

Our Lady of Fatima



Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment

Child Safeguarding Statement

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 Our Lady of Fatima School 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 Glenda McKeown
- 3 The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is Bridget Leacy
- 4 The Relevant Person is Glenda McKeown
(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 23rd January 2018.

This Child Safeguarding Statement was last reviewed by the Board of Management on 25th September 2024

Signed: 
Chairperson of Board of Management

Date: 25/09/2024

Signed: 
Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Date: 25/09/2024



Our Lady of Fatima

Written Assessment of Risk of Our Lady of Fatima School

In accordance with section 11 of the Children First Act 2015 and with the requirements of Chapter 8 of the *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools (revised 2023)*, the following is the Written Risk Assessment of Our Lady of Fatima School.

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	High	Risk of harm not being recognised or reported properly and promptly by school personnel.	All school personnel are provided with a copy of the school's <i>Child Safeguarding Statement</i> . The <i>Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools (revised 2023)</i> are made available to all school personnel. School personnel are required to adhere to the <i>Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools (revised 2023)</i> and all registered teaching staff are required to adhere to the <i>Children First Act 2015</i> and its Addendum (2019).

			DLP& DDLP to attend PDST face to face training. All Staff to view Túsla training module & any other online training offered by PDST. BOM records all records of staff and board training
One to one teaching: including resource support/ASD support/Vocational Preparation	Med	Risk of child being harmed in the school by a member of school personnel.	School has policy in place for one-to-one teaching. Open doors Glass in window GP Room – individual open pods
Care of Children with special needs, including intimate care needs Toileting Use of toilet/changing/shower areas in schools Students withdrawn showing Covid-19 symptoms, awaiting collection.	High	Risk of child being harmed in the school by a member of school personnel. Risk of harm to child while a child is receiving intimate care.	Policy on intimate care/toileting Supervision Policy Addendum to Code of Behaviour
Curricular Provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay safe.	Med	Non-teaching of same	The school implements in full the Stay Safe Programme and the SPHE curriculum. The school implements in full the Wellbeing Programme at Junior Cycle.
LGBT Children/Pupils perceived to be LGBT	Low	Risk of harm due to bullying of child.	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> . Code of Behaviour
Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils	Med	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children in school.	Arrival and dismissal supervised by Teachers/ISM. The school has a Supervision Policy to ensure appropriate supervision at beginning and end of school day.

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
Managing of challenging behaviour amongst pupils	High	Injury to students and staff	Health & Safety Policy Code of Behaviour Physical Intervention Policy CPI Training for staff
Sports Coaches	Med	Risk of child being harmed by a member of staff of another organisation, while child participating in an activity (in school)	Supervision Policy Swimming Policy Policy & Procedures in place
Students participating in work experience	Low	Risk of harm by student	Work experience Policy. Child Safeguarding Statement.
Breaks for pupils/Rainy days.	High	Risk of harm to students.	Supervision Policy Cody of Discipline Policy
Outdoor teaching activities/Use of external personnel to supplement curriculum. Sporting Activities School outings/tours Swim/Drama/Horse-riding/Music/Soccer/Forest Schools/Dance/Tennis/TRX/Fit4All	High	Risk of being harmed by a member of school personnel, a member of staff of another organisation or other person while participating in out of school activities	Policies & Procedures in place Garda Vetting Safeguarding Statement Code of Discipline Policy Supervision Policy Transport Policy Swimming Policy
Breakfast club Lunch	Low	Harm to students	In class supervision Supervision Policy Provided by external company: Fresh Today – prepared offsite
School trips involving overnight stay. School trips involving foreign travel.	High	Harm to students	Procedures in place: Medication information forms Supervision Policy Letter from Parents Stay in Hotel not in family homes/on same floors.

Annual Sports Day	High	Risk from strangers Parents who are not guardians	Supervision Policy Policies & Procedures in place No photos/video footage Vigilance by all staff
Fundraising events involving pupils.	Med	Busking/Enterprise/Cyclotron	Procedures in place Permission slips Supervision Policy
School transport arrangements including use of bus escorts	Med	Harm to students	Transport Policy Supervision Policy Procedures in place
Administration of Medicine Administration of First Aid	Low	Harm to students	Policies & Procedures in place Annual Staff Training

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
Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst pupils.	Med	Risk of harm due to bullying.	Code of Discipline Policy Anti-Bullying Policy Supervision Policy Bullying Awareness Week Promotion of well-being
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 	Med	Harm not recognised or properly or promptly reported.	Child Safeguarding Statement & DES procedures made available to all staff. Staff to view Tusla training module & any other online training offered by PDST. The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation and relevant DE circulars in relation to recruitment and Garda vetting.
Use of school premises during Easter Camp & summer provision Also after school meetings: Parent Teacher Meetings/Communion & Confirmation etc.	High	Harm to students	Child Safeguarding Statement & DES procedures made available to all staff. Staff to view Tusla training module & any other online training offered by PDST.

			Vetting Procedures Procedures in place as for normal school day
Use of Information and Communication Technology by pupils in school	Med	Risk of harm due to children inappropriately accessing/using digital devices while at school.	Digital Technology policy AUP Policy Anti-Bullying Policy Code of Behaviour
Application of sanctions under the school's Code of Behaviour (confiscation of phones etc).	Low	Harm to students	Policies & Procedures in place Supervision Policy
Student teachers undertaking training placement in school	Low	Harm to students	Policies & Procedures in place. Child safeguarding Statement
Use of video/photography/other media to record school events	Low	Risk of harm caused by member of school personnel accessing/circulating material via social media, texting, digital device, or other manner.	School devices only Social Media Policy. Policies & procedures in place.
After school use of school premises Sing out Loud/Microsoft Teams/Parent-Teacher Meetings/Confirmation Meetings/Other organisations	Low	Harm to students	Supervised in open area. Policies & Procedures in Place: Use of school premises policy
Online teaching and learning	Med	Risk of harm to students due to inappropriate use of online remote teaching and learning communication platform.	The school has an Acceptable Use Policy in place, to include provision for online teaching and learning remotely.
Use of iPads/laptops/PCs in the classroom and in the course of the school day.	Med	Risk of harm associated with misuse, abuse of devices & the various associated technologies	The school has a whole school policy in place covering the use of iPads/laptops/PCs in the classroom and during the school day, as outlined in Circular 0038/2018.

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 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.

This risk assessment was first completed by the Board of Management on 29th May 2018.
It will be reviewed as part of the school's annual review of its Child Safeguarding Statement.

Reviewed on 18th September 2018
Reviewed on 17th September 2019
Reviewed on 5th October 2020
Reviewed on 15th September 2021
Reviewed on 14th September 2022
Reviewed on 27th September 2023
Reviewed on 25th September 2024

Signed 

Date: 25th September 2024

Chairperson, Board of Management

Signed  Date: 25th September 2024

Principal