

Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment

For:

St. Aidan's NS

At:

Smithstown, Shannon, Co. Clare V14 AW77

This school is a:

Primary School

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)* and 2025, *Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025* and *Child Safeguarding: A Guide for Policy, Procedure and Practice, 2nd ed.* (Tusla, 2024), the board of management has adopted the Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment 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 Schools 2025* as part of this overall Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment.

Name of the Designated Liaison Person (DLP):

Ms. Patrice Hayes, Principal

Name of the Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP/DDLP):

Ms. Noreen Moloney, Deputy Principal

In the absence of the DLP, the Deputy DLP shall assume responsibilities of the DLP

Name of Relevant Person

Ms. Patrice Hayes, Principal

Relevant Person can be contacted on:

061 363147 or staidansns@hotmail.com

Name of Chairperson of the board of management, or in an ETB school the Chief Executive or their delegate:

Ms. Criona Horgan, Chairperson

In the event that both DLP and DDLP are absent and unavailable, and where there is no staff member formally acting in their role, the chairperson of the board of management, or in an ETB school the chief executive or their delegate, assumes the role of DLP.

The board of management recognises that child protection and safeguarding permeate all aspects of school life and must be reflected in all of the school's policies, procedures, practices and activities. In all of these, 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 happening to children and protect members of school personnel from the necessity to take unnecessary risks that may leave themselves open to accusations of child abuse.
- ✓ Develop a practice of openness with parents and encourage parental involvement in the education of their children.
- ✓ Fully respect confidentiality requirements as set out in the Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025 in dealing with child protection matters.
- ✓ Adhere to the above principles in relation to any vulnerable adult.

Procedures and Measures in Place

Our Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment has been developed in line with requirements under the Children First Act 2015, the Children First: National Guidance 2017, and Child Safeguarding: A Guide for Policy, Procedure and Practice, 2nd ed. (Tusla, 2024), and the Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025. In addition to the procedures listed in our risk assessment, the following procedures support our intention to safeguard children while they are availing of our service:

➤ *Procedure for the Management of Allegations of Abuse or Misconduct against School Personnel Relating to a Child Availing of Our Service*

~ Where any member of school personnel is the subject of any investigation in respect of any act, omission or circumstance in relation to a child attending the school, the school is required to adhere to the relevant procedures set out in Chapter 7 of the Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025 and to the relevant agreed disciplinary procedures for school staff which are published on the gov.ie website

➤ *Procedure for the Safe Recruitment and Selection of School Personnel to Work With Children*

~ The school is required to adhere to the requirements of the Vetting Act. The selection or recruitment of staff and their suitability to work with children, requires the school to adhere 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 Youth and available on the gov.ie website and as outlined in Chapter 10 of the procedures.

~ A written protocol is in place authorising immediate action for cases which require an employee to be immediately absented from school for child safeguarding reasons.

➤ *Procedure for Provision of and Access to Child Safeguarding Training and Information, Including the Identification of the Occurrence of Harm*

~ The school provides information and training to members of school personnel in relation to the identification of the occurrence of harm (as defined in the 2015 Act) as follows:

~ The school has provided each member of school personnel, including any new members of school personnel, (employees and volunteers, board of management members, student teachers and those on work experience) with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment.

~ The school ensures that members of school personnel have availed of relevant training and completed child protection training.

~ The school encourages board of management members to avail of any relevant training and complete child protection training.

~ The board of management ensures that records of all staff and board member child protection training are maintained.

➤ *Procedure for the Reporting of Child Protection or Welfare Concerns to Tusla*

~ All members of school personnel are required to adhere to the procedures set out in the Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025, in relation to reporting of child protection concerns to Tusla. Mandated reporting applies to all registered teachers and any other mandated person who may be employed by the school, for example a chaplain or nurse. A full list of those people who are mandated persons is set out in Appendix 1 procedures.

Procedure for Maintaining a List of the Persons (if any) in the Relevant Service Who Are Mandated Persons

~ There is a procedure in place to maintain a list of mandated persons. Schools may on occasion employ additional staff who are mandated by virtue of their profession. This list will include all registered teachers and identify additional employees that are not registered teachers.

➤ *Procedure for Appointing a Relevant Person (In schools this person is the DLP)*

~ There is a procedure in place for appointing a relevant person.

The various procedures referred to in this Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment can be accessed via the school's website, the gov.ie website or will be made available on request by the school.

In accordance with the Children First Act 2015, the Addendum to Children First 2019 and 2025, and the Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025, the board of management 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.

Note: The procedures and measures in place outlined above, are not intended as exhaustive list. Individual boards of management shall also include in this section such other procedures and measures that are of relevance to the school.

This statement has been published on the school's website or will be made available on request by the school. It has been provided to all members of school personnel, the parents' association (if any), the patron and parents. A copy of this statement and risk assessment will be made available to Tusla and the department if requested.

This Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment will be reviewed annually or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which this statement refers.

In accordance with Section 11 of the Children First Act 2015 and with the requirements of Chapter 9 of the Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025, the following is the written Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment.

In undertaking this Child Safeguarding Statement and 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 Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment was reviewed by the board of management on

7.10.2025.

Signed:

CRÍONA HORGAN

Date:

7.10.2025.

Chairperson of the Board of Management

Signed:

Patrice Hayes

Date:

7.10.25

Principal/ Secretary to the Board of Management

This Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment is expected to be reviewed again on

7th October 2026



St. Aidan's N.S.

Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment (CSS1)

In accordance with Section 11 of the Children First Act 2015, the Addendum to Children First (2019 & 2025), and the Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025, the Board of Management of St. Aidan's N.S. has carried out a written assessment of risk of potential harm to children while attending the school or participating in school activities.

List of School Activities	Risks Identified	Procedures/Measures/Policies in Place
Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision at arrival/dismissal	Supervision rota; yard/playground supervision policy; staff present at gates; Code of Behaviour
Recreation breaks for pupils	Risk of harm due to bullying, rough play, or inadequate supervision	Supervision rota; Anti-Bullying Policy (Bí Cineálta procedures); SPHE & Stay Safe programmes; Code of Behaviour
Classroom teaching	Risk of harm not being recognised or reported; inappropriate behaviour	Child Protection Procedures 2025 training for all staff; SPHE & RSE curriculum; staff access to CSS
One-to-one teaching/learning support	Risk of harm in one-to-one settings	One-to-one teaching policy; open doors/visibility; parental consent; supervision protocol
One-to-one counselling	Risk of harm due to inappropriate relationships	Counselling policy; Garda vetted professionals; parental consent; supervision protocols

Care of children with SEN, including intimate care	Risk of harm while receiving intimate care	Intimate Care Policy; training for SNAs; two staff where appropriate; parental involvement in care plans
Management of challenging behaviour	Risk of harm due to inappropriate restraint or handling	Guidelines on Responding to Crisis Situations; Behaviour Support Plans; Code of Behaviour; staff training
Children in care / CPNS	Risk of harm due to vulnerability and lack of communication	Liaison with Tusla; staff awareness training; pastoral supports; inclusion policy
Children from ethnic minorities / migrants	Risk of harm due to racism or exclusion	Anti-racism initiatives; Anti-Bullying Policy; SPHE & Wellbeing programmes
Traveller children	Risk of harm due to discrimination or exclusion	Inclusion policy; pastoral care; Anti-Bullying Policy; SPHE curriculum
LGBT children / perceived LGBT	Risk of harm due to bullying or discrimination	Anti-Bullying Policy; RSE/SPHE curriculum; Bí Cineálta procedures; pastoral supports
Pupils of minority faiths	Risk of harm due to exclusion from religious instruction	Inclusion policy; opt-out arrangements; parental communication
Children with medical needs	Risk of harm due to inadequate medical response	Administration of Medication Policy; First Aid Policy; staff training; parental consent forms
Outdoor teaching activities	Risk of harm due to lack of supervision	Supervision policy; risk assessments for activities; staff ratios maintained
Online teaching and learning remotely	Risk of harm due to inappropriate platform use or unsupervised access	Acceptable Use Policy; online safety policy; staff monitoring; parental guidance

Sporting activities	Risk of harm due to inappropriate behaviour or poor supervision	Sports policy; staff supervision; vetting of coaches; Code of Behaviour
Swimming lessons	Risk of harm due to changing/shower areas and external staff	Swimming supervision policy; vetting of instructors; staff presence; supervision of changing areas
Annual Sports Day	Risk of harm due to large gatherings and external volunteers	Events policy; staff supervision; vetting of volunteers; supervision rota
School outings and trips	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision or inappropriate adult-child interactions	School outings policy; parental consent; vetting of adults; adult-pupil ratios
Overnight and foreign trips	Risk of harm through accommodation arrangements or travel supervision	Overnight trips policy; parental meetings; vetting; gender-appropriate arrangements
Fundraising events involving pupils	Risk of harm through unsupervised contact with adults	Events policy; staff supervision; vetting of volunteers; safeguarding briefing
Use of external tutors/guest speakers	Risk of harm due to inappropriate contact or lack of safeguarding awareness	External tutor policy; vetting; staff supervision present; safeguarding briefing
Use of external coaches for sports/extra-curricular	Risk of harm due to lack of safeguarding procedures	External coach policy; vetting; staff supervision; Code of Behaviour adherence
Volunteers/Parents in school activities	Risk of harm due to inappropriate behaviour or lack of awareness	Volunteer policy; Garda vetting; safeguarding induction
Visitors/contractors during and after school	Risk of harm due to unsupervised access to children	Visitor policy; sign-in procedures; restricted access areas; supervision requirements

Use of school premises by other organisations	Risk of harm due to lack of safeguarding procedures	Formal agreements; safeguarding compliance required; supervision policy
Use of ICT, social media, smartphones	Risk of harm through cyberbullying, grooming, or inappropriate access	Acceptable Use Policy; filtering systems; smartphone/tablet policy (Circular 38/2018); SPHE & Webwise resources
Use of video/photography/other media	Risk of harm through inappropriate sharing of images	Photography/recording policy; parental consent; GDPR compliance
Application of sanctions under Code of Behaviour	Risk of harm due to inappropriate disciplinary measures	Code of Behaviour; Positive Behaviour Policy; supervision during detention; parental communication
Breakfast club, homework club, after-school study	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision or unvetted staff	Supervision rota; Garda-vetted staff; safeguarding procedures; Code of Behaviour
Student teachers on placement	Risk of harm due to lack of safeguarding awareness	Placement policy; vetting; class teacher supervision; safeguarding induction
Pupils on work experience (in or outside school)	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision or inappropriate placement	Work experience policy; vetting; supervision requirements; parental consent

Important Note: Risk in this context is the risk of 'harm' as defined in the Children First Act 2015 and not general health and safety risk.

This Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment will be reviewed annually, or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which this risk assessment refers.

Signed: Críona Horgan
Chairperson, Board of Management

Signed: Patrice Hayer
Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management