

St Peters School Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment

Safeguarding statement

St Peters School caters for young people from 7 to 18 years with Severe Emotional Behavioural Disturbance who fall into the average to low average range of intellectual functioning. Each person through positive learning experiences will be stimulated to achieve their full potential, face life confidently, find fulfilment and be respectful in an ever-changing world. St Peters School is located on the grounds of Lucena CAMH's clinic in Rathgar and traditionally there was a close working relationship between the clinic and the school. Today both are standalone entities.

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 \(revised 2023\)](#) and [Tusla Guidance on the preparation of Child Safeguarding Statements](#), the Board of Management of [insert school name] has agreed the Child Safeguarding Statement 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 Primary and Post Primary Schools (revised (2023))* as part of this overall Child Safeguarding Statement.

The Designated Liaison Person (DLP) is

Ms Rosemary Fahy

The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is **Ms Glenda O'Leary**

The Relevant Person is

Ms Rosemary Fahy

(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. In a school setting the relevant person shall be the designated liaison person).

The Board of Management recognises that child protection and welfare considerations permeate all aspects of school life and must be reflected in all 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 and 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.

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 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 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 [gov.ie](#) 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 (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 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 [gov.ie](#) website or will be made available on request by the school.

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.

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 reviewed by the Board of Management on 26th of November 2025.



Signed:

Mr Eoin Ó Donnagáin

Chairperson of Board of Management

Date: 26.11.2025



Signed:

Ms Rosemary Fahy

Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Date: 26.11.2025

Appendix 1 Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment Written Assessment of Risk of St Peters School 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 PostPrimary Schools (revised 2023)*, the following is the Written Risk Assessment.

<p>1. List of school activities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 • Use of toilet • 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 • Management of challenging behaviour amongst pupils, including appropriate use of restraint where required • Management of provision of food and drink • Administration of Medicine subject to parental/guardian permission • 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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Pupils from ethnic minorities/migrants 	<p>2. The school has identified the following risk of harm in respect of its activities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 a 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 the child is participating in out of school activities e.g. school trip, swimming lessons • 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 	<p>3. The school has the following procedures in place to address the risks of harm identified in this assessment</p> <p>All school personnel are provided with a copy of the school's <i>Child Safeguarding Statement</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The <i>Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools (revised 2023)</i> are made available to all school personnel • School Personnel are required to adhere to the <i>Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools (revised 2023)</i> and all registered teaching staff are required to adhere to the <i>Children First Act 2015</i> • 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 Anti-Bullying Policy which fully adheres to the requirements of the Department's <i>Anti-Bullying Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools</i> • 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 • The school has in place a policy and clear procedures in respect of school outings • The school has a Health & Safety Policy • The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda Vetting Legislation and relevant DES circulars in relation to recruitment and Garda Vetting • The school has a Code of Conduct for school personnel (teaching and non-teaching staff) • The school complies with the agreed disciplinary procedures for teaching staff
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 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 ● Participation by pupils in religious ceremonies/religious instruction external to the school ● Use of Information and Communication Technology by pupils in school <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 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 with the permission of parents/guardians ● After school use of school premises by other organisations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Risk of harm to child while a child is receiving intimate care ● Risk of harm in one-to-one teaching, counselling, coaching situation ● Risk of harm caused by member of school personnel communicating with pupils in appropriate 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 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The school has in place a policy and procedures for the administration of medication to pupils ● The school: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Has provided each member of the 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 in place an ICT policy in respect of usage of ICT by pupils ● The school has in place a Mobile Phone Policy in respect of usage of mobile phones by pupils ● The school has in place a Critical Incident Management Plan
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Important Note: It should be noted that risk in the context of this risk assessment is the risk of "harm" as defined in the Children First Act 2015 and not general health and safety risk. The definition of harm is set out in Chapter 4 of the *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools (revised 2023)*

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.

Appendix 2: Checklist for Review of the Child Safeguarding Statement

Checklist for Review of the Child Safeguarding Statement	Yes/No
Has the Board formally adopted a Child Safeguarding Statement in accordance with the 'Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools 2017'?	YES
As part of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement, has the Board formally adopted, without modification, the 'Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools 2017'?	YES
Does the school's Child Safeguarding Statement include a written assessment of risk as required under the Children First Act 2015?	YES
Has the Board reviewed and updated where necessary the written assessment of risk as part of this overall review?	YES
Has the DLP attended available child protection training?	YES
Has the Deputy DLP attended available child protection training?	YES
Have any members of the Board attended child protection training?	YES
Are there both a DLP and a Deputy DLP currently appointed?	YES
Are the relevant contact details (Tusla and An Garda Síochána) to hand?	YES
Has the Board arrangements in place to communicate the school's Child Safeguarding Statement to new school personnel?	YES
Is the Board satisfied that all school personnel have been made aware of their responsibilities under the 'Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools 2017' and the Children First Act 2015?	YES
Has the Board received a Principals Child Protection Oversight Report (CPOR) at each Board meeting held since the last review was undertaken?	YES
Since the Board's last review, did each CPOR contain all of the information required under each of the 4 headings set out in sections 9.5 to 9.8 inclusive of the procedures?	YES
Since the Board's last review, has the Board been provided with and reviewed all documents relevant to the CPOR?	YES
Since the Board's last review, have the minutes of each Board meeting appropriately recorded the records provided to the Board as part of CPOR report?	YES
Have the minutes of each Board meeting appropriately recorded the CPOR report?	YES
Is the Board satisfied that the child protection procedures in relation to the making of reports to Tusla/An Garda Síochána were appropriately followed in each case reviewed?	YES
Is the Board satisfied that, since the last review, all appropriate actions are being or have been taken in respect of any member of school personnel against whom an allegation of abuse or neglect has been made?	YES

Where applicable, were unique identifiers used to record child protection matters in the Board minutes?	YES
Is the Board satisfied that all records relating to child protection are appropriately filed and stored securely?	YES
Has the Board been notified by any parent in relation to that parent not receiving the standard notification required under section 5.6 of the 'Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools 2017'?	NO
In relation to any cases identified at question 21 above, has the Board ensured that any notifications required under section 5.6 of the 'Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools 2017' were subsequently issued by the DLP?	N/A

Signed:

Mr Eoin Ó Donnagáin

Chairperson of Board of Management

Date: 26.11.2025

Signed:

Ms Rosemary Fahy

Principal St Peters School

Date: 26.11.2025

Appendix 3 Notification of the Board of Management review of the Child Safeguarding Statement

Re: Review of Child Safeguarding Statement

The Board of Management of St Peters School wishes to inform you that:

- The Board of Management's annual review of the School's Child Safeguarding Statement was completed at the Board meeting of 26.11.2025.
- This review was conducted in accordance with the "Checklist for Review of the Child Safeguarding Statement" published on the Department's website: www.education.ie

Signed:

Mr Eoin Ó Donnagáin

Chairperson of Board of Management

Date: 26.11.2025

Signed:

Ms Rosemary Fahy

Principal St Peters School

Date: 26.11.2025