



St. Patrick's NS Strangsmills

Child Protection Safeguarding statement and risk assessment

Revised: 2026

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Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment

For:	St. Patrick's NS	<i>(School Name)</i>
At:	Strangsmills, Kilamcow, Co. Kilkenny	<i>(School Address)</i>

This school is a: (tick appropriate) ☒ primary ☐ post-primary ☐ special 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.

Name of the Designated Liaison Person (DLP):

Elaine O'Connor - Principal

Name of the Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP/DDLP):

Ciara Byrne – Deputy Principal

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

Name of Relevant Person

Elaine O'Connor - Principal

(In schools this person is the DLP)

Relevant Person can be contacted on:

(051) 874474

schooloffice@strangsmillsns.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.

Name of Chairperson of the board of management, or in an ETB school the Chief Executive or their delegate:

Kieran Leahy – Chairperson of the Board of Management

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.

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

~ The school encourages board of management members to 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 that 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.

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
1.	Training of school personnel in Child Protection matters	Harm not recognised or reported promptly. Procedures not followed.	• Child Safeguarding Statement & DES procedures made available to all staff • DLP& DDLP to attend Oide training • All Staff to view Túsla training module & any other training offered by Oide • BOM records all records of staff and board training
2.	Working alone with children on a one to one basis – teacher or SNA	Potential for abuse by employee/Harm by school personnel	• Staff developed a policy for one to one teaching • Open doors/Glass panel in door • Utilise in class support for SEN
3.	Care of Children with special needs, including intimate care needs	Harm by school personnel	• Policy on intimate care
4.	Toilet areas	Inappropriate behaviour	• Supervision policy • Code of behaviour policy • Anti-bullying policy
5.	Use of off-site facilities for school activities	Injury to pupils and staff	• Children are covered by school insurance while using hall adjacent to the school. Children are taught how to enter and leave the hall safely. No other groups use the hall at the same time as the school.

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
6.	Managing of challenging behaviour amongst pupils, including appropriate use of restraint	Injury to pupils and staff	• Health & Safety Policy • Code of Behaviour
7.	Use of external personnel to supplement curriculum and to support sports and other extra-curricular activities	Risk of harm to the child by a member of school personnel Risk of child being harmed in school by volunteer or visitor to the school	• All regular external personnel are garda vetted and accompanied by school staff while on school premises. • One off guest speakers are never left alone with children
8.	Students participating in work experience	Harm by the student	• Student works under the supervision of the class teacher • Work experience Policy • Child Safeguarding Statement is made available to work experience students • All those on placement are vetted in advance
9.	Recreation breaks for pupils	Harm by pupils to other pupils	• Yard is supervised at each break • Playground rules in operation • Code of behaviour
10.	Classroom teaching	Harm by pupils to other pupils Harm by school personnel	• All school personnel are provided with a copy of the Child Safeguarding Statement. • The Child Protection Procedures for Primary schools are made available to all

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
			school personnel. - School personnel are required to adhere to the Child Protection Procedures for Primary schools and all registered teaching staff are required to adhere to the Children First Act 2015 and its Addendum (2019) - Adherence to national vetting procedures and child protection procedures including statutory retrospective vetting and periodic re-vetting of employees.

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
11.	Outdoor teaching activities	Injury to pupils	Children supervised for all outdoor teaching activities All activities are age appropriate
12.	Off-site Sporting Activities, matches etc	Harm by pupils to other pupils Harm by school personnel Harm by other adults Children not collected by parents on time Children being unsupervised after matches	- All coaches Garda Vetted - Children are appropriately supervised - Buses organised for all away games and parents asked to organise lifts themselves to home games - Team coach will advise parents of drop off and collection time - Parents to contact the coach if other alternative arrangement is to take place – such as a child walking home, remaining in playground etc

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
13.	School outings	Harm by pupils to other pupils Harm by school personnel Harm by other adults	• Appropriate pupil/teacher ratio • Children appropriately supervised • School policies apply to all school outings and events
14.	School Attendance	Neglect	• St. Patrick's NS Statement of Strategy for School Attendance ensures pupil attendance is monitored. • With regards to child protection particular attention will be paid to trends in non-attendance. • Non-attendance will be monitored in correlation with signs of neglect/ physical/ emotional abuse.
15.	Arrival and Dismissal from School	Supervision between handover from parents/guardians to teacher and teacher to parent/guardian	• Morning and evening supervision in place • Infants released one by one • First class accompanied to the gate in term 1 • Staff on duty for 10 min before and after school
16.	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.
17.	School transport	Harm by pupils to other pupils Harm by bus driver	• Code of Behaviour • Anti-Bullying Policy

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
	arrangements	Injury to pupil	• Contact with bus inspector when issues arise • SNA supervises children leaving the premises to go on the bus • 6th class and junior infants on public bus are buddied together
18.	Administration of First Aid	Harm to pupil by adult	• Permission is given by parents/guardians in writing for staff to administer basic first aid. • There will always be at least one member of staff with a first aid qualification. • Intimate care policy
19.	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
20.	Curricular provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe	These subject areas not being taught	Stay Safe/RSE is taught by all teachers at the same time every second year. Parents are informed by email. RSE programme delivered to 5th and 6th classes by an external expert when available S.P.H.E. & RSE policies in place in school.
21.	Prevention and dealing with	Harm to pupils by pupils	Bí Cineálta policy in place. Reviewed annually. Children

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
	bullying amongst pupils		reminded termly.
22.	Use of video/photography/other media to record school events	Risk of sharing inappropriately	- Parents are asked for consent for sharing of images. Children are never named or tagged online. - AUP policy in place. - Images are stored on a shared drive at the end of each year and removed from teacher laptops
23.	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	The school implements fully the Stay Safe and SPHE programme.
24.	Recruitment of school personnel including - - Teachers - SNA's - Caretaker/Secretary/Cleaners - Sports coaches - External Tutors/Guest Speakers - Volunteers/Parents in school activities	Harm not recognised or properly or promptly reported	- All staff members are recruited in accordance with legislation, standards and policies. - Child Safeguarding Statement & DES procedures made available to all staff - All staff to complete Tusla training module & any other training offered by Oide - The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda Vetting Legislation and relevant DES Circulars in relation to Garda Vetting. - Anyone in a coaching, teaching or mentor role for an extended period is vetted. - Policy of Parents / Volunteers/ Visiting Contractor

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
	Visitors/contractors present in school during school hours /after school activities		
25.	Working with Parents/parent or community volunteers	Harm to Pupils	- 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. - 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.
26.	Use of Information and Communication Technology by pupils in school	Bullying Accessing inappropriate material	- AUP policy - Bí Cineálta Policy - Code of Behaviour - Strict supervision when online

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
			Rules for use of chromebooks /Ipads
27.	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.	- Acceptable Use Policy - Policy for remote learning - Stay Safe programme - Webwise/HTML Heroes/My Selfie programmes taught to pupils
28.	Student teachers or those undertaking training placement in school	Harm not recognised or properly or promptly reported	- Child Safeguarding Statement is available on the school website - The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda Vetting Legislation and relevant DES Circulars in relation to Garda
29	Visitors/contractors present during school hours	Risk of a child being harmed by a visitors or contractor	- CCTV cameras in place throughout the school - Contractors asked not to be in the vicinity of children during breaktime when they are moving about the school/on yard at the same time
30	Participation by pupils in religious events/preparation for events etc	Inappropriate behaviour, risk of a child being harmed	- Children informed of appropriate behaviour when visiting the church - Children never left without a teacher present with them - Children accompanied to the outdoor toilets

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
31	Managing of challenging behaviour amongst pupils	Injury to pupils and staff	• Health and Safety Policy • Code Of Behaviour Policy • SNA support provided to the classroom • Regulation breaks provided to pupils
32	Parents/visitors entering car park	Harm to pupils	• Children cannot leave school premises during the day
33	Children doing a task outside classroom	Risk to pupils	• Children always go in pairs to do any task outside
34	Children using toilets in swimming pools during lessons	Inappropriate behaviour, risk of a child being harmed	• Children to alert school staff that they need the toilet and children will be accompanied to the toilets area
35	Parents collecting children early	Risk to pupils	• Parents to call to the office and Ger to visit the classroom to collect the child. Ger will record who collects if she meets parents and if parents go directly, class teacher will record on Aladdin
36	Emergency situation	Harm to pupils	• Critical incident plan
37	Application of sanctions under the school's Code of Behaviour	Harm by school personnel	• Code of Behaviour

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
	including detention of pupils, confiscation of phones etc.	Fair procedures not being followed	• Supervision Policy • Mobile phones policy • Smart devices/phones that are needed for emergency reasons must be handed up as per policy • Parental Complaints Procedure
38	Summer Programme	Harm to pupils	• All vetting procedures completed • DLP or DDLP present • School policies all apply during programme • Internet Acceptable Use Policy • Adequate supervision
39	Management of provision of hot lunches	Harm to pupils	• Operative is vetted • Lunches delivered in boxes at a suitable temperature • Provision for allergies
40	PE/yard time	Flight risk Injury or harm to the child if they have left the class and are unsupervised	• Second adult is paired with the teacher for PE class in case of a flight risk or regularly dysregulated child • Gates at both entrances are checked and closed by the

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
			supervising adults • Red/yellow card system to see help from neighbouring teacher • Phone is all class rooms to phone for support when needed

Risk in the context of this Child Safeguarding Statement and 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 the Children First Act 2015: 'harm' means, in relation to a child— (a) assault, ill-treatment or neglect of the child in a manner that seriously affects or is likely to seriously affect the child's health, development or welfare, or (b) sexual abuse of the child, whether caused by a single act, omission or circumstance or a series or combination of acts, omissions or circumstances, or otherwise.

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.

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

This Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment was reviewed by the board of management on September 29th 2026.

Signed:*		Date:
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Chairperson of the board of management

Signed:*		Date:
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Principal/Secretary to the board of management

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

Location of copies of the Child Protection Procedures and Children First Guidance

Please find the procedures at the following location (Department of Education and Youth website www.gov.ie/childprotectionschools and a link to the Children First National Guidance 2017 at [Children First National Guidance 2017.pdf](#)