



St. Patrick's NS Strangsmills

# Child Safeguarding statement and risk assessment

Revised: 2025

[www.strangsmillsns.ie](http://www.strangsmillsns.ie)  
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## Child Safeguarding Statement

St. Patrick's NS, Strangsmills 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 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 NS 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 Elaine O'Connor
- 3 The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is Ciara Byrne
- 4 The Relevant Person is Elaine O'Connor  
*(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. This person can also be the DLP)*
- 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.
- 7 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 via the school website. 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 and risk assessment was adopted by the Board of Management on September 30<sup>th</sup> 2025.

Signed: Rev. Fr. Martin Tobin  
Chairperson of Board of Management

Signed: Elaine O'Connor  
Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Date: 30/09/2025

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## Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment

### Written Assessment of Risk of St. Patrick's N.S. Strangsmills

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

<b>1. List of school activities</b>	<b>2. The school has identified the following risk of harm in respect of its activities</b>	<b>3. The school has the following procedures in place to address the risks of harm identified in this assessment</b>
Training of school personnel in Child Protection matters	Harm not recognised or reported promptly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Child Safeguarding Statement &amp; DES procedures made available to all staff</li> <li>• DLP&amp; DDLP attended PDST training</li> <li>• All Staff to complete Túsla training module &amp; any other online training offered by PDST</li> <li>• BOM records all records of staff and board training</li> </ul>
Working alone with children on a one to one basis – teacher or SNA	Potential for abuse by employee/Harm by school personnel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Staff developed a policy for one to one teaching</li> <li>• Open doors/Glass panel in door</li> <li>• Utilise in class support for SEN</li> </ul>
Care of Children with special needs, including intimate care needs	Harm by school personnel	Policy on intimate care
Toilet areas	Inappropriate behaviour	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supervision policy</li> <li>• Code of behaviour policy</li> <li>• Anti-bullying policy</li> </ul>
Curricular Provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay safe.	Non-teaching of same	School implements SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe in full

Managing of challenging behaviour amongst pupils, including appropriate use of restraint	Injury to pupils and staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Health &amp; Safety Policy</li> <li>• Code Of Behaviour</li> </ul>
Use of external personnel to supplement curriculum and to support sports and other extra-curricular activities	<p>Risk of harm to the child by a member of school personnel</p> <p>Risk of child being harmed in school by volunteer or visitor to the school</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All external personnel are garda vetted and accompanied by school staff while on school premises.</li> </ul>
Students participating in work experience	Harm by student	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Students work under the supervision of the class teacher</li> <li>• Work experience Policy</li> <li>• Child Safeguarding Statement is made available to work experience students</li> <li>• All students over 16 are garda vetted in advance</li> </ul>
Recreation breaks for pupils	Harm by pupils to other pupils	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Yard is supervised at each break</li> <li>• Playground rules in operation</li> <li>• Zoned areas for different age groups</li> <li>• Code of behaviour</li> </ul>
Classroom teaching	<p>Harm by pupils to other pupils</p> <p>Harm by school personnel</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All school personnel are provided with a copy of the Child Safeguarding Statement.</li> <li>• The Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools 2023 are made available to all school personnel.</li> <li>• School personnel are required to adhere to the Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools 2023 and all registered teaching staff are required to adhere to the Children First Act 2015 and its Addendum</li> <li>• Adherence to national vetting procedures and child protection procedures including statutory retrospective vetting and periodic re-vetting of employees.</li> </ul> <p>(National Vetting Persons (Children and Vulnerable Persons) Acts 2012 to 2016)</p>

Outdoor teaching activities	Injury to pupils	Children supervised for all outdoor teaching activities All activities are age appropriate
Sporting Activities	Harm by pupils to other pupils Harm by school personnel Harm by other adults	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All coaches Garda Vetted</li> <li>• Children are appropriately supervised</li> </ul>
School outings	Harm by pupils to other pupils Harm by school personnel Harm by other adults	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Appropriate pupil/teacher ratio</li> <li>• Children appropriately supervised</li> </ul>
School Attendance	Neglect	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• St. Patrick's NS Statement of Strategy for School Attendance ensures pupil attendance is monitored.</li> <li>• With regards to child protection particular attention will be paid to trends in non-attendance.</li> <li>• Non-attendance will be monitored in correlation with signs of neglect/ physical/ emotional abuse.</li> </ul>
Arrival and Dismissal from School	Supervision between handover from parents/guardians to teacher and teacher to parent/guardian	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Morning and evening supervision in place</li> </ul>
Fundraising events involving students	Harm by pupils to other pupils Harm by school personnel Harm by other adults and children	All children must be accompanied by an adult who is responsible for that child.
School transport arrangements	Harm by pupils to other pupils Harm by bus driver	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Code Of Behaviour</li> <li>• Anti-Bullying Policy</li> </ul>
Administration of First Aid	Harm to pupil by adult	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Permission is given by parents/guardians in writing for staff to administer basic first aid.</li> <li>• There will always be at least one member of staff with a first aid qualification.</li> <li>• Intimate care policy</li> </ul>

Administration of Medicine	Harm to pupils by administrator of medicine	Instructions for administration of medicine given in written format by parents will be strictly adhered to. Medicine will not be administered by staff without written instructions. Open door/glass panel in door/in open area
Curricular provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe	These subject areas not being taught	Stay Safe is taught by all teachers at the same time every second year. Parents are informed by text message. RSE programme delivered to 5 <sup>th</sup> and 6 <sup>th</sup> classes by an external expert when available S.P.H.E. & RSE policies in place in school.
Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst pupils	Harm to pupils by pupils	Anti-bullying policy in place. Reviewed annually.
Training of school personnel in child protection matters	Harm not recognised. Procedures not followed.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Child Safeguarding Statement &amp; DES procedures made available to all staff</li> <li>• DLP&amp; DDLP attended PDST training</li> <li>• All Staff to complete the Tusla training module every three years &amp; any other online training offered by PDST</li> </ul>
Care of all pupils, including pupils with particular vulnerabilities	Risk of harm to children with SEN who have particular vulnerabilities Risk of harm to pupils	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The school implements in full the Stay Safe and SPHE programme.</li> </ul>

<p>Recruitment of school personnel including -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Teachers</li> <li>• SNA's</li> <li>• Caretaker/Secretary/Cleaners</li> <li>• Sports coaches</li> <li>• External Tutors/Guest Speakers</li> <li>• Volunteers/Parents in school activities</li> <li>• Visitors/contractors present in school during school hours</li> <li>• Visitors/contractors present during after school activities</li> </ul>	<p>Harm not recognised or properly or promptly reported</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All staff members are recruited in accordance with legislation, standards and policies.</li> <li>• Child Safeguarding Statement &amp; DES procedures made available to all staff</li> <li>• All staff to complete Tusla training module &amp; any other online training offered by PDST</li> <li>• The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda Vetting Legislation and relevant DES Circulars in relation to Garda Vetting.</li> <li>• Policy of Parents / Volunteers/ Visiting Contractor</li> </ul>
<p>Working with Parents</p>	<p>Harm to Pupils</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• When a parent is working with a teacher in any school related activity; he/she is under the supervision of the teacher throughout. Parents are not to be left alone with either individual pupils and / or groups.</li> <li>• In accordance with Circular 0031/2016 the school authority is not required to obtain a vetting disclosure under the Vetting Act prior to commencing the contract, permission or placement in the case of unpaid volunteers who assist the school on an occasional basis provided such assistance does not involve the coaching, mentoring, counselling, teaching or training of children or vulnerable persons.</li> </ul>
<p>Use of Information and Communication Technology by pupils in school</p>	<p>Bullying Accessing inappropriate material</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AUP policy</li> <li>• Anti-Bullying Policy</li> <li>• Code of Behaviour</li> <li>• Strict supervision when online</li> </ul>

Online teaching and Learning Remotely	Risk of harm due to inappropriate online remote teaching and learning communication platforms such as an uninvited person accessing the lesson link Risk of harm due to inappropriate relationship/communications between child and another child or adult.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Acceptable Use Policy</li> <li>• Policy for remote learning</li> <li>• Stay Safe programme</li> <li>• Webwise/HTML Heroes/My Selfie programmes taught to pupils</li> </ul>
Student teachers or those undertaking training placement in school	Harm not recognised or properly or promptly reported	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Child Safeguarding Statement and a copy of Child Protection Procedures 2023 to be made available to all those on placement</li> <li>• The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda Vetting Legislation and relevant DES Circulars in relation to Garda</li> </ul>
Use of video/photography/other media to record school events	Images being uploaded on social media platforms	Photos/videos not to be uploaded onto internet without permission from relevant parents

**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(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.