



ST. PATRICK'S BOYS' NATIONAL SCHOOL

CHILD SAFEGUARDING STATEMENT  
&

RISK ASSESSMENT

## St. Patrick's Boys' N.S. - Child Safeguarding Statement

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St. Patrick's Boys' National School is a primary school providing primary education to pupils from Junior Infants 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 Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools 2017 and Tusla Guidance on the preparation of Child Safeguarding Statements, the Board of Management of St. Patrick's Boys' National School 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 Primary and Post Primary Schools 2017 as part of this overall Child Safeguarding Statement

The Designated Liaison Person (DLP) is **Brian Horan**.  
The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is **Anthony Manning**.

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.

## St. Patrick's Boys' N.S. - Child Safeguarding Statement

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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 2017 and to the relevant agreed disciplinary procedures for school staff which are published on the DES 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 DES and available on the DES 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; and
- 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 2017, including in the case of registered teachers, those in relation to mandated reporting under the Children First Act 2015.

In this school the Board has appointed the above named DLP as the "relevant person" (as defined in the Children First Act 2015) to be the first point of contact in respect of the child safeguarding statement.

All registered teachers employed by the school are mandated persons under the Children First Act 2015.

## St. Patrick's Boys' N.S. - Child Safeguarding Statement

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In accordance with the Children First Act 2015, 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 attached as an appendix to these procedures.

The various procedures referred to in this Statement can be accessed via the school's website, the DES website or will be made available on request by the school.

This statement has been published on the school's website and has been provided to all members of school personnel, the Parents' Association 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.

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 reviewed by the Board of Management on 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2023 and will be reviewed in January 2024.

Signed: 

**Mary Brooks**  
Chairperson of Board of Management

Date: 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2023

Date of next review: January 2024



**Brian Horan**  
Principal

Date: 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2023

## St. Patrick's Boys' N.S. - Child Safeguarding Statement

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### Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment (of any potential harm)

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 Post-Primary Schools 2017*, the following is the Written Risk Assessment of St. Patrick's Boys' National School.

1. List of school activities	2. The school has identified the following risk of harm in respect of its activities -	3. The school has the following procedures in place to address the risks of harm identified in this assessment -
Child protection Training of School Personnel	<p>Indicators of harm /abuse not being recognised by school personnel</p> <p>Harm / Abuse not being reported properly and promptly by school personnel</p> <p>Risk of child being harmed in the school by a member of school</p>	<p><b>The Provision of information and training for all school personnel</b></p> <p>The school -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Has provided all school personnel with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement</li> <li>• Ensures The DES child protection procedures are made available to all school personnel</li> <li>• Encourages staff to avail of relevant training</li> <li>• Encourages board of management</li> </ul>

## St. Patrick's Boys' N.S. - Child Safeguarding Statement

Record Keeping	<p>personnel</p> <p>Risk of child being harmed by a volunteer / parent person while child participating school activities</p> <p>Risk of child being harmed by a member of staff of another organisation or other person while child participating in school activities</p> <p>Risk of child being harmed in the school by another child</p> <p>Risk of child being harmed in the school by volunteer or visitor to the</p>	<p>members to avail of relevant training</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintains records of all staff and board member training</li> </ul> <p>The DLP /DDL P are required to avail of training provided by a professional organisation (e.g. PDST) on a regular basis - Certificate of attendance provided to the BOM</p> <p>All school personnel are required to do the online Tusla training and provide a copy of the certificate of completion to the DLP</p> <p>All school personnel, mandated and non-mandated, are required to adhere to the DES <i>Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017</i></p> <p><b>Record Keeping</b></p> <p>All school personnel are required to ensure that any sensitive records e.g. child protection monitoring records they are required to keep</p>
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## St. Patrick's Boys' N.S. - Child Safeguarding Statement

<p>Recruitment of school personnel And Volunteers / Parents in school activities</p>	<p>school</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>Risk of harm due to bullying of child</p> <p>Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children in school</p> <p>Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children while attending out of school activities</p>	<p>are maintained in a secure location in the school and are treated with the strictest of confidence.</p> <p>All such records form part of the school record keeping system and must be filed with the central school records at the end of the school year or in the event that the staff member is going on 'leave' e.g. maternity leave, career break etc. or is leaving the school to take up employment elsewhere.</p> <p><b>Garda Vetting and Recruitment of school personnel</b></p> <p>All school personnel are required to be Garda vetted and the relevant DES circulars in relation to recruitment and Garda vetting are adhered to.</p> <p>Best practice procedures with regard to interviewing and checking references are followed</p>
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## St. Patrick's Boys' N.S. - Child Safeguarding Statement

<p>Curriculum Implementation of SPHE</p> <p>Teaching the Stay safe programme as part of the 2 year SPHE cycle</p> <p>Use of external personnel to support curriculum</p>	<p>Risk of harm due to inappropriate relationship/communications between child and another child or adult</p> <p>Risk of harm due to children inappropriately accessing/using computers, social media, phones and other devices while at school</p> <p>Risk of harm to children with SEN who have particular vulnerabilities</p> <p>Risk of harm to child while a child is receiving intimate care</p>	<p>All volunteers / parents involved in ongoing school activities are Garda vetted</p> <p>All volunteers / parents involved in school activities are provided with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement</p> <p>All volunteers / parents involved in school activities are required to sign the 'Acceptance of our Child Protection Safeguarding Statement form and return a signed copy to the DLP</p> <p><b>Planning for and implementation of the SPHE curriculum and the Stay Safe programme:</b></p> <p>The school implements in full the SPHE curriculum over a two year cycle as outlined in the school plan for SPHE which can be accessed through our office.</p> <p>The Stay safe programme will be taught in</p>
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## St. Patrick's Boys' N.S. - Child Safeguarding Statement

<p>prevention and dealing with bullying amongst pupils</p>	<p>Risk of harm due to inadequate code of behaviour</p> <p>Risk of harm in one-to-one teaching, counselling, coaching situation</p>	<p>every class over the months of Jan/Feb in Year 1 of the school's SPHE Plan.</p> <p>Individual teacher planning documents indicate when specific objectives of the SPHE curriculum, including the Stay Safe programme) will be taught (timetabled for) and what specific objectives of SPHE, Stay Safe and RSE will be taught in that period of time.</p> <p>The Cuntas Miosiuil of individual teachers will highlight the SPHE content objectives covered and the Stay Safe lessons covered in that month</p>
<p>Recreation breaks for pupils</p>	<p>Risk of harm caused by member of school personnel communicating with pupils in appropriate manner via social media, texting, digital device or other manner</p>	<p><b>Teachers sign off fact that stay safe has been done</b></p> <p>In addition to specific teaching on the prevention and dealing with bullying as part of the SPHE programme 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>. A copy of that policy can be found <a href="http://www.stpatsbns.ie">www.stpatsbns.ie</a></p>
<p>One to one teaching</p>	<p>Risk of harm caused by member of school personnel accessing/circulating inappropriate material via social media, texting,</p>	<p><i>www.stpatsbns.ie</i></p>

## St. Patrick's Boys' N.S. - Child Safeguarding Statement

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Toileting Issues	digital device or other manner	<p>The school ensures appropriate supervision of children during, assembly, dismissal and breaks and in respect of specific areas such as toilets, changing rooms etc</p> <p>Teacher is always present when external personnel are supporting curriculum.</p> <p><b>One to One teaching</b></p> <p>One-to-one teaching may be provided for any pupil where it is deemed by teaching staff and the principal to be in the best interest of the child. In all such situations parental consent must be given. All one to one teaching sessions should be clearly timetabled and should only be carried out where there are appropriate arrangements in place with regard to the physical environment (e.g. vision panel in door,</p>
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## St. Patrick's Boys' N.S. - Child Safeguarding Statement

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		<p>struck between the child's right to privacy and adequate supervision.</p> <p>Pupils will be expected to dress / undress themselves. Teachers will always be present in a supervisory capacity. The needs of pupils who require assistance will be addressed under the schools Intimate Care policy.</p> <p><b>Collection of Pupils</b></p> <p>Prior to the enrolment of a child and on an annual basis thereafter parents/ carers will be asked to supply the school with the names and contact details of any adult that may be collecting a pupil during the course of the year.</p> <p>Outside of normal dismissal times of the school teachers will only release pupils to those nominated by the parent/carer or where advance notice of another adult collecting the pupil is given by the parent / carer. In the event</p>
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## St. Patrick's Boys' N.S. - Child Safeguarding Statement

<p>Sporting Activities</p> <p>Use of external personnel to support sports and other extra curricula activities.</p> <p>Travel to away Sporting Activities</p>	<p>Injury to pupils and staff</p>	<p>that another person arrives to collect a child the school will endeavour to contact the parent/carer to get their permission. Under no circumstance will staff allow a child to leave the school with another person that does not have permission to collect them.</p> <p>At the normal dismissal time of Infants one of the persons nominated by the parent/ carer must collect the pupil from the school gate / classroom. The school must be notified in advance if someone other than the 'nominated' adult will be collecting a pupil.</p> <p><b>External personnel / coaches working with pupils</b></p> <p>In accordance with Circular No. 0042/2018 '<i>Best practice guidance for primary schools in the use of programmes and/or external facilitators in promoting wellbeing consistent with the Department of Education and Skills' Wellbeing Policy Statement and Framework for Practice</i>' a member of the teaching staff will always be present when external personnel are working with students.</p>
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## St. Patrick's Boys' N.S. - Child Safeguarding Statement

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<p>Use of ICT/ cameras/ Mobile Phones</p> <p>Administration of Medicine</p> <p>Administration of First Aid</p> <p>Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst pupils</p> <p>After school use of school premises by other organisations</p> <p>Use of school premises by other organisation during school day</p>		<p>school on work experience.</p> <p>All students will be made aware of the school's CSS and asked to sign an 'Acceptance of our CSS including the Risk Assessment'.</p> <p>In the event that students have a child protection concern or that a child makes a disclosure to them the student must report the matter to the DLP.</p> <p><b>Other policies and procedures</b></p> <p>The school has a Health and safety policy. A copy of these procedures can be found on the server and in the staff room</p> <p>In general children should not bring mobile phones to school.</p> <p>The school has a Special Educational Needs policy. A copy of this policy can be found <a href="http://www.stpatsbns.ie">www.stpatsbns.ie</a></p> <p>The school has an intimate care policy/plan in respect of students who require such care. A copy of this policy can be found</p>
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## St. Patrick's Boys' N.S. - Child Safeguarding Statement

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<p>Managing of challenging behaviour amongst pupils.</p>	<p>Injury to pupils and staff</p> <p>Harm from other pupils, unknown adults on the playground Traffic on avenue Inappropriate behaviour</p> <p>Teachers leaving room/supervision Children split due to teacher absence</p>	<p><a href="http://www.stpatsbns.ie">www.stpatsbns.ie</a></p> <p>The school has in place a policy and procedures for the administration of medication to pupils. A copy of this policy can be found <a href="http://www.stpatsbns.ie">www.stpatsbns.ie</a></p> <p>The school has in place a code of behaviour for pupils, A copy of this policy can be found <a href="http://www.stpatsbns.ie">www.stpatsbns.ie</a>.</p> <p>The school has in place an AUP policy in respect of usage of ICT by pupils, A copy of this policy can be found <a href="http://www.stpatsbns.ie">www.stpatsbns.ie</a>.</p> <p>Where possible staff should use school ICT equipment. Where personal equipment is used data must be deleted asap. Teachers must ensure that parental permission is given.</p> <p>The school has in place a Critical Incident Management Plan. A copy of this policy can be found <a href="http://www.stpatsbns.ie">www.stpatsbns.ie</a></p>
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## St. Patrick's Boys' N.S. - Child Safeguarding Statement

Annual Science Exhibition	Risk from unknown adults	Adequate supervision
School transport arrangements	Harm to pupils Harm not recognised or properly or promptly reported Inappropriate Behaviour	Anti bullying policy Code of behaviour
Administration of First Aid	Harm to pupils	Practice in place. Usually carried out in First Aid Room. Normally carried out in public area. Two staff present unless emergency.
Administration of Medicine	Harm to pupils	Policy & Procedures in place
Care of pupils with specific vulnerabilities/ needs such as <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pupils from ethnic minorities/migrants</li> <li>• Children with SEN</li> <li>• Members of the Traveller community</li> <li>• Lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender (LGBT) children</li> <li>• Pupils perceived to be LGBT</li> <li>• Pupils of minority religious faiths</li> <li>• Children in care</li> </ul>	Bullying of pupils  Lack of language ability leading to harm  Cultural differences	Anti bullying policy  Stay Safe/SPHE/RSE  Code of Behaviour SEN Policy

## St. Patrick's Boys' N.S. - Child Safeguarding Statement

• Children on CPNS		
Detention during break time	Harm by school personnel	Open door. School policy to be adopted.
Children assisting around the school	Harm to pupils	Children will always be in twos while moving around the school.
Use of Information and Communication Technology by pupils in school	Bullying Staff not following policies & procedures Access to inappropriate material	AUP policy available on <a href="http://www.stpatsbns.ie">www.stpatsbns.ie</a> Internet filtering in place Anti-Bullying Policy Code of Behaviour
Online Teaching & Remote Learning	Staff not following policies & procedures Access to inappropriate material	Guideline for remote teaching and Whole School plan for Remote Teaching and Learning.
Use of video/photography/other media to record school events	Harm from unknown adults	School photographers are Garda vetted Visiting photographers will act under supervision of staff member.

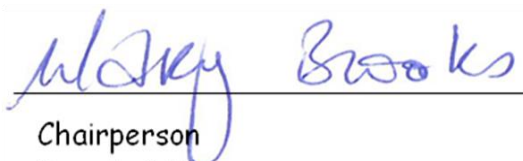
**Important Note:** It should be noted that risk in the context of this risk assessment is the risk of "harm" as defined in the Children First Act 2015 and not general health and safety risk. The definition of harm is set out in Chapter 4 of the *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017*

## St. Patrick's Boys' N.S. - Child Safeguarding Statement

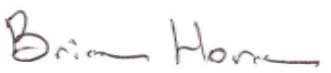
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In undertaking this risk assessment, the board of management has endeavoured to identify as far as possible the risks of harm that are relevant to this school and to ensure that adequate procedures are in place to manage all risks identified. While 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 has been completed by the Board of Management on *6th March 2018*. It will be reviewed as part of the school's annual review of its Child Safeguarding Statement.

  
Chairperson

Signed: Board of Management

Signed 

Brian Horan  
Principal/Secretary Board of Management

Completed by BOM on 6<sup>th</sup> March 2018

Reviewed: 19<sup>th</sup> January 2019

Reviewed: 28<sup>th</sup> August 2019

Reviewed: 4<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Reviewed: 19<sup>th</sup> May 2021

Reviewed: 19<sup>th</sup> January 2022

Reviewed 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2023