## Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment

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| **For:** | **St Aidan's SNS** |
| **At:** | **Brookfield Tallaght** |

**This school is a Senior 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.

**Designated Liaison Person (DLP):**

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| **Tomás Hayes** |

**Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP/DDLP):**

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| **Bríd Doran** |

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

**Name of Relevant Person**

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| **Tomás Hayes** |

**Relevant Person can be contacted on:**

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| 01 4511055 | principal@staidanssns.ie |

Under the Children First Act 2015, Relevant Person means a person who is appointed by a provider of a relevant service to be the first point of contact in respect of the Child Safeguarding Statement. This person is nominated by the board of management to manage and provide oversight of child protection concerns/allegations of child abuse.

**Chairperson of the board of management**

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| **Karen Quigley** |

*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, 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.

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

~ School encourages board of management members 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 who 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 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.

## Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment

| | List of School Activities | Risks Identified Against Each School Activity | Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk |
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| **1.** | Training all school personnel in Child Protection matters. | Harm is not recognised or reported promptly. | Child Safeguarding Statement & DES procedures are made available to all staff. DLP(19/9/26) & DDLP (24/09/25) attended Oide face-to-face training. All staff members viewed the TULSA training module and received certificates; Oide will offer further updated in-person whole-school training in November 2026.<br><br>BOM records all staff and board training records. All school personnel are provided with a copy of the Child Safeguarding Statement annually, and it is also available on the school website. Code Of Conduct For School Personnel<br>Record on file of staff training received. |
| **2.** | One-to-one teaching/counselling | Harm by school personnel | The school has a policy for one-to-one teaching/counselling<br>Open doors/ The table between the teacher and the pupil<br>Glass in the window<br>Special Needs policy |
| **3.** | Care of children with special needs, including intimate care needs | Harm by school personnel<br>Harm to pupils<br>Risk of harm due to vulnerabilities | Policy on intimate care<br>Child Safeguarding Statement<br>SEN Policy |
| **4.** | Toilet areas | Inappropriate behaviour<br>Bullying<br>Harm to pupils | Supervision policy - encouraged to use before breaks/ transitions.<br>ICE on yard: children get permission from a yard duty teacher to enter the building and are escorted to do so |
| **5.** | Sensory Room and Multi-Activity Rooms | Harm to Pupils<br>Harm by personnel | SEN Policy<br>Glass Door/ Door open |
| **6.** | Curricular Provision for SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe. | Non-teaching of same | The school implements SPHE, RSE, and Stay Safe in full Stay Safe Programme x2 for children considered to be vulnerable.<br>Revised and reviewed SPHE Policy |
| **7.** | Recruitment of new staff | Harm not recognised or promptly or adequately reported | Child Safeguarding Statement & DES procedures made available to all staff<br>Staff to receive all mandatory training offered by Oide on child protection<br>Teaching council registration requires Garda vetting |
| **8.** | Managing Challenging behaviour amongst pupils, including appropriate restraint | Injury to pupils and staff | Restraint Policy<br>Health & Safety Policy<br>Code of Behaviour<br>Bí Cinneálta Policy |
| **9.** | Sports Coaches | Harm to pupils | School adheres to Garda vetting legislation and relevant DES circulars in relation to recruitment and Garda Vetting. Teacher is present when coach is working with children |
| **10.** | Students participating in work experience | Harm by a student | Work Experience Policy -<br>School adheres to Garda vetting legislation and relevant DES circulars in relation to recruitment and Garda Vetting. Teacher is present when student is working with children<br>Child Safeguarding Statement |
| **11** | Volunteers/Parents | Harm to pupils- inappropriate relationship with a child | Vetting procedures<br>Parents/Volunteers Policy<br>HSCL Policy |

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| **12** | Use of I.T by pupils in schools to include Distance Learning, Teaching Calls, and other online learning platforms | Bullying<br>Harm to pupils | Supervision Policy<br>Health & Safety Policy<br>ICT Policy<br>Acceptable Use Policy<br>Code of Behaviour Policy<br>Child Safeguarding Policy |
| **13** | Daily arrival (8.50am) & dismissal(2.30pm) of pupils | Harm to pupils –inadequate supervision | Supervision Policy<br>Anti-Bullying Policy<br>Health & Safety Policy<br>Restraint Policy |
| **14** | Daily breaks 11.00 – 11.15 & 12.50 – 1.15 | Harm by another child/Bullying<br>Risk of harm not being witnessed or alerted by school personnel. | Supervision Policy<br>Yard Duty Rota System<br>Anti-Bullying Policy<br>Health & Safety Policy<br>Restraint Policy<br>Bí Cinneálta |
| **15** | Breakfast/After School Clubs | Harm to pupils: inadequate supervision | Supervision Policy<br>Bí Cinneálta |
| **16** | Classroom Teaching | Harm to the pupil | Child Safeguarding Statement<br>Supervision policy<br>Garda Vetting<br>Child Protection Training<br>Health & Safety Policy |
| **17** | Outdoor Teaching Activities(School garden, Maths/Nature trails, etc. | Inadequate Supervision<br>Harm to Pupils<br>Bullying | Supervision Policy/ Health & Safety Policy<br>All activities must be sanctioned by Principal. Health and Safety policy. Supervision Policy. The principal ensures teachers/ ancillary staff are fully aware of school procedures. Record Keeping/Incident Reports. Child Safeguarding statement. Teachers MUST stay with groups. |
| **18** | School Playground | Injury to the pupil | Supervision policy- no unsupervised access |
| **19** | Sports | Injury to the pupil | Supervision Policy<br>Health & Safety Policy<br>Bí Cinneálta /Code of Behaviour<br>Child Safeguarding Statement |
| **20** | School Tour /Educational Trips | Harm to pupils by school personnel or staff members of the organisation hosting the school.<br>Bullying<br>Loss of pupils | Supervision Policy<br>Health & Safety Policy<br>Garda vetting<br>Child Safeguarding Policy<br>All activities must be sanctioned by the Principal. Health and Safety Policy. Supervision Policy. The principal ensures teachers /ancillary staff are fully aware of school procedures—record Keeping/Incident Reports. Teachers MUST stay with groups. |
| **21** | Annual Sports Day | Inadequate Supervision<br>Bullying | Supervision Policy<br>Child Safeguarding Statement<br>Bi Cinneálta / Code of Behaviour |
| **22** | Swimming | Harm to/by the pupil<br>Risk of harm by school personnel/swimming coaches<br>Bullying | Supervision Policy<br>Child Safeguarding Statement<br>Garda vetting of swimming coaches<br>Indemnity Agreement<br>School personnel assistance for individual children with significant additional needs<br>School personnel assistance and supervision in the swimming changing areas |
| **23** | Bullying Incidents | Harm to/by the pupil | Bi Cinealta procedures<br>Supervision Policy<br>Anti-Bullying Policy<br>Code Of Behaviour |

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| **24** | Confirmation Ceremony | Harm to Pupil | Supervision Policy |
| **25** | Applying Sanctions Under the School's Code of Behaviour (suspension, detention, placed in other class). | Harm to consequences for the pupil at home as a result of the sanction | Child Safeguarding Statement<br>Supervision Policy<br>Code Of Behaviour |
| **26** | Mobile Phones/Online | Harm; inappropriate communication between a pupil & another pupil | Mobile Phone Policy<br>Digital Learning Policy<br>Anti-Bullying Policy Code of Behaviour |
| **27** | School Photography | Harm to the pupil | Child Safeguarding Statement<br>Code Of Behaviour<br>AUP policy |
| **28** | Administration of medicine/First aid | Harm to the pupil | First Aid Policy<br>Health & Safety Policy<br>Healthcare Plan<br>Administration in an open area |
| **29** | Care of Pupils with specific vulnerabilities/ need; Ethnic minorities /migrants/ Members of Travelling community/ Pupil of minority faiths /LGBT/ Pupils perceived as LGBT/ Pupils in care/ On CPR | Pupils subject to verbal/physical abuse | Anti-racist Policy<br>Code Of Behaviour<br>Anti-Bullying Policy |
| **30** | Parents entering school | Harm to pupils | Child Safeguarding Statement & DES procedures made available to all staff and parents. •School policy on communication with parents. • Automated doors (fob system) have been installed in the building. Parents can only access the school through the main door. The secretary manages visitors. |
| **31** | Visitors and contractors are present in the school during and after school hours while school activities are in progress. | Harm to the pupil | Policy & Procedures in place<br>Front door access by bell and security camera.CCTV cameras are in place to monitor.<br>Gates are locked and supervised when children are outside. |
| **32** | Mobile phones | Risk of harm caused by a member of school personnel communicating with pupils in an inappropriate manner via social media, texting, digital device, or other manner | The school has an Acceptable Use Policy in place. The school has in place a policy governing the use of smartphones and tablet devices in the school by pupils. |

### Examples of Activities, Risks and Procedures

The examples listed in this document are provided to assist schools in undertaking their risk assessment under the Children First Act, 2015. Schools should note that this list of examples is not intended to be exhaustive, and that the inclusion of an example of a policy or procedure on these lists does not make it mandatory. It is the responsibility of each school to ensure, as far as possible, that any other risks and procedures that are relevant to its own particular circumstances are identified and specified in the written risk assessment and that adequate procedures are in place to address all risks identified. It is acknowledged that schools already have in place a range of policies, practices and procedures to mitigate the risk of harm to children while they are participating in the activities of the school and that some school activities will carry low or minimal risks of harm compared to others. In the context of the risk assessment that must be undertaken by schools, the Children First Act, 2015 refers to risk as 'any potential for harm'.

Therefore, it is important that, as part of its risk assessment process, each school lists and reviews all of its various activities (which shall include identifying those that may carry low risk of harm as well as those that carry higher risks of harm). Doing so will help the school to:

- Identify, as required under the Children First Act, 2015, any risk of harm that may exist in respect of school's activities.
- Identify and assess the adequacy of the various procedures already in place to manage those risks of harm.
- Identify and put in place any such additional procedures as are considered necessary to manage any risk identified.

### Online Safety

The *Addendum to Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children 2017* published in January 2019 clarifies that organisations providing relevant services to children should consider the specific issue of online safety when carrying out their risk assessment and preparing their Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment.

The Guidance on Continuity of Schooling for primary and post-primary schools (April 2020) advises of the importance of teachers maintaining the safe and ethical use of the internet during distance learning and assisting parents and guardians to be aware of their role also. Schools should ensure that their Acceptable Use Policy (AUP) informs and guides remote or distance learning activity.

Chamber House CDNT Dublin 24 - **014686267**

Duty Social Worker Tallaght District - **045 839300**
Out of Hours Social Work Services- For child protection concerns (6 pm-7 am, weekends/holidays), call **0818 776 315**.

Chairperson of the Board of Management - Karen Quigley- **014596016**

Gardai Tallaght- **01 6666000**

The Board of Management has completed this risk assessment. It will be reviewed as part of the school's annual review of its Child Safeguarding Statement.

Signed: *Karen Quigley* Date 01/10/26 Chairperson, Board of Management

Signed: **Tomás Hayes** Date 01/10/26 Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

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 the procedures listed in this risk assessment in place to manage and reduce risk to the greatest possible extent.

The board of management reviewed this Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment on 1/10/2026.

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| **Signed**:* | *Karen Quigley* | **Date**:<br>01/10/2026 |

*Chairperson of the board of management*

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| **Signed**:* | **Tomás Hayes** | **Date**:01/10/2026 |

*Principal/Secretary to the board of management*

This Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment is expected to be reviewed again in June 2027.

This may be in the form of specifying the online location for the procedures (Department of Education and Youth website www.gov.ie/childprotectionschools and/or the school website), providing a link to the Children First National Guidance 2017 Children_First_National_Guidance_2017.pdf, and stating the number and location of hard copies of these procedures available in the school.