



Stratford National School Child Safeguarding Statement

Stratford National School 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 Stratford NS 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: Ms. Sarah Cormican
- 3 The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is: Ms. Gemma O'Byrne
- 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. The school will adhere to the following principles of best practice in child protection and welfare. The school will:
 - a. recognise that the protection and welfare of children is of paramount importance, regardless of all other considerations
 - b. fully comply with its statutory obligations under the Children First Act 2015 and other relevant legislation relating to the protection and welfare of children
 - c. fully co-operate with the relevant statutory authorities in relation to child protection and welfare matters
 - d. 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
 - e. develop a practice of openness with parents and encourage parental involvement in the education of their children; and
 - f. fully respect confidentiality requirements in dealing with child protection matters

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

- 5 The following procedures/measures are in place:
 - a. 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
 - b. 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
- c. 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:
- i. Has provided each member of staff with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement
 - ii. Ensures all new staff are provided with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement
 - iii. Encourages staff to avail of relevant training
 - iv. Encourages Board of Management members to avail of relevant training
 - v. The Board of Management maintains records of all staff and Board member training.
- d. 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
- e. 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 school's child safeguarding statement.
- 6 All registered teachers employed by the school are mandated persons under the Children First Act 2015
- 7 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 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 attached as an appendix to these procedures
- 8 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

This statement has been published on the school's website and has been provided to all members of school personnel, the Parents' Association 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 adopted by the Board of Management in September 2022.

Signed: Mr. Daniel Miller

Chairperson BOM

Date: 29th September 2022

Signed: Ms Sarah Cormican

Principal/Secretary to BOM

Date: 29th September 2022



Stratford National School Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment (of any potential harm)

List of School Activities	Risk Level	The School has identified the following Risk of Harm	The School has the following Procedures in place to address risk identified in this assessment
Training of school personnel in Child Protection matters	Low	All staff have completed the TUSLA module and are aware of the CP procedures	Child Safeguarding Statement & DES procedures made available to all staff (included in welcome pack) DLP& DDLP to attend PDST training All Staff to view Tusla training module & any other online training offered by PDST Training offered to BOM members
One to one teaching	Low	Harm by school personnel	Open doors when one-to-one
Care of Children with special needs, including intimate care needs	Med	Harm by school personnel	Health and Safety Policy Follow Personal Pupil Plan as required
Toilet areas	Med	Inappropriate behaviour	Toilets are in classrooms Children ask to use the toilet One person at a time policy Code of Behaviour Health and Safety Policy Classroom Teaching (SPHE)
Curricular Provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay safe.	Low	Non-teaching of same	School implements Stay Safe in full on a biannual basis School implements SPHE, Walk Tall and RSE programmes Review of programmes done in June 2021 to ensure all staff were aware of the bi-annual programme
LGBT Children/Pupils perceived to be LGBT	Med	Bullying	Anti-Bullying Policy Code of Behaviour Classroom Teaching – Stay Safe Programme, Walk Tall

List of School Activities	Risk Level	The School has identified the following Risk of Harm	The School has the following Procedures in place to address risk identified in this assessment
Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils	Med	Supervision Child not collected on time	Dismissal supervised by Teachers Health & Safety Policy Child Safeguarding Statement Supervision on yard from 8:50am Staff Fully Vetted
Managing of challenging behaviour amongst pupils	High	Injury to pupils and staff	Health & Safety Policy Code Of Behaviour
Sports Coaches	Med	Harm to pupils	Child Safeguarding Statement Policy & Procedures in place (Welcome Pack) Ensuring that all after school staff have full Garda Vetting
Students participating in work experience	Low	Harm by student	Child Safeguarding Statement Students fully supervised at all times by teaching staff Students vetted if applicable
Recreation breaks for pupils	High	Harm by students	Code of Behaviour Health & Safety Policy Ensuring that trees on yard are cut and that all children are visible at all times Ensuring adequate supervision on yard
Classroom teaching	Low	Harm to pupils	Child Safeguarding Statement Policies and procedures in place (Welcome Pack) Health and Safety Policy
Outdoor teaching activities	Med	Harm to pupils	Health and Safety Policy Ensuring adequate Supervision Pre-teaching of routines
Sporting Activities (ie. Sports day)	Med	Harm to pupils	Child Safeguarding Statement Health and Safety Policy Ensuring extracurricular staff are fully Garda Vetted Adequate supervision provided
School outings	Med	Harm to pupils	Ensuring adequate supervision Health and Safety Policy Pre-teaching of routines Code of Behaviour

List of School Activities	Risk Level	The School has identified the following Risk of Harm	The School has the following Procedures in place to address risk identified in this assessment
Administration of Medicine/ First Aid	High	Harm to pupils	Administration of Medication policy Staff First Aid training Health and Safety Policy Ensuring Medication is stored securely
Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst pupils	High	Harm to pupils	Code of Behaviour Anti-Bullying Policy School implements Stay Safe in full on a biannual basis School implements SPHE, Walk Tall and RSE programmes Organised events promoting positive relationships
Use of external personnel to supplement curriculum	Med	Harm to pupils	Child Safeguarding Statement & DES procedures made available to all staff (Welcome Pack) Code of Behaviour Garda Vetting
Hebrew Teaching	Low/ Med	Harm to Pupils	Child Safeguarding Statement & DES procedures made available to all staff (Welcome Pack) Staff to view Tusla training module & any other online training offered by PDST Vetting Procedures
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 	Low	Harm not recognised or properly or promptly reported	Child Safeguarding Statement & DES procedures made available to all staff Following of recruitment protocols Staff to view Tusla training module & any other online training offered by PDST Vetting Procedures

List of School Activities	Risk Level	The School has identified the following Risk of Harm	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/ Afterschool hours PA organised Activities	Med	Harm to pupils	Child Safeguarding Statement & DES procedures made available to all staff Garda Vetting Procedures Leaving doors open during one-to-one lessons
Use of Information and Communication Technology by pupils in school	High	Bullying Accessing inappropriate material	ICT policy Anti-Bullying Policy Code of Behaviour Stay Safe programme Acceptable Use Policy (ICT) Parental Consent Supervision of internet use
Student teachers undertaking training placement in school	Low	Harm to pupils	Child Safeguarding Statement & DES procedures made available to all staff Student teacher fully supervised at all time by Registered Teachers
Use of video/photography/other media to record school events	Low	Harm to pupils	Ensuring parental permission to take photographs Pupils are not permitted to use mobile phones during school time

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.

This risk assessment has been completed by the Board of Management in October 2021. It will be reviewed as part of the school's annual review of its Child Safeguarding Statement.

Signed David Y.M. Date 29th September 2022

Chairperson, Board of Management

Signed Sarah Connican Date 29th September 2022

Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management