St. Joseph's Fermoy

# CSS1

# Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment

## Aligned with the LAOS Domains

Principal:
**Geraldine Burke**

Ratified by BoM:
**25th November 2026**

CSS1

Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment

| | | |
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| **For:** | **St. Joseph's National School (Scoil Iósaif Naofa), Roll No. 18377A** | |
| **At:** | **Barrack Hill, Fermoy, Co. Cork, P61 YR82** | |

**This school is a: (tick appropriate)** ☒primary ☐post-primary ☐ special school

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) and 2025, Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025 and Child Safeguarding: A Guide for Policy, Procedure and Practice, 2nd ed. (Tusla, 2024), the board of management has adopted the Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment set out in this document.
The board of management has adopted and will implement fully and without modification the department's Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025 as part of this overall Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment.

**Name of the Designated Liaison Person (DLP):**

**Geraldine Burke (Principal)**

**Name of the Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP/DDLP):**

**Gary Flynn (Deputy Principal)**

*In the absence of the DLP, the Deputy DLP shall assume responsibilities of the DLP*

**Name of Relevant Person**

**Geraldine Burke (Principal)**

*(In schools this person is the DLP)*

**Relevant Person can be contacted on:**

| | |
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| 025 32284 | principal@stjosephsfermoy.com |

*Under the Children First Act 2015 Relevant Person means a person who is appointed by a provider of a relevant service to be the first point of contact in respect of the Child Safeguarding Statement. This person is nominated by the board of management to manage and provide oversight of child protection concerns/allegations of child abuse.*

**Name of Chairperson of the board of management, or in an ETB school the Chief Executive or their delegate:**

**Kieran McCarthy**

*In the event that both DLP and DDLP are absent and unavailable, and where there is no staff member formally acting in their role, the chairperson of the board of management, or in an ETB school the chief executive or their delegate, assumes the role of DLP.*

The board of management recognises that child protection and safeguarding permeate all aspects of school life and must be reflected in all of the school's policies, procedures, practices and activities. In all of these, 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 happening to children and protect members of school personnel from the necessity to take unnecessary risks that may leave themselves open to accusations of child abuse.

☒ Develop a practice of openness with parents and encourage parental involvement in the education of their children.

☒ Fully respect confidentiality requirements as set out in the Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025 in dealing with child protection matters.

☒ Adhere to the above principles in relation to any vulnerable adult.

**Procedures and Measures in Place**

Our Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment has been developed in line with requirements under the Children First Act 2015, the *Children First: National Guidance 2017*, and *Child Safeguarding: A Guide for Policy, Procedure and Practice, 2nd ed. (Tusla, 2024),* and the *Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025.*

In addition to the procedures listed in our risk assessment, the following procedures support our intention to safeguard children while they are availing of our service:

**> Procedure for the Management of Allegations of Abuse or Misconduct against School Personnel Relating to a Child Availing of Our Service**

- Where any member of school personnel is the subject of any investigation in respect of any act, omission or circumstance in relation to a child attending the school, the school is required to adhere to the relevant procedures set out in Chapter 7 of *the Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025* and to the relevant agreed disciplinary procedures for school staff which are published on the gov.ie website.

**> Procedure for the Safe Recruitment and Selection of School Personnel to Work With Children**

- The school is required to adhere to the requirements of the Vetting Act. The selection or recruitment of staff and their suitability to work with children, requires the school to adhere 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 Youth and available on the gov.ie website and as outlined in Chapter 10 of the procedures.

- A written protocol is in place authorising immediate action for cases which require an employee to be immediately absented from school for child safeguarding reasons.

**> Procedure for Provision of and Access to Child Safeguarding Training and Information, Including the Identification of the Occurrence of Harm**

- The school provides information and training to members of school personnel in relation to the identification of the occurrence of harm (as defined in the 2015 Act) as follows:
- The school has provided each member of school personnel, including any new members of school personnel, (employees and volunteers, board of management members, student teachers and those on work experience) with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment.
- The school ensures that members of school personnel have availed of relevant training and completed child protection training.
- The school encourages board of management members to avail of any relevant training and complete child protection training.
- The board of management ensures that records of all staff and board member child protection training are maintained.

**> Procedure for the Reporting of Child Protection or Welfare Concerns to Tusla**

- All members of school personnel are required to adhere to the procedures set out in the *Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025*, in relation to reporting of child protection concerns to Tusla. Mandated reporting applies to all registered teachers and any other mandated person who may be employed by the school, for example a chaplain or nurse. A full list of those people who are mandated persons is set out in Appendix 1 procedures.

**> Procedure for Maintaining a List of the Persons (if any) in the Relevant Service Who Are Mandated Persons**

- There is a procedure in place to maintain a list of mandated persons. Schools may on occasion employ additional staff who are mandated by virtue of their profession. This list will include all registered teachers and identify additional employees that are not registered teachers.

**> Procedure for Appointing a Relevant Person (In schools this person is the DLP)**

- There is a procedure in place for appointing a relevant person.

**> Other Procedures and Measures Relevant to St. Joseph's National School**

- Individual intimate care plans are agreed in writing with parents for pupils who require intimate care, including pupils in the school's two special classes.
- A Bus Escort Policy is in place; bus escorts are Garda vetted and are provided with this Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment.

- The school follows the Department's guidance Understanding Behaviours of Concern and Responding to Crisis Situations, supported by individual behaviour support plans where required.
- The school's BíCineálta Policy (Circular 55/2024), Code of Behaviour, Acceptable Use Policy, iPad Acceptable Use Policy and Staff Code of Professional Conduct and Communication Procedures support the measures in this statement.
- All visitors sign the visitor log and are accompanied by staff while pupils are present.

The various procedures referred to in this Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment can be accessed via the school's website, the gov.ie website or will be made available on request by the school.
In accordance with the Children First Act 2015, the Addendum to Children First 2019 and 2025, and the *Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025,* the board of management 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.

**Note: The procedures and measures in place outlined above, are not intended as exhaustive list. Individual boards of management shall also include in this section such other procedures and measures that are of relevance to the school.**

This statement has been published on the school's website or will be made available on request by the school. It has been provided to all members of school personnel, the parents' association (if any), the patron and parents. A copy of this statement and risk assessment will be made available to Tusla and the department if requested.
This Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment will be reviewed annually or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which this statement refers.

## Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment

| | List of School Activities | Risks Identified Against Each School Activity | Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils (staggered dismissal: 13:30 infants, 14:30 all other classes) | • Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children in school<br>• Risk of child being collected by an unauthorised adult<br>• Risk of child being harmed by a visitor or unknown adult at the school gate<br>• Risk of harm not being reported properly and promptly by school personnel<br>• Risk of child being harmed in the school by another child. | • Arrival and Dismissal of Pupils procedures in place<br>• Supervision rota covers morning arrival from 08:50 and both dismissal times<br>• Pupils released only to parents/guardians or adults nominated in writing; emergency contacts kept on file<br>• Agreed procedure for late or non-collection of pupils<br>• Parent and Visitor Code of Conduct<br>• Child Protection Training for all staff<br>• Vetting for all staff<br>• Anti-Bullying Policy |
| 2. | School transport arrangements, including use of bus escorts | • Risk of child being harmed by a bus escort, driver or another pupil<br>• Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision at set-down and pick-up | • Bus Escort Policy in place<br>• Bus escorts are Garda vetted and receive a copy of the Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment<br>• Supervised handover of pupils at set-down and pick-up points<br>• Any concern raised by escorts or drivers is reported to the DLP without delay |
| 3. | Classroom teaching in mainstream classes and in the two special classes | • Risk of harm not being recognised or reported properly and promptly by school personnel<br>• Risk of child being harmed by a member of school personnel<br>• Risk of harm where personnel have not received appropriate training | • All personnel receive the Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment and have access to the Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025<br>• Staff complete Tusla Children First e-learning and Department Child Protection Training; training records maintained<br>• All personnel Garda vetted; Staff Code of Professional Conduct and Communication Procedures<br>• DLP and Deputy DLP named on Child Protection poster displayed in the school |

| | List of School Activities | Risks Identified Against Each School Activity | Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk |
|---|---|---|---|
| 4. | Care of pupils with special educational needs in the special classes and mainstream, including intimate care where needed | • Risk of harm to children with SEN who have particular vulnerabilities, including communication and medical vulnerabilities<br>• Risk of harm to a child while receiving intimate care | • Inclusion Policy and Special Needs Assistant Policy<br>• Individual intimate care plans agreed in writing with parents; dignity and privacy respected; another adult is aware when care is given<br>• Staff alert to non-verbal signs of distress; Stay Safe adapted to pupils' needs<br>• SNA deployment reviewed by the Principal |
| 5. | Management of behaviours of concern amongst pupils, including any physical intervention | • Risk of harm through inappropriate or unsafe physical intervention<br>• Risk of child being harmed by another child | • Code of Behaviour<br>• Department guidance Understanding Behaviours of Concern and Responding to Crisis Situations followed<br>• Individual behaviour support plans for pupils where required<br>• Incidents recorded and parents informed; staff training in de-escalation |
| 6. | One-to-one teaching, special education teaching and SNA support | • Risk of harm in one-to-one teaching situations | • One-to-one sessions take place in rooms with a glass panel or with the door open<br>• Timetable of one-to-one sessions known to the Principal; parents informed<br>• Staff Code of Professional Conduct and Communication Procedures |
| 7. | Recreation breaks for pupils (yard and indoor breaks) | • Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children in school<br>• Risk of child being harmed by another child<br>• Risk of harm due to bullying of a child<br>• Risk of harm not being reported properly and promptly by school personnel | • Child Protection Training for all staff<br>• Anti-Bullying Policy<br>• Yard supervision rota with adequate staff on duty, including SNA support for pupils who need it<br>• Code of Behaviour and Bí Cineálta Policy<br>• Health and Safety Policy<br>• Gates secured during the school day |
| 8. | Use of toilet facilities | • Risk of child being harmed by another child<br>• Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision | • Pupils ask permission to leave class and absence is monitored<br>• Pupil toilets are not used by visitors or contractors<br>• Intimate care plans followed where assistance is needed |
| 9. | Curricular provision in respect of SPHE, RSE and Stay Safe | • Risk of children not being equipped to recognise and report harm | • SPHE Policy; Stay Safe and RSE taught in full<br>• Parents informed of Stay Safe and RSE content in advance<br>• Implementation monitored by the Principal through Cuntas Míosúil |
| 10. | Prevention of and dealing with bullying amongst pupils | • Risk of harm due to bullying of a child<br>• Risk of harm due to racism | • Bí Cineálta Policy in line with Circular 55/2024<br>• Code of Behaviour<br>• Anti-racism and inclusion initiatives<br>• Annual review of the Bí Cineálta Policy by the Board |

| | List of School Activities | Risks Identified Against Each School Activity | Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk |
|---|---|---|---|
| **11.** | School outings, excursions, sporting activities, competitions and Annual Sports Day | • Risk of child being harmed by school personnel, a member of another organisation or the public during out-of-school activities<br>• Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision while attending out-of-school activities | • Excursions and Outings Policy; Participation in Competitions and Festivals Policy; Extra-Curricular Activities Policy<br>• Written parental consent; appropriate adult-to-pupil ratios, with SNA support for special class pupils<br>• Only vetted adults supervise pupils<br>• Health and Safety Policy<br>• Code of Behaviour Policy<br>• Anti-Bullying Policy<br>• Stay Safe Programme |
| **12.** | Use of external personnel to supplement the curriculum, sports and extra-curricular activities (coaches, tutors, guest speakers, visiting professionals) | • Risk of child being harmed by a volunteer or visitor to the school | • Garda vetting required where there is regular contact with pupils<br>• A member of school staff is present at all times<br>• Content of sessions agreed in advance with the class teacher<br>• External personnel given a copy of the Child Safeguarding Statement |
| **13.** | School trips involving overnight stay/Erasmus + | • Risk of harm not being recognised by school personnel<br>• Risk of harm not being reported properly and promptly by school personnel<br>• Risk of a 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 e.g. school trip, swimming lessons<br>• Risk of harm due to bullying of child<br>• Risk of harm due to inappropriate/communications between child and another child or adult<br>• Risk of harm to children with SEN who have particular vulnerabilities<br>• Risk of harm caused by a member of school personnel communicating with pupils in appropriate manner/personnel accessing/circulating inappropriate material via social media, texting, digital device or other manner | • Anti- Bullying Policy<br>• Child : Adult Ratio of 12:1<br>• ICT Policy<br>• SNA's Supervision<br>• Child Protection Policy<br>• Supervision Policy |

| | List of School Activities | Risks Identified Against Each School Activity | Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk |
|---|---|---|---|
| **14.** | Recruitment of school personnel (teachers, SNAs, secretary, caretaker, cleaners, bus escorts) | • Risk of child being harmed by a member of school personnel | • Statutory vetting under the National Vetting Bureau (Children and Vulnerable Persons) Acts 2012 to 2016<br>• Department recruitment and vetting circulars followed; references and Teaching Council registration checked<br>• Induction includes the Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment<br>• Written protocol authorising immediate absence of an employee for child safeguarding reasons |
| **15.** | Substitute teachers, student teachers on placement and work-experience students | • Risk of harm not being recognised or reported<br>• Risk of child being harmed by a person unfamiliar to the school | • Substitute and Student Teacher Induction Procedure<br>• Vetting and registration confirmed before work begins<br>• DLP/Deputy DLP details and the Child Safeguarding Statement provided on induction<br>• Student teachers and work-experience students supervised by the class teacher |
| **16.** | Visitors, contractors, volunteers and parents present in school during the school day | • Risk of child being harmed by a volunteer or visitor to the school | • All visitors sign in and out using the visitor log<br>• Visitors accompanied by staff while pupils are present<br>• Contractor work scheduled outside pupil hours where possible<br>• Volunteers Garda vetted; Parent and Visitor Code of Conduct |
| **17.** | Use of ICT, iPads and the internet by pupils in school, including online and remote learning | • Risk of harm due to children inappropriately accessing or using computers, devices or the internet<br>• Risk of harm due to inappropriate use of online or remote learning platforms | • Acceptable Use Policy and iPad Acceptable Use Policy, communicated to parents<br>• Schools Broadband content filtering in place; pupils supervised when online<br>• Mobile Phone and Smart Device Use Policy (Circular 38/2018)<br>• Remote learning only through school-approved platforms; internet safety taught (Webwise) |
| **18.** | Use of video, photography and other media to record school events; school social media | • Risk of harm caused by personnel or others circulating images of pupils inappropriately | • Social Media and Online Communication Policy<br>• Written parental consent for images; consent records kept<br>• Pupils' names not published with images<br>• Data Protection and Record Keeping Policy |
| **19.** | Communication between school personnel and pupils or families | • Risk of harm caused by a member of school personnel communicating with pupils inappropriately via social media, texting or a digital device | • Staff Code of Professional Conduct and Communication Procedures<br>• Staff use official school communication channels only<br>• Staff do not connect with pupils on personal social media |
| **20.** | Administration of medicine and first aid; care of children with medical needs | • Risk of harm to children with medical vulnerabilities<br>• Risk of harm not being recognised by school personnel | • Health and Safety Policy<br>• Medication administered only with written parental consent and recorded<br>• Trained first-aid personnel; individual care plans for pupils with medical needs |

| | List of School Activities | Risks Identified Against Each School Activity | Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk |
|---|---|---|---|
| 21. | Care of pupils with specific vulnerabilities, including pupils from the Traveller community, migrant and EAL pupils, pupils of minority faiths, LGBT pupils or pupils perceived to be LGBT, children in care and children on Tusla's CPNS | • Risk of harm not being recognised<br>• Risk of harm due to bullying or racism | • Inclusion Policy and DEIS Action Plan 2025–2028<br>• Close liaison with families and with Tusla, social workers and other agencies as appropriate<br>• Information on children in care or on the CPNS shared with relevant staff on a need-to-know basis<br>• Bí Cineálta Policy and Code of Behaviour |

*Additional pages may be added as required.*

## 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, and that the inclusion of an example of a policy or procedure on these lists does not make it mandatory. 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:

- Identify, as required under the Children First Act, 2015, any risks of harm that may exist in respect of the school's activities.
- Identify and assess the adequacy of the various procedures already in place to manage those risks of harm.
- Identify and put in place any such additional procedures as are considered necessary to manage any risk identified.

## Online Safety

The *Addendum to Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children 2017* 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 and Risk Assessment.

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.

**Examples of School Activities which schools may draw from, as appropriate**

1. Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils
2. Recreation breaks for pupils
3. Classroom teaching
4. One-to-one teaching
5. One-to-one learning support
6. One-to-one counselling
7. Outdoor teaching activities
8. Online teaching and learning remotely
9. Sporting activities
10. School outings
11. School trips involving overnight stay
12. School trips involving foreign travel
13. Use of toilet/changing/shower areas in schools
14. Provision of residential facilities for boarders
15. Annual Sports Day
16. Fundraising events involving pupils
17. Use of off-site facilities for school activities
18. School transport arrangements including use of bus escorts
19. Care of children with special educational needs, including intimate care where needed
20. Care of any vulnerable adult students, including intimate care where needed
21. Management of challenging behaviour amongst pupils, including appropriate use of restraint where required
22. Management of provision of food and drink
23. Administration of medicine
24. Administration of First Aid
25. Curricular provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe
26. Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst pupils
27. Training of school personnel in child protection matters
28. Use of external personnel to supplement curriculum
29. Use of external personnel to support sports and other extra-curricular activities
30. Care of pupils with specific vulnerabilities/needs
31. Pupils from ethnic minorities/migrants
32. Members of the Traveller community
33. Lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender (LGBT) children
34. Pupils perceived to be LGBT
35. Pupils of minority religious faiths
36. Children in care
37. Children on Tusla's Child Protection Notification System (CPNS)
38. Children with medical needs
39. Recruitment of school personnel including teachers/SNAs, caretakers/secretaries/cleaners and sport coaches
40. External Tutors/Guest Speakers
41. Volunteers/Parents in school activities
42. Visitors/contractors present in school during school hours
43. Visitors/contractors present during after-school activities

44. Participation by pupils in religious ceremonies/religious instruction external to the school
45. Use of Information and Communication Technology by pupils in school, including social media
46. Application of sanctions under the school's Code of Behaviour including detention of pupils, confiscation of phones etc.
47. Students participating in work experience in the school
48. Students from the school participating in work experience elsewhere
49. Student teachers undertaking training placement in school
50. Use of video/photography/other media to record school events
51. After-school use of school premises by other organisations
52. Use of school premises by other organisations during school day
53. Breakfast club
54. Homework club/evening study
55. Children attending boarding schools or living away from home

**Examples of Risks of Harm**

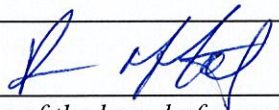
1. Risk of harm not being recognised by school personnel
2. Risk of harm not being reported properly and promptly by members of school personnel
3. Risk of harm where members of school personnel have not received appropriate training
4. Risk of child being harmed in the school by a member of school personnel
5. Risk of child being harmed in the school by another child
6. Risk of child being harmed in the school by a volunteer or visitor to the school
7. Risk of child being harmed by a member of school personnel, a member of staff of another organisation or other person while a child is participating in out-of-school activities, e.g. school trip, swimming lessons
8. 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
9. Risk of harm due to bullying of a child
10. Risk of harm due to racism
11. Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children in school
12. Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children while attending out-of-school activities
13. Risk of harm due to inappropriate relationship/communications between a child and another child or adult
14. Risk of harm due to children inappropriately accessing/using computers, social media, phones and other devices while at school
15. Risk of harm to children with special educational needs who have particular vulnerabilities, including medical vulnerabilities
16. Risk of harm to child while a child is receiving intimate care
17. Risk of harm due to inadequate code of behaviour
18. Risk of harm in one-to-one teaching, counselling, coaching situations
19. Risk of harm caused by a member of school personnel communicating with pupils in an inappropriate manner via social media, texting, digital device, or other manner
20. Risk of harm caused by a member of school personnel accessing/circulating inappropriate material via social media, texting, digital device or other manner
21. Risks where children are living away from home or attending boarding facilities

**These are examples of policies and procedures that may be used to address Risks of Harm**

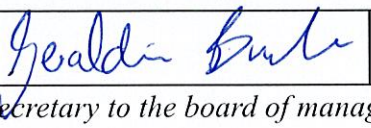
1. All school personnel are provided with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment
2. The Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025 are made available to all school personnel
3. School personnel are required to adhere to the Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025 and all registered teaching staff are required to adhere to the Children First Act 2015 as well as supporting the continued implementation of the best practice guidance set out in Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children 2017 and its addenda, including the Addendum to Children First 2019 and 2025
4. A written protocol is in place authorising immediate action for cases which require an employee to be immediately absented from school for child safeguarding reasons
5. The school implements in full the Stay Safe Programme
6. The school implements in full the Social, Personal, and Health Education (SPHE) curriculum
7. School authorities have a code of behaviour and an anti-bullying policy in place in accordance with the department's 'Bí Cineálta' procedures to prevent and address bullying in schools and as outlined in Circular 55/2024
7. The school has complied with the Understanding Behaviours of Concern and Responding to Crisis Situations developed by the Department of Education and Youth to address uncertainty for staff on how to respond when facing crisis situations where there are concerns regarding physical safety
7. The school undertakes anti-racism awareness initiatives
7. 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.
7. The school has in place a policy and clear procedures in respect of school outings
7. The school has a health and safety policy
7. The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation
7. The school adheres to the relevant Department of Education and Youth circulars in respect of recruitment
7. The school has a code of conduct for school personnel (teaching and non-teaching staff)
7. The school complies with the agreed disciplinary procedures for teaching staff
7. The school has a special educational needs policy
7. The school has an intimate care policy/plan in respect of students who require such care
7. The school has in place a policy and procedures for the administration of medication to pupils
7. The school has provided each member of school staff with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment
7. The school ensures all new personnel are provided with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment
7. The school encourages personnel to avail of relevant training
7. The school encourages board of management members to avail of relevant training
7. The school maintains records of all personnel and board member training
7. The school has in place a policy and procedures for the administration of First Aid
7. The school has in place a code of behaviour for pupils
7. 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

7. The school has in place a policy governing the use of smartphones and tablet devices in the school by pupils as per Circular 38/2018 and the national guidelines
7. The school has in place a Critical Incident Management Plan
7. The school has in place a Home School Liaison policy and related procedures
32. The school has in place a policy and procedures for the use of external persons to supplement delivery of the curriculum
32. The school has in place a policy and procedures for the use of external sports coaches
32. The school has in place a policy and clear procedures for one-to-one teaching activities
32. The school has in place a policy and procedures for one-to-one counselling
32. The school has in place a policy and procedures in respect of student teacher placements
32. The school has in place a policy and procedures in respect of pupils undertaking work experience in the school
32. The school has in place a policy and procedures in respect of pupils of the school undertaking work experience in external organisations
32. The school has in place a policy in relation to assisting members of school personnel in respect of disclosures of retrospective abuse
32. The school has considered the questions in Appendix 1 of the Child Protection and Safeguarding Procedures for Boarding Facilities Associated with Recognised Schools 2023 and implemented the necessary risk mitigation measures

In accordance with Section 11 of the Children First Act 2015 and with the requirements of Chapter 9 of the Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025, the following is the written Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment.
In undertaking this Child Safeguarding Statement and 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 Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment was reviewed by the board of management on **25th November 2026** (*most recent review date)*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Signed**:* |  | **Date**: 25th November 2026 |

*Chairperson of the board of management*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Signed**:* |  | **Date**: 25th November 2026 |

*Principal/Secretary to the board of management*

This Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment is expected to be reviewed again on **November 2027** *(expected review date)*

**Appendix - Location of copies of the Child Protection Procedures and Children First Guidance**

This may be in the form of specifying the online location for the procedures (Department of Education and Youth website www.gov.ie/childprotectionschools and/or the school website), providing a link to the Children First National Guidance 2017 Children_First_National_Guidance_2017.pdf, and stating the number and location of hard copies of these procedures available in the school.

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| Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025: Department of Education and Youth website, www.gov.ie/childprotectionschools<br>Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children 2017: available at www.gov.ie and www.tusla.ie<br>School website: https://www.stjosephsfermoy.ie/<br>Hard copies: ____ copies held in the Principal's office and staff room (number to be confirmed by the school). |