

Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment



St. Patrick's College

Lacken Cross, Killala - Co. Mayo

St Patrick's College is a post-primary school providing post-primary education to pupils from First Year to Leaving Certificate Year.

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 (revised 2023) and Tusla Guidance on the preparation of Child Safeguarding Statements, the Board of Management of St Patrick's College has agreed the Child Safeguarding Statement 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)	Mr. Brian Jennings
Name of Deputy Designated Liaison Person (DDLDP)	Mr. Declan Burke
Name of Relevant Person	Mr. Brian Jennings
Relevant Person can be contacted on	096 -34177 or brianjennings@msletb.ie
Name of the Chairperson of the Board of Management of St Patrick's College	Mr. David Alexander

The Board of Management recognises that child protection and safeguarding permeate all aspects of school life and must be reflected in all 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.

Risk Assessment

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk.
1	Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils.	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children in school.	The school has a yard supervision policy policy to ensure appropriate supervision of children during assembly, dismissal and breaks in respect of specific areas such as toilets and other designated areas. All staff are Garda Vetted.
2	Recreation breaks for pupils.	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children in school.	The school has a yard supervision policy policy to ensure appropriate supervision of children during assembly, dismissal and breaks in respect of specific areas such as toilets and other designated areas. All staff are Garda Vetted.
3	Classroom teaching.	Risk of harm due to bullying of a child. Risk of harm due to inadequate implementation of the code of behaviour.	The school has in place the following: Bí Cinnealta Anti-Bullying Policy. Code of Behaviour.
4	One-to-one teaching.	Risk of harm in one-to-one teaching, counselling, coaching situation.	The school has in place a policy and clear procedures for one-to-one teaching activities.
5	One-to-one learning support.	Risk of harm in one-to-one teaching, counselling, coaching situation	The school has in place a policy and clear procedures for one-to-one teaching activities.
6	One-to-one counselling.	Risk of harm in one-to-one teaching, counselling, coaching situation	The school has in place a policy and clear procedures for one-to-one teaching activities.

7	Outdoor teaching activities.	<p>Risk of harm due to bullying of a child.</p> <p>Risk of harm due to inadequate implementation of the code of behaviour.</p>	<p>The school has in place the following:</p> <p>Bí Cinnealta Anti-Bullying Policy.</p> <p>Code of Behaviour.</p>
8	Online teaching and learning remotely	<p>Risk of harm due to inappropriate use of online remote teaching and learning communication platform such as an uninvited person accessing the lesson link, students being left unsupervised for long periods of time in breakout rooms.</p> <p>Risk of harm due to children inappropriately accessing/using computers, social media, phones and other devices while at school.</p>	<p>The school has in place the following:</p> <p>Internet/AUP Policy.</p> <p>Mobile Phone Policy.</p>
9	Sporting activities	<p>Risk of harm due to bullying of the child.</p> <p>Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children while attending out of school activities.</p> <p>Risk of harm due to inadequate implementation of the code of behaviour.</p> <p>Risk of child being harmed by a member of school personnel, a member of staff of another organisation or other person while child participating in out of school sporting activities.</p>	<p>The school has in place policy and procedures in respect of school outings.</p> <p>Mobile Phone Policy.</p> <p>External sports coaches are asked to provide proof of Garda Vetting through their respective organisations.</p>

10	School outings	<p>Risk of harm due to bullying of the child.</p> <p>Risk of harm due to inadequate implementation of the code of behaviour.</p> <p>Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children while attending out of school activities.</p> <p>Risk of child being harmed by a member of school personnel, a member of staff of another organisation or other person while child participating in out of school activities, e.g. school trip, swimming lessons.</p>	<p>The school has in place the following:</p> <p>Bí Cinnealta Anti-Bullying Policy.</p> <p>Code of Behaviour.</p> <p>Mobile Phone Policy.</p> <p>The school has in place a policy and clear procedures in respect of school outings.</p>
11	School trips involving overnight stay.	<p>Risk of harm due to bullying of child.</p> <p>Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children while attending out of school activities.</p> <p>Risk of harm due to inadequate implementation of the code of behaviour.</p> <p>Risk of child being harmed by a member of school personnel, a member of staff of another organisation or other person while the child is participating in out of school activities, e.g. school trip, swimming lessons.</p>	<p>The school has in place the following:</p> <p>Bí Cinnealta Anti-Bullying Policy.</p> <p>The school has in place a policy and clear procedures in respect of school outings.</p> <p>Policy and procedures in respect of school outings.</p> <p>Supervision Policy.</p> <p>Code of Conduct.</p> <p>Policy and procedures for administering first aid.</p> <p>Mobile Phone Policy.</p> <p>Critical Incident Management Plan.</p> <p>Relevant Insurance is provided by MSL ETB.</p>

12	School trips involving foreign travel.	<p>Risk of harm due to bullying of child.</p> <p>Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children while attending out of school activities.</p> <p>Risk of harm due to inadequate implementation of the code of behaviour.</p> <p>Risk of child being harmed by a member of school personnel, a member of staff of another organisation or other person while child participating in out of school activities, e.g. school trip, swimming lessons.</p>	<p>The school has in place the following:</p> <p>The school has in place a policy and clear procedures in respect of school outings.</p> <p>Bí Cinnealta Anti-Bullying Policy.</p> <p>Supervision Policy.</p> <p>Code of Conduct.</p> <p>Policy and procedures for administering first aid.</p> <p>Mobile Phone Policy.</p> <p>Critical Incident Management Plan.</p> <p>Relevant Insurance is provided by MSL ETB.</p>
13	Use of toilet/changing/shower areas in schools.	<p>Risk of harm due to bullying of child.</p> <p>Risk of harm due to inadequate implementation of the code of behaviour.</p>	<p>The school has in place the following:</p> <p>Supervision Policy.</p> <p>Anti-Bullying Policy.</p> <p>Health & Safety Policy.</p> <p>Implements the SPHE Curriculum.</p> <p>Implements the Wellbeing Programme at JC.</p> <p>Code of Conduct.</p> <p>Mobile Phone Policy.</p>

14	Annual Sports Day.	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children while attending out of school activities	<p>The school has in place the following:</p> <p>Supervision Policy. Mobile Phone Policy. Code of Conduct. Health & Safety Policy. Policy and procedures for administering first aid.</p>
15	Fundraising events involving pupils.	Risk of child being harmed in the school by volunteer or visitor to the school	<p>The school has in place the following:</p> <p>Consent is given by parents for their son/daughter to participate. Fundraising for the school requires approval from the local Superintendent. Fundraising for an external organisation or charity requires confirmation of approval of permit and authorisation of same. Supervision policy. Code of Conduct</p>
16	Use of off-site facilities for school activities.	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children while attending out of school activities	<p>Risk assessment of suitability and safety of facilities. Consent is given by parents.</p> <p>Supervision policy. Code of Conduct. Health & Safety Policy. Policy and procedures for administering first aid. Mobile Phone Policy.</p>

17	School transport arrangements including use of bus escorts.	<p>Risk of harm due to bullying of child.</p> <p>Risk of harm due to inadequate implementation of the code of behaviour.</p> <p>Risk of harm to children with SEN who have particular vulnerabilities, including medical vulnerabilities</p>	<p>Bí Cinnealta Anti-Bullying Policy.</p> <p>Supervision Policy.</p> <p>Code of Conduct.</p> <p>Bus company insurance details and safety statement to be presented.</p> <p>Garda vetting of bus drivers to be confirmed by company.</p>
18	Care of children with special educational needs, including intimate care where needed.	<p>Risk of harm to child while a child is receiving intimate care.</p> <p>Risk of harm to children with SEN who have particular vulnerabilities, including medical vulnerabilities</p>	<p>The school has in place the following:</p> <p>Special Educational Needs Policy.</p> <p>S.N.A. Policy.</p> <p>Intimate care policy/plan in respect of students who require such care.</p>
19	Management of challenging behaviour amongst pupils, including appropriate use of restraint where required.	Risk of harm due to inadequate implementation of the code of behaviour.	<p>Code of Conduct.</p> <p>Suspension Policy.</p> <p>Expulsion Policy.</p> <p>Guidelines on Understanding Behaviours of concern and responding to crisis situations.</p>
20	Management of provision of food and drink.	Risk of harm due to inadequate information regarding allergens in food.	<p>The service provider has in place a policy regarding allergens in food.</p> <p>The service provider provides information regarding allergens in food.</p>
21	Administration of Medicine.	<p>Risk of harm to a student due to inadequate training of staff.</p> <p>Risk of harm to a student due to inadequate communication from parents and guardians.</p>	The school has in place a policy and procedures for the administration of medication to pupils/students.

22	Administration of First Aid.	Risk of harm to a student due to inadequate training of staff.	The school has in place a policy and procedures for the administration of First Aid.
23	Curricular provision in respect of SPHE and RSE.	Risk of harm to students through lack of understanding of specific issues, including sexual identity, religious and ethnic background.	The school implements in full the SPHE curriculum. Full Implementation of SPHE Curriculum, RSE & the Wellbeing Programme. Guidance Plan. Additional SPHE/Wellbeing classes for students with extreme vulnerabilities
24	Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst pupils.	Risk of harm due to bullying of child. Risk of harm due to inadequate code of behaviour.	Implementation of the Wellbeing Programme. Bí Cinealta - Anti-Bullying Policy. Code of Conduct.
25	Training of school personnel in child protection matters.	Risk of harm due to the failure of recognising and reporting concerns in accordance with procedures	All school staff are provided with the school's Child Safeguarding Statement and are updated when the Board of Management reviews this statement. Child Protection Procedures are available to all school personnel in electronic format on the school SharePoint or hard copy in the staffroom. All school personnel adhere to child protection procedures Schools 2025 and all registered teaching staff adhere to the Children First Act 2015. Staff avail of training in Child Protection where appropriate. BOM members are encouraged to avail of relevant training. Records of all staff and board member training is to be kept.

26	Use of external personnel to supplement curriculum.	<p>Risk of child being harmed during the school activity by volunteer or visitor to the school.</p> <p>Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children while attending said activities.</p>	The school has in place a policy and procedures for the use of external persons to supplement delivery of the curriculum.
27	Use of external personnel to support sports and other extra-curricular activities.	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children while attending out of school activities.	The school has in place a policy and procedures for the use of external sports coaches.
28	<p>Care of pupils with specific vulnerabilities/ needs such as;</p> <p>Students from ethnic minorities/migrants</p> <p>Members of the traveller community</p> <p>Lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender (LGBT) children</p> <p>Students perceived to be LGBT</p> <p>Students of minority religious faiths</p> <p>Children in care</p> <p>Children on CPNS</p>	<p>Risk of harm due to racism</p> <p>Risk of harm due to bullying of child.</p> <p>Risk of harm due to inadequate implementation of the code of behaviour.</p>	<p>The school has an Anti-Bullying Policy which fully adheres to the requirements of the Department's <i>Anti-Bullying Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools</i></p> <p>School liaises with organisations and support services that are linked to the needs/vulnerabilities identified. Home, School, Community Liaison Policy and Procedures.</p> <p>School will seek additional support from the DES to care for children with specific vulnerabilities/needs, e.g. additional supports for EAL children.</p> <p>Implementation in full of the SPHE and Wellbeing programme.</p> <p>Bí-Cinnealta Anti-Bullying Policy.</p> <p>Supervision Policy.</p> <p>SEN Policy</p>

29	<p>Recruitment of school personnel including - Teachers/SNAs. Sports Coaches. External tutors and guests. Volunteers and parents in school activities. Visitors and contractors present in school during school hours. Visitors and contractors present during after school activities.</p>	<p>Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision. Risk of child being harmed by a member of school personnel, visitors or volunteers in school activities.</p>	<p>Adheres to the requirements of Garda vetting legislation and relevant DES circulars in relation to recruitment and vetting. Policy and Procedures for the use of external sports coaches. Staff are to be present with their own timetabled class when an external visitor or speaker is present. Contractors and Visitors are to sign in at the office and sign out accordingly. Where practical to do so any works that need to be carried out by an external contractor must be done outside of school hours, unless in the event of an emergency. In such circumstances, contractors must be accompanied at all times by a member of staff.</p>
30	<p>Participation by pupils in religious ceremonies/religious instruction external to the school.</p>	<p>Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children while attending out of school activities.</p>	<p>Consent must be provided by parents in advance. Where a student does not wish to engage in such activity then appropriate supervision must be provided by the school. Supervision Policy. Code of Conduct.</p>
31	<p>Use of Information and Communications Technology by pupils/students in school, including social media</p>	<p>Risk of harm due to children inappropriately accessing/using computers, social media, phones and other devices while at school.</p>	<p>ICT Acceptable Use Policy. Mobile Phone Policy. Code of Conduct.</p>

32	Application of sanctions under the school's Code of Behaviour including detention of pupils/students, confiscation of phones etc.	Risk of harm to students during detention. Risk of harm to students while suspended.	Code of Conduct. Suspension and Expulsion Policy. Mobile Phone Policy.
33	Students participating in work experience in the school.	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of students while attending work experience at our school.	The school has in place a policy and procedures in respect of students undertaking work experience in the school. Students involved in TY, LC and LCVP courses are only permitted to engage in work experience.
34	Students from the school participating in work experience elsewhere.	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children while attending out of school activities	The school has in place a policy and procedures in respect of pupils of the school undertaking work experience in external organisations.
35	Student teachers undertaking training placement in school.	Risk of harm due to bullying of a child. Risk of harm due to inadequate implementation of the code of behaviour.	The school has in place a policy and procedures in respect of student teacher placements. Policy and Procedures in respect of students undertaking work experience in the school. Only student teachers from a recognised teacher training college/programme will be offered work experience.
36	Use of video/photography/other media to record school events.	Risk of harm due to children inappropriately accessing/using computers, social media, phones and other devices while at school. Risk of harm due to bullying of child.	Only devices that are the property of the school (MSLETB) will be allowed to video/record school events. A designated responsible adult will be responsible for recording events. Policies that help mitigate this risk include; ICT Acceptable Use Policy. Mobile Phone Policy. Data Protection Policy.

37	After school use of school premises by other organisations.	Risk of harm due to inadequate safeguarding of people using the school.	<p>Organisation must present their own safeguarding statement and risk assessment to the principal prior to using the school premises.</p> <p>Approval from the BOM.</p> <p>School will ensure that organisation will be offered a room that is visible to the outside and is located close to an external exit and if possible be in view of the school's CCTV.</p>
38	Use of school premises by other organisation during school day.	<p>Risk of harm due to bullying of a child.</p> <p>Risk of harm due to inadequate implementation of the code of behaviour.</p>	<p>Prior approval must be given by the school Principal. Permission will be given if it is relevant to the curriculum and or supports the other programmes that are run in the school.</p> <p>Organisation must present their own safeguarding statement and risk assessment to the principal prior to using the school premises.</p>
39	Breakfast club.	<p>Risk of harm due to bullying of a child.</p> <p>Risk of harm due to inadequate implementation of the code of behaviour.</p>	<p>Consent from parents must be obtained. A register of attendance will be kept. Approved personal that have been vetted can only operate the club. Evidence that personnel operating the club has engaged in Child Protection Training.</p> <p>Supervision Policy. Policy and procedures for administering first aid.</p>

40	Homework club/evening study.	<p>Risk of harm due to bullying of a child.</p> <p>Risk of harm due to inadequate implementation of the code of behaviour.</p>	<p>Consent from parents must be obtained.</p> <p>A register of attendance will be kept.</p> <p>Approved personal that have been vetted can only operate the club.</p> <p>Evidence that personnel operating the club has engaged in Child Protection Training.</p> <p>Supervision Policy.</p> <p>Policy and procedures for administering first aid.</p>
41	International Students.	<p>Risk of isolation of students due to age, language ability and maturity levels.</p> <p>Risk of harm due to bullying of a child.</p> <p>Risk of harm due to inadequate implementation of the code of behaviour.</p>	<p>The school has a mentoring programme in place for EU students who attend our school.</p> <p>The school has in place the following:</p> <p>Bí Cinnealta Anti-Bullying Policy.</p> <p>Code of Behaviour.</p>

			<p>Evidence that personnel operating the club has engaged in Child Protection Training.</p> <p>Supervision Policy.</p> <p>Policy and procedures for administering first aid.</p>
41	International Students.	<p>Risk of isolation of students due to age, language ability and maturity levels.</p> <p>Risk of harm due to bullying of a child.</p> <p>Risk of harm due to inadequate implementation of the code of behaviour.</p>	<p>The school has a mentoring programme in place for EU students who attend our school.</p> <p>The school has in place the following:</p> <p>Bí Cinnealta Anti-Bullying Policy.</p> <p>Code of Behaviour.</p>

This Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment was reviewed by the board of management on 23/04/2026 .

Signed *David Alexander* Date 23/04/2026

Chairperson of the board of management

Signed *Brian Jennings* Date 23/04/2026

Principal/Secretary of the board of management

This Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment is expected to be reviewed again on April 23rd 2027

Appendix - Location of copies of the Child Protection Procedures and Children First Guidance

Online procedures related to this Child Safeguarding and Risk Assessment Statement can be found online at the Department of Education and Youth Website www.gov.ie/childprotectionschools

An online copy of the Children First National Guidance 2017 can be found at [Children First National Guidance 2017.pdf](#)

An online copy of the St Patrick's College Child Safeguarding and Risk Assessment Statement can be found at the St Patrick's College school website www.lackencross.ie

A hard copy of the St Patrick's College Child Safeguarding and Risk Assessment Statement can be found at the St Patrick's College school front office.