



Mandatory Template 1: Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment Template

Child Safeguarding Statement

St. John of God G.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. John of God G.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 **Aoife McNicholas**
- 3 The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is **Sinéad Feery**
- 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 13th March 2018.

This Child Safeguarding Statement was reviewed by the Board of Management on 29th November 2021.

Signed: Brendan Prunty

Chairperson of Board of Management

Signed: Aoife McNicholas

Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Date: 29th/November/2021

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Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment

Written Assessment of Risk of St. John of God G.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 St. John of God G.N.S.

List of School Activities	Risk Level	The School has identified the following Risk of Harm in respect of its activities	The School has the following Procedures in place to address risk identified in this assessment
Training of school personnel in Child Protection matters	High	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 online training by PDST and in-school training Members of BOM to receive training BOM keeps a record of all staff and board training
One to one teaching/counselling/play therapy/in-school confessions	Med	Harm by school personnel	School has policy in place for one to one teaching c.f. Learning Support Policy and Code of Good Practice Vision panels are in place in all rooms where one to one teaching is required All personnel are required to adhere to Children First National Guidance and Child Protection Procedures
Care of Children with special needs, including intimate care needs	High	Harm by school personnel	Code of Good Practice

List of School Activities	Risk Level	The School has identified the following Risk of Harm in respect of its activities	The School has the following Procedures in place to address risk identified in this assessment
Toilet areas/changing areas	High	Inappropriate behaviour Bullying	Code of Behaviour Anti-Bullying Policy Code of Good Practice
Curricular Provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay safe.	Med	Non-teaching of same	School implements SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe in full
Classroom teaching/Small group teaching including withdrawal of a group	Low	Harm by school personnel	Required to adhere to Child Safeguarding Statement and Child Protection Procedures for Primary Schools Learning Support Policy and procedures outlined in Covid-19 Risk Assessment
Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils	Med	Harm from older pupils, unknown adults on the playground	<p>At 8.40 the pedestrian gate will be opened for all parents and children. People to enter via the pedestrian gate and follow the blue footprints, maintaining 2m distance from those in front at all times. Parents to drop child in yard and return out the small yellow gate, following the yellow footprints, again leaving 2m distance from those in front.* The exit route has been secured with pedestrian barriers.</p> <p>An SNA will be on duty daily in the morning from 8:40 to prevent cars from driving in the gate, and to ensure pedestrians don't walk up the exit route</p> <p>Children proceed to the main entrance where they will be met by Ms. McNicholas, enter and go straight to their room. They will then proceed immediately to their assigned seat.</p> <p><i>*Parents of infant children may walk their children to the main entrance. They should leave immediately via the exit route.</i></p> <p><i>Classes will be supervised by Ms McNicholas on the door and 2 teachers – one on the upstairs corridor and 1 on the downstairs corridor</i></p>

List of School Activities	Risk Level	The School has identified the following Risk of Harm in respect of its activities	The School has the following Procedures in place to address risk identified in this assessment
Managing of challenging behaviour amongst pupils, including appropriate use of restraint	Low	Injury to pupils and staff	Health & Safety Policy Code Of Behaviour
Sports Coaches and other external personnel employed by the school to supplement the curriculum	Low	Harm to pupils by personnel	Policy & Procedures in place Class teacher present Garda Vetting required
Students participating in work experience	Low	Harm by student	Work experience students are never left alone with children. They are always supervised. Child Safeguarding Statement.
Recreation breaks for pupils	High	Bullying Once off injury or harm by another pupil Adults entering the yard during break times Children going in from yard unsupervised to use the toilet	Child Safeguarding Statement Code of Good Practice Code of Behaviour Policies and procedures in place for adults who come to the school Supervision by teachers on yard Children accompanied by SNA if need to use toilets during break
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)pupils Pupils perceived to be LGBT Pupils of minority religious faiths Children in care Children on CPNS	Med	Bullying Once off harm by another pupil Non-attendance or poor attendance at school	Anti-Bullying Policy Code of Behaviour DEIS Attendance Plan NEWB

List of School Activities	Risk Level	The School has identified the following Risk of Harm in respect of its activities	The School has the following Procedures in place to address risk identified in this assessment
Outdoor teaching activities/Sporting Activities	Med	Bullying Inappropriate Behaviour Possibility of children wandering/absconding	Code of Behaviour Anti-bullying Policy Careful supervision and monitoring of children
Homework club/After school clubs/Summer Camps	Low	Harm by school personnel	All staff required to adhere to Children First 2015 and Child Protection Procedures 2017 All staff Garda vetted
Breakfast club	Low	Harm by school personnel	All staff required to adhere to Children First 2015 and Child Protection Procedures 2017 All staff garda vetted
School outings	Med	Unknown adults Unfamiliar territory Harm by volunteers Harm by school personnel Harm by other children both from our school and from other schools	Code of Good Practice Careful teacher supervision on outings Pupil ratio of 10:1 adults Choosing outings to places with a good reputation for safety and compliance with Child Protection Standards
Annual Sports Day	Med	Bullying Harm by school personnel Children re-entering school building alone during activities (to use toilet)	Locking back door during events so pupils can only enter through the front door where they are buzzed in and seen by secretary. Anti-Bullying Policy Code of Behaviour
Fundraising events involving pupils	Med	Harm by other adults Bullying Children re-entering school building alone during activities (to use toilet)	Locking back door during events so pupils can only enter through the front door where they are buzzed in and seen by secretary. Anti-Bullying Policy Code of Behaviour

List of School Activities	Risk Level	The School has identified the following Risk of Harm in respect of its activities	The School has the following Procedures in place to address risk identified in this assessment
Use of off-site facilities for school activities, including participation in religious ceremonies external to the school	Med	Unknown adults Unfamiliar territory Harm by volunteers Harm by school personnel Harm by other children both from our school and from other schools	Code of Good Practice Careful teacher supervision on outings Pupil ratio of 10:1 adults Choosing outings to places with a good reputation for safety and compliance with Child Protection Standards
School transport arrangements	Low	Bullying	Pupil:teacher ratio is lowered Children have limited interaction due to safety belts
Administration of Medicine Administration of First Aid	Low	Failure to administer Harm by personnel Administering incorrectly	Administration of Medication Policy Code of Good Practice
Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst pupils	Med	Lack of supervision Harm by pupils	Identifying bullying hotspots Anti-Bullying Policy Adequate Supervision of pupils Code of Behaviour
Recruitment of school personnel including - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teachers • SNAs • 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 	High	Harm not recognised or properly or promptly reported	Child Safeguarding Statement & DES procedures made available to all staff Staff to view online training offered by PDST Vetting Procedures Policy of Parents / Volunteers Policy on Visiting Contractors

List of School Activities	Risk Level	The School has identified the following Risk of Harm in respect of its activities	The School has the following Procedures in place to address risk identified in this assessment
Use of school premises by other organisation during school day (Pre-school/Parents' Association/HSCL Clusters etc.)	High	Unknown and un-vetted adults in the building Policies and procedures of Pre-school not within our remit	Children are not left unsupervised by their teacher All visitors to the school must sign in at reception Pre-school has own Child Protection Policies in place Parents' Association activities are mostly conducted in Parents' Room
Use of Information and Communication Technology by pupils in school	Med	Bullying	Acceptable Usage Policy Anti-Bullying Policy Code of Behaviour
Use of video/photography/other media to record school events	High	Bullying	Acceptable Usage Policy Anti-Bullying Policy Code of Behaviour
After school use of school premises by other organisations	Med	Unknown adults viewing photographs of children displayed in school Unknown adults knowing layout of the school	All visitors to the school need to sign in All visitors to the school are buzzed in by the front door where they engage with the secretary After school use of premises is limited to Riverside Drama Circle
Student teachers undertaking training placement in school	Low	Harm by student teacher Risk that they would not be familiar with Child Protection Procedures and Guidance documents	Large group setting Garda Vetting in place for teaching practice students Student teachers given Child Protection Folder with all Child Protection documents pertaining to this school enclosed
Distance Learning Since the COVID19 pandemic, children are engaging in remote learning. This involves children using digital devices to engage with the school.	Med	Risk of harm to child from online sources Risk of harm to child by school personnel Risk that child protection concerns would not be recorded promptly and properly by school personnel.	Online interactions between teachers/SNAs/pupils/parents should be cognisant of the same policies and procedures as face to face interactions would require. Anything that occurs online that raises a Child Protection concern should be dealt with immediately and should adhere fully to our Child Safeguarding Statement and Child Protection procedures. It is impossible to predict all the risks; however, the following is recommended for all parties: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children should not be given devices to use unsupervised for the purposes of distance learning or homework. A parent or

		<p>Risk of child engaging in inappropriate or risky behaviour online.</p>	<p>other caregiver should be in the same room as the child if she is engaging in distance learning/homework.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A staff member should never arrange to speak to a single pupil in an online forum • If arranging an online meeting (e.g. Zoom) the parent/guardian will be sent the link to join the online meeting, not the pupil. The invitation must not be shared with anybody else. • All meetings will be password protected • All screens must be visible for the duration of the meeting. • The child's real name must be used. • All users must be dressed appropriately and age-appropriately. • The background, whether real or virtual, must be appropriate. • Sessions must never be recorded and photos must not be taken. • Pupil behaviour must be in-line with our Code of Behaviour.
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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 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.