

## Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment Template

### Child Safeguarding Statement

St. Edan's N.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. Edan'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 Sarah Byrne
- 3 The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is Miriam Kehoe
- 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 22.9.2022

This Child Safeguarding Statement was reviewed by the Board of Management on 22.9.2022

Signed: Paul G Mooney

Chairperson of Board of Management

Signed: Sarah Byrne

Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Date: 22/09/2022

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## Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment

**Written Assessment of Risk of St. Edan's National** 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 School 2017*, the following is the Written Risk Assessment of St. Edan's National School

1. List of school activities	2. The school has identified the following risk of harm in respect of its activities –	3. The school has the following procedures in place to address the risks of harm identified in this assessment -
Training of school personnel in Child Protection matters	Harm not recognised or reported promptly	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 BOM records all records of staff and board training PDST
One to one teaching	Harm by school personnel	One to one teaching policy Open doors Table between teacher and pupil Glass in window
Care of Children with special needs, including intimate care needs	Harm by school personnel	Policy on intimate care
Toilet areas during break and lunch time	Inappropriate behaviour	Supervision policy
Curricular Provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay safe.	Non-teaching of same	School implements SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe in full
LGBT Children/Pupils perceived to be LGBT	Bullying	Anti-Bullying Policy Code of Behaviour
Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils	Harm from older pupils, unknown adults on the playground/area outside of school on route to parents/minders	Arrival and dismissal supervised by Teachers

		Written letter from parents requesting that children walk and that they give consent/accept responsibility.
Children travelling to and from school on school buses	from Driver	Garda Vetting of all drivers/adults on the school buses
Managing of challenging behaviour amongst pupils, including appropriate use of restraint	Injury to pupils and staff	Restraint Policy Health & Safety Policy Code Of Behaviour
Sports Coaches Caretaker	Harm to pupils	Policy & Procedures in place Garda Vetting
Students participating in work experience	Harm by student	Work experience Policy Child Safeguarding Statement.
Recreation breaks for pupils	Harm to pupils Bullying Visitors to the school e.g. builders/postman Areas where the teacher/SNA can't see	Anti-Bullying policy Supervision Policy Code of Behaviour Full implementation of the SPHE curriculum
Classroom teaching	Harm to pupils Teacher not seeing incidents/hearing incidents happen Injury to pupils Bullying	Supervision policy Code of behaviour Anti-bullying policy Glass panel in classroom door Code of professional conduct for teachers
One-to-one teaching	Risk to teacher Risk to pupil (one word against the other) Getting from/to resource/Learning support	One to one teaching policy Open door/window panel Code of behaviour policy Code of professional conduct for teachers
Outdoor teaching activities	Harm to pupils Teacher not seeing incidents/hearing incidents happen Injury to pupils Bullying	Supervision policy Code of behaviour Anti-bullying policy Code of professional conduct for teachers Health and safety policy/statement
Sporting Activities	Harm to pupils Teacher not seeing incidents/hearing incidents happen Injury to pupils Bullying Travelling to and from activity	Garda vetting of all personal School outings policy Supervision policy Anti-bullying policy School rules Code of behaviour

		Child friendly environment Adequate supervision
School Facebook Page	Public page so anyone can view photos of children People becoming familiar with children pictures Opportunity for photos to be shared on the web by unauthorised people	School photographs policy No photos of children's faces on FB page/ website without written permission from parents
School outings	Harm to pupils Teacher not seeing incidents/hearing incidents happen Injury to pupils Bullying Travelling to and from activity Additional personal present	Garda vetting of all personal School outings policy Supervision policy Anti-bullying policy School rules Code of behaviour Child friendly environment Adequate supervision
Annual Sports Day	Harm to students Non-school personal involved/present Bullying	Garda vetting of all personal School outings policy Supervision policy Anti-bullying policy School rules Code of behaviour Child friendly environment Adequate supervision
Fundraising events involving pupils	Harm to students Non-school personal involved/present	Supervision policy Garda vetting
Use of off-site facilities for school activities	Harm to students Non-school personal involved/present	School Outings Policy Garda Vetting Increased awareness from school staff about people at the event
School transport arrangements e.g. bus or carpooling	Harm to students Safety restraints on bus/car	School Outing Policy Garda Vetting of personal involved
Management of challenging behaviour amongst pupils, including appropriate use of restraint where required	Harm to student/teacher One to one involvement	Restraint policy Special Educational Needs Policy Code of Behaviour
Administration of Medicine	Risk to student	Administration of medicine policy

Administration of First Aid	Risk of overdosing	Consent form from parents for administration of medicine First Aid policy Having another child/adult present when administering first aid/medicine
Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst pupils	Risk to students	Code of Behaviour Anti-Bullying policy
Use of external personnel to supplement curriculum e.g. music/P.E.	Risk to student	Garda vetting Supervision policy Groups will always be supervised by a teacher or SNA Proof of Identity Policy on visiting contractors
Care of pupils with specific vulnerabilities/ needs such as <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pupils from ethnic minorities/migrants</li> <li>• Members of the Traveller community</li> <li>• Lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender (LGBT) children</li> <li>• Pupils perceived to be LGBT</li> <li>• Pupils of minority religious faiths</li> </ul> Children in care	Bullying from other pupils Exclusion by peers	Anti-Bullying Policy Code of Behaviour School Inclusion Policy
Recruitment of school personnel including - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Teachers</li> <li>• SNA's</li> <li>• Caretaker/Secretary/Cleaners</li> <li>• Sports coaches</li> <li>• External Tutors/Guest Speakers</li> <li>• Volunteers/Parents in school activities</li> <li>• Visitors/contractors present in school during school hours</li> </ul>	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 Policy of Parents / Volunteers Policy on Visiting Contractors

Visitors/contractors present during after school activities		
Use of Information and Communication Technology by pupils in school	Bullying Inappropriate websites	ICT policy Anti-Bullying Policy Code of Behaviour ICT policy
Student teachers undertaking training placement in school	Risk to student	Confidentiality Policy Work Placement policy
Use of video/photography/other media to record school events	Use of information/pictures against parent's wishes	Photographs policy Consent forms to be filled in by parents at the start of each school year.
After school use of school premises by other organisations	Risks to students who stay in school after hours e.g. for tennis	Garda vetting
Use of online learning platforms during remote learning	Risk to students in home setting and school not knowing due to not seeing the student in person Risk of students being exposed to external sources while using an online platform. Risk of online bullying.	Constant linking in with pupils via video conferencing, submission of work and feedback. Communicating with all students' parents about their progress/attendance if a student has not been present.  The Google Classroom, Class Dojo and Zoom platform are private meaning that only students and their parents with links can join. A waiting room facility is used for all Zoom calls so that the teacher can monitor who is present. Parental consent will be sought for all students when using the online platforms. All students sign an agreement with their parents before using the online platforms which covers behaviour. Teachers monitor the platforms closely. Antibullying policy is in place also.



**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.