



## Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment

### Child Safeguarding Statement

St. Tola's 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 Tola's N.S. 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 Mary Dunlea Fitzgerald
- 3 The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is Clare Fitzsimons
- 4 The Board of Management recognises that child protection and welfare considerations permeate all aspects of school life and must be reflected in all of the school's policies, procedures, practices and activities. In its policies, procedures, practices and activities, the school will adhere to the following principles of best practice in child protection and welfare:

The school will:

- recognise that the protection and welfare of children is of paramount importance, regardless of all other considerations;
- fully comply with its statutory obligations under the Children First Act 2015 and other relevant legislation relating to the protection and welfare of children;
- fully co-operate with the relevant statutory authorities in relation to child protection and welfare matters;
- adopt safe practices to minimise the possibility of harm or accidents happening to children and protect workers from the necessity to take unnecessary risks that may leave themselves open to accusations of abuse or neglect;
- develop a practice of openness with parents and encourage parental involvement in the education of their children; and
- fully respect confidentiality requirements in dealing with child protection matters.

The school will also adhere to the above principles in relation to any adult pupil with a special vulnerability.

- 5 The following procedures/measures are in place:
  - In relation to any member of staff who is the subject of any investigation (howsoever described) in respect of any act, omission or circumstance in respect of a child attending the school, the school adheres to the relevant procedures set out in Chapter 7 of the Child Protection Procedures

for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017 and to the relevant agreed disciplinary procedures for school staff which are published on the DE website.

- In relation to the selection or recruitment of staff and their suitability to work with children, the school adheres to the statutory vetting requirements of the [National Vetting Bureau \(Children and Vulnerable Persons\) Acts 2012 to 2016](#) and to the wider duty of care guidance set out in relevant Garda vetting and recruitment circulars published by the Department of Education and available on the DE website.
- In relation to the provision of information and, where necessary, instruction and training, to staff in respect of the identification of the occurrence of harm (as defined in the 2015 Act) the school-
  - Has provided each member of staff with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement
  - Ensures all new staff are provided with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement
  - Encourages staff to avail of relevant training
  - Encourages Board of Management members to avail of relevant training
  - The Board of Management maintains records of all staff and Board member training
- In relation to reporting of child protection concerns to Tusla, all school personnel are required to adhere to the procedures set out in the Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017, including in the case of registered teachers, those in relation to mandated reporting under the Children First Act 2015.
- In this school the Board has appointed the abovenamed DLP as the "relevant person" (as defined in the Children First Act 2015) to be the first point of contact in respect of the schools child safeguarding statement.
- All registered teachers employed by the school are mandated persons under the Children First Act 2015.
- In accordance with the Children First Act 2015 and the Addendum to Children First (2019), the Board has carried out an assessment of any potential for harm to a child while attending the school or participating in school activities. A written assessment setting out the areas of risk identified and the school's procedures for managing those risks is included with the Child Safeguarding Statement.
- The various procedures referred to in this Statement can be accessed via the school's website, the DE website or will be made available on request by the school.

**Note:** The above is not intended as an exhaustive list. Individual Boards of Management shall also include in this section such other procedures/measures that are of relevance to the school in question.

- 6 This statement has been published on the school's website and has been provided to all members of school personnel, the Parents' Association (if any) and the patron. It is readily accessible to parents and guardians on request. A copy of this Statement will be made available to Tusla and the Department if requested.
- 7 This Child Safeguarding Statement will be reviewed annually or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which this statement refers.

This Child Safeguarding Statement was adopted by the Board of Management on 21<sup>st</sup> March 2018 [date].

This Child Safeguarding Statement was reviewed by the Board of Management on 7<sup>th</sup> February 2023 [most recent review date].

Signed: PJBurke

Chairperson of Board of Management

Signed: Mary Dunlea Fitzgerald

Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Date: 7<sup>th</sup> February 2023

Date: 7<sup>th</sup> February 2023

## Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment

### Written Assessment of Risk of St. Tola's N.S.

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 2017*, the following is the Written Risk Assessment of [name of school].

<b>LIST OF SCHOOL ACTIVITIES</b>	<b>THE SCHOOL HAS IDENTIFIED THE FOLLOWING RISK OF HARM</b>	<b>THE SCHOOL HAS THE FOLLOWING PROCEDURES IN PLACE TO ADDRESS THE RISK IDENTIFIED IN THIS ASSESSMENT</b>
Training of school personnel in Child protection matters	Harm not recognised or reported promptly	<p>Child Safeguarding Statement and DES procedures made available to all staff</p> <p>All staff to view Tusla training module and any other online training offered by PDST</p> <p>DLP and Deputy DLP have attended PDST face to face training when offered</p> <p>BOM members to avail of training for Boards of Management when offered</p> <p>BOM maintains records of staff and board training</p>
Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils	Harm from older pupils, unknown adults in the school grounds	<p>Arrival and Dismissal policy</p> <p>All classes have designated entrance and exit points for their own class</p> <p>Two staff members are on morning supervision and the back gate, and front door are all supervised from 8.45a.m.-9a.m.</p> <p>All doors are closed at 9a.m. and the only entrance into the school is via the main door.</p>
Recreation breaks for pupils	Harm to pupils Bullying	<p>All classes have designated areas on the yard</p> <p>Supervision policy including specific areas such as toilets</p> <p>Anti- Bullying policy</p> <p>Code of Behaviour</p> <p>First Aid Policy</p>

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One to one teaching	Harm by school personnel	School has policy in place for one to one teaching as part of the Special Education Policy Glass installed in all doors of Special Education rooms
Care of pupils with special needs including intimate care needs	Harm by school personnel	Policy on Intimate Care
Management of Challenging behaviour amongst pupils, including appropriate use of restraint where required	Harm to pupils and staff	Code of Behaviour
Curricular Provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe	Non-teaching of same	St. Tola's implements SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe in full
School Outings	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of pupils while attending school outings	School policy outlining procedures for school outings
Sporting Activities	Harm to pupils by external coaches	Policy for the use of external sports coaches Class teacher remains with class at all times
Annual Sports day	Harm to pupils as there are a lot more visitors to the school on Sports Day	Class teacher remains with their class for all activities during Annual Sports day
Care of pupils with specific vulnerabilities Pupils from ethnic minorities/migrants Members of the traveller Community LGBT children/pupils perceived as LGBT Pupils from minority religious faiths Children in care Children on CPNS	Bullying	Anti-bullying policy  Code of Behaviour
Use of off-site facilities for	Risk of harm by	Swimming pool block

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school activities e.g. swimming	a member of staff of another organisation or other person while pupils attending out of school activities	booked as private so no other group or individual can be present while pupils use it Class accompanied by class teacher Additional Supervision put in place if deemed necessary
Administration of medicine Administration of First Aid	Harm to pupil	Policy on Administration of medicine Policy on administration of First Aid
Recruitment of new staff <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Teachers</li> <li>• SNAs</li> <li>• Caretaker/Secretary/Cleaner</li> <li>• Sports Coaches</li> <li>• External Tutors/Guest Speakers</li> <li>• Volunteers/parents in school activities e.g. Junior Achievement</li> <li>• Visitors/Contractors present in school during school hours</li> </ul>	Harm not recognised or promptly reported	Child safeguarding statement & DES procedures made available to all staff Staff to view Tusla training module and any other online training offered by PDST Class teacher remains present when external speakers are in attendance
Use of Information and Communication technology by pupils in school	Risk of harm due to pupils inappropriately accessing /using computers, social media, phone and other devices in school	ICT policy Mobile Phone and Electronic games policy
Remote learning activities	Risk of harm due to pupils being exposed to inappropriate content /online bullying	All classes using the seesaw platform and activities emailed to parents' email address. Parents/guardians can view all correspondence between school staff and pupils A minimum of two staff to host group zoom calls - one to monitor waiting room

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		Pupils asked to dial in from shared living area and not bedrooms and to be appropriately attired Staff working with pupils on a one to one via zoom to ask parents to remain in the room during the call
Students from secondary schools participating in work experience	Harm by student	Work experience policy Students shown a copy of the Child Safeguarding Statement
Student teachers undertaking training placement in school	Harm by Student Harm not recognised or promptly reported	Work experience policy Students shown a copy of the Child Safeguarding Statement
Fundraising events involving pupils	Risk of harm	Fundraising events will take place on school property . If outside school parents will be requested to accompany pupils.
Homework club	Harm by school personnel	Homework club adhere to Child Protection Policy in place in school. This club is run by three school staff currently employed in the school.
Photographs of pupils	Harm to pupils from inappropriate use of photographs taken at school	All parents asked for permission to take photographs on enrolment form. Photos taken for website do not identify pupils. Parents allowed to take photos at school events for family use but asked not to upload to social media.
Use of the building by outside groups	Harm to children attending these groups	All groups who use the building and offer services to children or vulnerable adults have Garda vetting and policies and procedures in place re Child Protection

**Important Note:** It should be noted that risk in the context of this risk assessment is the risk of “harm” as defined in the Children First Act 2015 and not general health and safety risk. The definition of harm is set out in Chapter 4 of the *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017*

In undertaking this risk assessment, the board of management has endeavoured to identify as far as possible the risks of harm that are relevant to this school and to ensure that adequate procedures are in place to manage all risks identified. While it is not possible to foresee and remove all risk of harm, the school has in place the procedures listed in this risk assessment to manage and reduce risk to the greatest possible extent.