Mandatory Template 1: Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment Template (Landscape Version)

Child Safeguarding Statement

St. Patrick's Senior N.S., Drangan is a primary school providing primary education to pupils from Third Class 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 (revised 2023) and Tusla Guidance on the preparation of Child Safeguarding Statements, the Board of Management of St. Patrick's Senior 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 (revised (2023)* as part of this overall Child Safeguarding Statement

2 The Designated Liaison Person (DLP) is **Orry Ryan**

3 The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is **Ellen Campion**

4 The Relevant Person is **Orry Ryan**
(The relevant person is one who can provide information in respect of how the child safeguarding statement was developed and will be able to provide the statement on request. In a school setting the relevant person shall be the designated liaison person.)

5 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.

6 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 (revised 2023)* and to the relevant agreed disciplinary procedures for school staff which are published on the gov.ie 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 gov.ie 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 (revised 2023)*, including in the case of registered teachers, those in relation to mandated reporting under the Children First Act 2015.

- 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 gov.ie 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.

7 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.

8 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 2nd September 2024.

This Child Safeguarding Statement was reviewed by the Board of Management on 6th June 2024.

Signed: Geraldine Meagher
Chairperson of Board of Management

Signed: Orry Ryan
Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Date: 2/9/24

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Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment

Written Assessment of Risk of St. Patrick's Senior N.S., Drangan

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 PostPrimary Schools (revised 2023)*, the following is the Written Risk Assessment of St. Patrick's Senior N.S., Drangan.

1. List of school activities

- Training of school personnel in Child Protection matters
- One to one teaching
- Care of children with special needs
- Toileting/intimate care
- Toilet areas
- Curricular provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe.
- LGBT Children/Pupils perceived to be LGBT
- Recruitment of new staff
- Managing of challenging behaviour amongst pupils
- Sports coaches
- Changing for games
- Students participating in work experience
- Volunteers/Parents
- Use of Information and Communication Technology by pupils in schools
- Swimming
- Supervision
- Visitors and guest speakers
- Attendance
- School outings
- Annual Sports Day
- Administration of Medicine
- Administration of First Aid

- Visitors/contractors present in school during school hours
- Use of mobile phones
- Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst pupils
- School play and nativity
- Use of seesaw – app for documenting work and home/school learning
- Management of identity bullying
- Student Teacher Work Experience
- TY work experience
- Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils
- Care of children with special educational needs
- Summer Programme
- Care of Pupils with specific vulnerabilities
- Fundraiser events in school
- Management of food and drink
- Participation by pupils in religious ceremonies and practices
- Photography at school events

2. The school has identified the following risk of harm in respect of its activities -

- Risk of harm not being recognised by school personnel
- Risk of harm not being reported properly and promptly by school personnel
- Risk of child being harmed in the school by a member of school personnel
- Risk of child being harmed in the school by another child
- Risk of child being harmed in the school by volunteer or visitor to the school
- 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
- Risk of harm due to bullying of child
- Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children in school
- Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children while attending out of school

activities

- Risk of harm due to inappropriate relationship/communications between child and another child or adult
- Risk of harm due to children inappropriately accessing/using computers, social media, phones and other devices while at school
- Risk of harm to children with SEN who have particular vulnerabilities
- Risk of harm to child while a child is receiving intimate care
- Risk of harm due to inadequate code of behaviour
- Risk of harm in one-to-one teaching, coaching situation
- Risk of harm caused by member of school personnel/parent/pupil accessing or circulating inappropriate material via social media, texting, digital device, seesaw app or other manner
- Risk of harm caused by photograph being taken at school events and being used inappropriately
- Risk of harm of identity bullying
- Risks associated with student teachers undertaking training placement in school
- Risk associated with TY work experience in school
- Risk of harm not being recognised by school personnel during arrival/dismissal of pupils
- Risk of harm to children with SEN who have particular vulnerabilities, including medical vulnerabilities
- Risk associated with the summer programme/ DEIS literacy/numeracy camp
- Risk of harm to pupils with specific vulnerabilities

3. The school has the following procedures in place to address the risks of harm identified in this assessment -

- All school personnel are provided with a copy of the school's *Child Safeguarding Statement*
- The *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017* are made available to all school personnel
- School Personnel are required to adhere to the *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017* and all registered teaching staff are required to adhere to the *Children First Act 2015*

- The school implements in full the Stay Safe Programme
- The school implements in full the SPHE curriculum
- The school has an Anti-Bullying Policy which fully adheres to the requirements of the Department's *Anti-Bullying Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools*
- The school has a yard/playground supervision policy to ensure appropriate supervision of children during, assembly, dismissal and breaks.
- The school has in place a policy and clear procedures in respect of school outings
- The school has a Health and safety policy
- The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation and relevant DES circulars in relation to recruitment and Garda vetting
- The school complies with the agreed disciplinary procedures for teaching staff
- The school has a Special Educational Needs policy
- The school has in place a policy and procedures for the administration of medication to pupils
- The school –
    - Has provided each member of school 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
    - Maintains records of all staff and board member training
- The school has in place a code of behaviour for pupils
- The school has in place an Acceptable Use Policy in respect of usage of ICT by pupils
- The school has in place a mobile phone policy in respect of usage of mobile phones by pupils
- The school has in place a Critical Incident Management Plan
- The school has in place procedures for the use of external persons to supplement delivery of the curriculum
- The school has in place procedures for the use of external sports coaches

- The school has in place clear procedures for one-to-one teaching activities
- The school has in place a policy and procedures in respect of student teacher placements
- The school has in place a policy and procedures in respect of students undertaking work experience in the school
- The school has in place an RSE Policy
- The school has in place a Photography Policy
- The school has a content filtering system (Level 4)
- The seesaw app used for home school learning is restricted to pictures of school work only. Pictures of children is prohibited on the seesaw app. Parental consent is to be provided in advance of using the app. The use of seesaw complies with the school's Acceptable usage Policy.
- The pupils learn about identity bullying and its impact upon a person/child in the Stay Safe Programme. Identity bullying is addressed in our Code of Behaviour.
- All new school personal are garda vetted before they commence working in school. All staff are re-vetted at regular intervals.
- Pupils are supervised daily by staff as they arrive and leave school
- Care Plans/school support plus plans for pupils with specific vulnerabilities
- All school policies will be made available to personnel working in the school during a DEIS Literacy & Numeracy Summer Camp or Summer Programme including the child safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment and Anti Bullying Policy.
- School policies and procedures applicable during term time will remain applicable during summer camp time.
- The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation and relevant DE circulars in relation to recruitment and Garda vetting for all personnel involved in DEIS Literacy & Numeracy Summer Camp and/or Summer Programmes.
- Two adults are required to be with the children at all times during the DEIS Literacy & Numeracy Camp and/or Summer Programme.
- In the event of travelling to an outside venue during the Summer Camp/Literacy & Numeracy Camp a Child Protection risk assessment will be undertaken by the camp manager prior to leaving the school and all staff involved will be aware of procedures and guidelines. Refer to school outings policy.
- All staff are made aware of children identified as a flight risk and flight risk procedures will be in place both at school and on off site.
- All personnel in Clonmel Swimming Pool are subject to garda vetting on recruitment. A garda vetted swimming instructor will supervise the boys and girls changing rooms with a member of staff in St. Patrick's Senior N.S.. 2 garda vetted adults will supervise each of the changing rooms.

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 genera 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 (revised 2023)*

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.