



Child Safeguarding Statement & Risk Assessment

13th February 2020

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Child Safeguarding Statement

Scoil Phádraig 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 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 Scoil Phádraig 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 **Fergus Seoighe**
3. The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is **Sharon McGreal**
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 cooperate 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.
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 DES 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 DES and available on the DES 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 as the "relevant person" (as defined in the Children First Act 2015) to be the first point of contact in respect of the 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, the Board has carried out an assessment of any potential for harm to a child while attending 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 attached as an appendix to this statement.
 - The various procedures referred to in this Statement can be accessed via the school's website, the DES website or will be made available on request by the school.
6. This statement has been published on the school's website and has been provided to all members of school personnel, the Parent Teacher Association and the patron. It

is readily accessible to parents and guardians upon 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 February 13th, 2020.

Signed: _____ Chairperson of Board of Management

Date: _____

Signed: _____ Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Date: _____



Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment

13th February 2020

Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment

	List of School Activities	The School has identified the following Risk of Harm	The School has the following Procedures in place to address risk identified in this assessment
1	One to one teaching/group teaching and testing General classroom activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Harm by school personnel (interior and exterior school personnel) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Glass in window to be kept clear Each staff member is Garda Vetted (school secretary shall compile an annual list in September with Garda Vetting Codes and stored on Aladdin administration system)
2	Swimming	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Members of the public, parents, pool staff, school personnel, helpers, peers, children and personnel from other schools. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The school is reviewing the following policies : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supervision policy The school has an Intimate care and toileting policy and is available to all staff, parents and school community Agreed pupil/ teacher ratio as below Parents and Guardians are asked to accompany teachers for supervision purposes to ensure this ratio
3	Class Outings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Members of the public, school personnel, helpers, peers, children and personnel from other schools. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pupil/Teacher ratio supervision to be ensured 1:10 juniors and 1:12, 3rd to 6th - discretion on above number advised after consultation with school principal/DP, depending on the context of outing Parents are invited to assist with pupil teacher ratio numbers and do not have to be Garda vetted as per Circular 0031/2016, section 6.4 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> in the case of unpaid volunteers who assist the school on an occasional basis provided such

			<p>assistance does not involve the coaching, mentoring, counselling, teaching or training of children or vulnerable persons or</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All staff have been given a copy of the child protection statement and risk assessment • All staff garda vetted. • Children remain in the group at all times. If a child has to leave the group the child will be accompanied by one adult and two children minimum • SNAs are not counted for supervision purposes, except in certain/exceptional circumstances
4	Visiting Professionals (e.g. coaches, S&L therapists, OTs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protocol not being followed by all staff members (i.e. children not being left alone with visiting personnel) • Harm to pupils by visiting teachers, professionals and workers • Play Therapists 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Class teacher is responsible for pupil supervision at all times during the visit of the professional in consultation with SET teacher (e.g. where the visitor is working in a SET room). If class teacher is not available another teacher will cover. • Speech & Language or other visits by professionals will normally happen in SET/Meeting rooms • Play therapists will ensure that window is kept clear and will be Garda vetted by their own organisation. Due to the sensitive nature of this work, a play therapist will follow the child protection procedures 2017.
5	Intimate care, toileting, changing children	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unclear protocols • School Personnel 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The school has an Intimate care and toileting policy and is available to all staff, parents and school community • For one off accidents we recommend a ratio of two

			adults to one child; where a specific child with SNA access has daily toileting needs, the SNA will attend to the child, and follow protocols agreed by parents/guardians and school.
6	Sports Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Uninvited people turning up for sports day • Other people at the sports facility on the day • <i>Cars: using staff cars for pupils injured or other additional needs.</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Class teacher stays with the class for the day. • For senior classes who are offsite at GAA pitch or other: if a child needs to get a drink or go to the bathroom they should always be sent in pairs. • Taxis should generally be used for transporting small numbers of children who maybe injured. In the event that it is not suitable, the following should be adhered to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Staff members must sign Indemnity Declaration Form for Board of Management ○ Staff must have Extended Class 1 insurance ○ Staff must consult with Principal or Deputy Principal before using personal car on school business ○ Two adults and two children will always travel in car.
7	TY students, Teaching practice students, work experience students	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Being left alone with a child • Awareness of child protection policy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teaching Practice students are Garda vetted with their colleges and should be made aware of the school's Child Safeguarding statement and Risk Assessment • Transition Year students will be garda vetted through a joint Vetting agreement between Scoil Phádraig and the Post Primary school. They shall be

			<p>made aware of the school's Child protection statement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TY students will always work with children or groups of children in the classroom setting under supervision of class teacher/SET and shall never withdraw pupils for one-to-one or group teaching • Other children or an adult are always present in the case of a transition year student • AP II to liaise with work experience student prior to commencement
8	Breaks (weather) and yard supervision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Being left alone with a child • That children are left unsupervised 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supervision policy (plus procedure for sick children) in review and shall be communicated to staff. • Child never left alone unsupervised • Parents provide a written slip to indicate reason to stay off the yard • Procedure re 'sick' children going out to yard, awareness for parents - bench outside Room 4 • Parents who wish to collect children early at break time, must report to the office first, where the secretary will issue them with an early collection slip.
9	Regulation stations/sensor y breaks/movement breaks etc	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Physical contact with the children • Being alone with the child 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be visible to the public - all windows in rooms to be kept completely clear • Communicate with parents that their children will be engaging in regulation stations etc.

10	Use of ICT and Mobile phones/Social Media	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bullying, grooming, exposure to inappropriate material 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mandatory Stay Safe Programme taught every 2 years Relevant School policies (Anti-bullying, Mobile Phone included in AUP) Children supervised when using ICT Close links with parents and authorities. Information sessions for parents and staff as part of SPHE Children are not permitted to bring smartphones to school except in exceptional circumstances. Permission to bring a smartphone to school must be requested in writing by parent/guardian and phone must be presented to teacher, and phone will be locked in filing cabinet and child must request it at the end of the day.
11	When children are hurt - during school/on outings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> School personnel and first responders 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Refer to supervision and first aid policies.
12	After school activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> School personnel, general public, relevant organisers/supervisors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> After school groups shall be Garda vetted by the school unless they have been Garda Vetted by their organisation
13	Administration of medicine and first aid	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Harm by school personnel/parent/visiting coaches 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Administration of medicine policy available and will be updated as necessary First aid policy reviewed, available and updated as necessary Cross reference with health and safety policy Some staff have been trained on the use of Defibrillator

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> First Aid training for staff shall be provided by Board of Management
14	Adults on the school premises	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Harm by school personnel, parent, strangers, invited guests etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> School procedure for casual callers, invited guests, members of school community i.e. parents, BoM etc - must report to the office and sign visitor's book Parents reminded in the newsletter that it is school policy to report to the office first when collecting children/ dropping off messages to children/ coming in to presentations and talks to children.
15	Securing the school	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Harm by Visitors, Parents, Strangers etc... 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New infant parents nights emphasise times of school supervision & that parents must report to office. Every staff member has the authority to question a parent/visitor's motive at gate / fence / school perimeter in good faith Both back doors are opened in the morning and locked when the children are in school. A key to gain access is secured in a key lock that can only be opened by a staff member with the code. 24-hour surveillance by security company
16	Access to School from Greenway (mornings & evenings)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Harm by Visitors, Parents, Strangers etc... 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Camera installed at back gate Parents asked in newsletter not to bring children to the school before 8:35am and to collect children at 2:25pm Parents are not to drive into school during morning drop-off and afternoon pick-up for safety reasons

17	Substitute teachers/SNAs	Harm by the Substitute Teacher	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All substitute teachers and SNAs are Garda Vetted • Pack for substitute teachers has been developed • File will be given to substitute teachers to assist with collection of infants at home time i.e. who can collect them / who is going to after school. • List of identified adults who collect Infants to be provided by parents. It is the responsibility of parents to inform school/update Aladdin if there is a change to pick up arrangements/ person collecting
18	Recruitment and selection of staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harm by school personnel 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All staff are Garda vetted before they are employed. • Child protection course has been completed
19	Buses: tours & outings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harm by bus driver, helpers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No child to return to bus alone • Bus driver vetted by own organisation • Safe drop off and pick up location – inside school grounds
20	Yard accidents – i.e. child needing to be changed, needing medical attention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harm by teacher/SNA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yard supervision under review • For one off accidents, ratio of two adults to one child when changing - class teacher is alerted and arranges another adult to assist • 1st-6th class go to bathroom to check themselves for any cuts. Teacher/SNA will stand outside bathroom door and check the cut if there is one for cleaning in presence of another adult if it is in a sensitive place. • For Infants pupils the teacher/SNA will attend to child in the presence of a second child.

21	Teacher absence from Classroom	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Children unsupervised	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cover provided by neighbouring teachers/SETs for short periods only
22	Use of the School lift	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Children unsupervised	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Children may only use the lift when accompanied by an adult• Adult must be accompanied by at least 2 adults

Plan of Actions arising from Child Safeguarding Assessment
Review to be completed Annually or Once-Off Actions (22/01/2020)

	ACTION TO BE TAKEN	BY WHOM	DATE FOR COMPLETION	COMPLETION DATE
1	Garda Vetting register of staff, substitutes and visiting teachers/coaches to be checked at the beginning of every school year and when new staff start	School Secretary	January 31st & September 30th annually	February 11th
2	Supervision Policy review to be completed with focus on guidelines for parents supervising in changing rooms	School Staff	February 11th	February 11th
3	First Aid Policy to be reviewed	Principal & Deputy Principal & Staff	February 11th	February 11th
4	A-Z Pack for Substitutes	School Staff & Principal	February 11th	February 11th