs to be reviewed and updated to include a Policy of no communication through social media, texting or other manner by school personnel with pupils.
14. Where possible an additional member of staff will be called to help when a child is in need of more intimate care/toileting/changing etc.
15. Policy in place for administering with medicine/storage of medicines etc. Training for all personnel in First Aid. Display of relevant policies in appropriate areas. e.g. Administration of Medicines in medicine cabinet. Staff are made aware of First Aid Policy and it is available with First Aid Folder for reference.
16. The school has in place a CCTV system and a CCTV policy.
17. The school ensures that visitors sign the visitor's book at the front office where our child safeguarding statement is displayed.
18. The school has in place a Covid 19 response plan that all staff and pupils must adhere to
19. The school has in place a Remote learning policy that all staff and pupils must adhere to

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.

