Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment

Child Safeguarding Statement

St. Finian's Primary 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 2017 and Tusla Guidance on the preparation of Child Safeguarding Statements, the Board of Management of St. Finian'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 (revised (2023)* as part of this overall Child Safeguarding Statement

2 The Designated Liaison Person (DLP) is Jonathan Loftus

3 The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is Ann Fanning

4 The Relevant Person is Jonathan Loftus
(The relevant person is one who can provide information in respect of how the child safeguarding statement was developed and will be able to provide the statement on request).

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 Board of management 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/boarding facility 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 board of management/management authority 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 gov.ie.

- 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/management authority 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 in March 2018 and revised in 2023

This Child Safeguarding Statement was reviewed by the Board of Management on 30.09.2025

Signed: Signed:

Chairperson of Board of Management Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Date: 30.09.2026 Date: 30.09.2026

For *information in respect of how the child safeguarding statement was developed or to request a copy of the statement, please contact the relevant person noted at the beginning of this child safeguarding statement* Phone: 014580114 or email: info@stfiniansprimaryschool.ie

Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment

Written Assessment of Risk of St. Finian's NS

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. Finian's NS.

1. List of School Activities	2. The School has identified the following Risk of Harm	3. The School has the following Procedures in place to address risk identified in this assessment
Training of school personnel in Child Protection matters	Harm not recognised or not reported promptly to DLP	Child Safeguarding Statement & DES procedures made available to all staff DLP& DDLP to attend PDST face to face training All Staff to view Túsla training module & any other online training offered by PDST BOM records all records of staff and board training
One to one teaching	Harm by school personnel	School has procedures in place for one to one teaching Open doors Glass in window
Care of Children with special needs, including intimate care needs	Harm by school personnel	Procedures in place for children with intimate care needs Procedures are clearly displayed and followed
Toilet areas	Accidents, falls, messing/ fighting	Usage and supervision procedures
Curricular Provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay safe.	Non-teaching of same	School implements SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe in full School asks for permission for the Stay Safe Programme to part of their children's education.

Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils	Harm from pupils, adults on the playground	Children arrive in waves. They are supervised at each gate and door and teacher is waiting in class Children are walked out to their yards on break/ lunch Specific procedures for children entry and exit from school building Specific policy with regard to collection of children
Managing of challenging behaviour amongst pupils, including appropriate use of restraint	Injury to pupils and staff	Restraint Procedures and training is to be sought Health & Safety Policy Code Of Behaviour Berry st programme Different methodologies and strategies to work with children PBL
Sports Coaches	Harm to pupils	Procedures in place: Class teacher is present with visiting teachers Vetting in place Provide copy of Child Safeguarding Statement
Students participating in work experience	Harm by student	Work experience Policy Child Safeguarding Statement. Student will be supervised by teacher Vetting in place if student is over 18
Recreation breaks for pupils	Injury to pupils	Supervision procedures are in place Staff supervision
Classroom teaching	Harm to pupils Slips/trips in the class	Health and Safety policy Teacher supervision
Outdoor teaching activities	Harm / Injury to pupils	Health & Safety Policy Planning and risk assessment by teacher Staff supervision

Sporting Activities	Harm / Injury to pupils	Health & Safety Policy Planning and risk assessment by teacher Staff supervision
Homework club/evening study	Harm to pupils	School Policy Health & Safety Policy If private they have own insurance policy and procedures
School outings	Harm / Injury to pupils Getting lost	Permission slips Roll calls Constant monitoring and adequate supervision School procedures and policies
School trips involving overnight stay	Harm / Injury to pupils Inappropriate behaviour	School Policy Permission slips Roll calls Constant monitoring and adequate supervision School procedures and policies Knowledge and understanding of location and area
Use of toilet/changing/shower areas in schools	Inappropriate behaviour Harm / Injury to pupils	Usage and supervision procedures
Annual Sports Day	Harm / Injury to pupils	Supervision Planned activities Pupils are aware of running order and day Weather watch to ensure good weather
Fundraising/ School events involving pupils	Harm / Injury to pupils	Risk assessment to be carried out for any on/off site activity. Parental permission Staff supervision
Use of off-site facilities for school activities	Harm / Injury to pupil	Risk assessment to be carried out for any on/off site activity. Parental permission Staff supervision
School transport arrangements including use of bus escorts	Harm to pupils Harm not recognised or properly or promptly reported	Procedures for Bus Escorts Policy for Bus Escort to be drawn up.

		Ensure that Bus escorts have a copy of Child safe guarding statements.
Management of challenging behaviour amongst pupils, including appropriate use of restraint where required	Harm/Injury to pupils or staff	School has procedures in place Training is being requested and looked into. First aid course NCSE advice SEN support
Administration of Medicine Administration of First Aid	Harm to pupils	Training is being requested and ongoing School has procedures in place Parental permission
Curricular provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe	That it would not fully implemented	STAY Safe / RSE is part of the SPHE curriculum and has a designated time in the year that it will be taught in Teachers will be asked to sign off on work done
Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst pupils	Harm to pupils	Bí Cineálta. policy PBL
Training of school personnel in child protection matters	That is would not be fully implemented	All staff have undertaken the eLearning program supplied bt TUSLA Risk assessment was collaborative Child Safe guarding statement circulated Understanding who the DLP is and their role
Use of external personnel to supplement curriculum	Harm to pupils	Supervision by teacher Vetting in place External people will understand the child safe guarding and know who DLP is
Care of pupils with specific vulnerabilities/ needs such as	Harm not recognised or properly or promptly reported	Bí Cineálta. Policy Health & Safety Policy SPHE policy and curriculum

• 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 CPNS		
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 during after school activities	Harm not recognised or properly or promptly reported	Child Safeguarding Statement & DES procedures made available to all staff Staff to view Tusla training module & any other online training offered by PDST Vetting Procedures Staff supervision Visitors sign in and out
Use of Information and Communication Technology by pupils in school	Cyber Bullying	ICT policy Bí Cineálta. Policy Code of Behaviour
Student teachers undertaking training placement in school	Harm / Injury to pupils	Supervision by Classroom teacher Vetting from College/school
Use of video/photography/other media to record school events	Exposure to a digital footprint	Permission is sought from parents Children not identified

After school use of school premises by other organisations	People not affiliated with the school in the school	Parents Association contract School is always closed and pupils gone home
Entering and exiting cars in the morning and afternoon.	People are parking and driving carelessly.	Road safety campaign in the school. Road safety video RSA comes in to talk to all children
Use of social media by students	Pupils are using social media in a negative manner and are unaware of the consequences of their actions	Discussions with pupils Parents talk on the matter External speakers invited to school.
One-to-one counselling	Risk of 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	Vetting Made aware of the Child Safe guarding statement Discuss privacy with parent and counsellor.
Online teaching and learning remotely	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	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 Online class rules are communicated to parents/students in advance. EG Mikes on/off etc
Application of sanctions under the school's Code of Behaviour including detention of pupils, confiscation of phones etc.	Not followed through for all students equally	All staff are aware of the procedures in the school. Phones are to be left in to the office in the morning if they are required to be in Discuss with parents

COVID – 19	Spread of COVID 19 in the school	All staff are aware of the schools COVID 19 Response plan. Mitigations are in place in the school to help prevent the spread of COVID 19. See COVID response Plan 2021/22 (update as needed)

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*

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 2017.

Examples of School Activities

- Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils
- Recreation breaks for pupils
- Classroom teaching
- One-to-one teaching
- One-to-one learning support
- One-to-one counselling
- Outdoor teaching activities
- Online teaching and learning remotely
- Sporting Activities
- School outings
- School trips involving overnight stay
- School trips involving foreign travel
- Use of toilet/changing/shower areas in schools
- Provision of residential facilities for boarders
- Annual Sports Day

- Fundraising events involving pupils
- Use of off-site facilities for school activities
- School transport arrangements including use of bus escorts
- Care of children with special educational needs, including intimate care where needed,
- Care of any vulnerable adult students, including intimate care where needed
- Management of challenging behaviour amongst pupils, including appropriate use of restraint where required
- Management of provision of food and drink
- Administration of Medicine
- Administration of First Aid
- Curricular provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe
- Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst pupils
- Training of school personnel in child protection matters
- Use of external personnel to supplement curriculum
- Use of external personnel to support sports and other extra-curricular activities
- 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 CPNS
  - Children with medical needs
- Recruitment of school personnel including -
  - Teachers/SNA's
  - Caretaker/Secretary/Cleaners/Bus Escorts
  - Sports coaches

- External Tutors/Guest Speakers
- Volunteers/Parents in school activities
- Visitors/contractors present in school during school hours
- Visitors/contractors present during after school activities

- Participation by pupils in religious ceremonies/religious instruction external to the school
- Use of Information and Communication Technology by pupils in school, including social media
- Application of sanctions under the school's Code of Behaviour including detention of pupils, confiscation of phones etc.
- Students participating in work experience in the school
- Students from the school participating in work experience elsewhere
- Student teachers undertaking training placement in school
- Use of video/photography/other media to record school events
- After school use of school premises by other organisations
- Use of school premises by other organisation during school day
- Breakfast club
- Homework club/evening study

Examples of Risks of Harm

- Risk of harm not being recognised by school personnel
- Risk of harm not being reported properly and promptly by school personnel
- Risk of child being harmed in the school by a member of school personnel
- Risk of child being harmed in the school by another child
- Risk of child being harmed in the school by volunteer or visitor to the school
- Risk of 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
- 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

- Risk of harm due to bullying of child
- Risk of harm due to racism
- 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 due to inappropriate relationship/communications between child and another child or adult
- Risk of harm due to children inappropriately accessing/using computers, social media, phones and other devices while at school
- Risk of harm to children with SEN who have particular vulnerabilities, including medical vulnerabilities
- Risk of harm to child while a child is receiving intimate care
- Risk of harm due to inadequate code of behaviour
- Risk of harm in one-to-one teaching, counselling, coaching situation
- 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 or other manner

Examples of Procedures to address risks of harm

- All school personnel are provided with a copy of the school's *Child Safeguarding Statement*
- The *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017* are made available to all school personnel
- School Personnel are required to adhere to the *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017* and all registered teaching staff are required to adhere to the *Children First Act 2015* and it's Addendum (2019)
- The school implements in full the Stay Safe Programme
- The school implements in full the SPHE curriculum
- The school implements in full the Wellbeing Programme at Junior Cycle
- The school has an Bí Cineálta. Policy which fully adheres to the requirements of the Department's *Bí Cineálta. Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools*
- The school undertakes anti-racism awareness initiatives

- 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.
- The school has in place a policy and clear procedures in respect of school outings
- The school has a Health and safety policy
- The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation and relevant DE circulars in relation to recruitment and Garda vetting
- The school has a codes of conduct for school personnel (teaching and non-teaching staff)
- The school complies with the agreed disciplinary procedures for teaching staff
- The school has a Special Educational Needs policy
- The school has an intimate care policy/plan in respect of students who require such care
- The school has in place a policy and procedures for the administration of medication to pupils
- The school –
    - Has provided each member of school 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
    - Maintains records of all staff and board member training
- The school has in place a policy and procedures for the administration of First Aid
- The school has in place a code of behaviour for pupils
- 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
- The school has in place a policy governing the use of smart phones and tablet devices in the school by pupils as per circular 38/2018
- The school has in place a Critical Incident Management Plan
- The school has in place a Home School Liaison policy and related procedures
- The school has in place a policy and procedures for the use of external persons to supplement delivery of the curriculum
- The school has in place a policy and procedures for the use of external sports coaches

- The school has in place a policy and clear procedures for one-to-one teaching activities
- The school has in place a policy and procedures for one-to-one counselling
- The school has in place a policy and procedures in respect of student teacher placements
- The school has in place a policy and procedures in respect of students undertaking work experience in the school
- The school has in place a policy and procedures in respect of pupils of the school undertaking work experience in external organisations