CSS1

Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment

For:	**St. Paul's NS**	*(School Name)*
At:	**Church View, Collooney, Co. Sligo**	*(School Address)*

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.

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.

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):

Clodagh Redican

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

Ruth McDermott

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

Name of Relevant Person

Clodagh Redican

(In schools this person is the DLP)

Relevant Person can be contacted on:

0719130491	*stpaulscollooney@gmail.com*

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:

Rev. Andrew Ison

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, or in an ETB school the chief executive or their delegate, 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.

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
1.	Training of school personnel in Child Protection matters	Harm not recognised or reported promptly by school personnel	Child Safeguarding Statement made available to all staff All staff trained in 2025 Child Protection Procedures. All Staff to view Túsla training module & any other online training offered by Oide. BOM maintains records of staff and board training
2.	One to one teaching	Harm by school personnel	SEN Policy updated. Subsection on one-to-one teaching included in SEN Policy. Use of table outside office for EAL teaching. When SET room in use, then door will be left open. Glass in door for visibility. Table between teacher and pupil.
3.	Care of children with special needs, including intimate care needs	Harm by school personnel	Subsection on intimate care included in the Toileting Policy
4.	Curricular provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe	Non-teaching of same	School implements SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe in full.
5.	LGBT+ Children/Pupils perceived to be LGBT+	Bullying	Bí Cineálta Policy Code of Behaviour Policy

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
			Enrolment Policy Supervision
6.	Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils	Harm from other pupils and unknown adults on the playground	Arrival and dismissal supervised by a member or members of the teaching staff.
7.	Managing of challenging behaviour amongst pupils, including appropriate use of restraint	Injury to pupils and staff	Restraint Policy to be drafted Health and Safety Policy Code of Behaviour Policy
8.	Sports Coaches	Harm to pupils	Supervised by a member of the teaching staff. Coaches are Garda Vetted
9.	Students participating in work experience	Harm by student	Supervised by a member of the teaching staff. Pupils on work experience are Garda Vetted if aged 16 years or over.
10.	Recreation breaks for pupils	Harm to pupils	Supervised by a member of the teaching staff. Supervised by SNA. Supervision Policy Code of Behaviour Policy
11.	Classroom teaching	Harm to pupils	Teachers Garda Vetted Teachers trained in new child protection procedures Windows in doors Large classroom windows Code of Behaviour Policy

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
12.	Sporting activities	Harm to pupils	Code of Behaviour Policy Adequate supervision
13.	Distance Learning	Harm to pupils	Acceptable Use Policy Code of Behaviour
14.	School outings	Harm to pupils	Code of Behaviour Policy Adequate supervision Facilitators Garda Vetted
15.	Use of toilet/changing/shower areas during swimming	Harm to pupils	Instructors of swimming Garda Vetted Teachers and parent helpers Garda Vetted
16.	Annual sports day and flag raising ceremonies	Harm to pupils	Supervision by a member or members of the teaching staff. Supervision of pupils by own parents or guardians if present. Procedures revised with pupils prior to event Code of Behaviour Policy
17.	Fundraising events involving pupils	Harm to pupils	Supervision by a member or members of the teaching staff. Pupils are supervised by parents or guardians
18.	Use of off-site facilities for school activities	Harm to pupils	Adequate supervision
19.	School transport arrangements	Harm to pupils	Bus Eireann Code of Practice
20.	Administration of Medicine Administration of First Aid	Incorrect administration of medicine or first aid	Administration of Medicine and First Aid Policy. Teachers to attend training in First Aid

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
			Staff attended training in administration of an Epipen
21.	Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst pupils	Bullying	Bí Cineálta Supervision Stay Safe Programme Code of Behaviour Policy AUP
22.	Use of external personnel to supplement curriculum	Harm to pupils	Teacher present when external personnel is supplementing the curriculum. External personnel Garda Vetted
23.	Care of pupils with specific vulnerabilities/ needs such as ● Pupils from ethnic minorities/migrants ● Members of the Traveller community ● Lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender (LGBT+) children ● Pupils perceived to be LGBT+ ● Pupils of minority religious faiths ● Children in care ● Children on CPNS (Child Protection Notification System)	Bullying	Bí Cineálta Policy Code of Behaviour Policy Supervision Enrolment Policy
24.	Recruitment of school personnel including - ● Teachers ● SNAs	Harm not recognised properly or promptly reported	Child Safeguarding Statement made available to all staff Staff to view Tusla Child First training module.

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
	• Caretaker/Secretary/Cleaners • Sports coaches • External Tutors/Guest Speakers • Volunteers/Parents in school activities		Garda Vetting Procedures
	• Visitors/contractors present in school during school hours • Visitors/contractors present during after school activities	Harm to pupils	Supervision by staff
25.	Use of Information and Communication Technology by pupils in school	Bullying	Digital Learning Plan AUP Bí Cineálta Policy Code of Behaviour Policy Websites blocked and access restricted by Oide Use of devices timetabled and supervised. Devices allocated to specific pupils.
26.	Application of sanctions under the school's Code of Behaviour	Harm not recognised	Code of Behaviour signed by parents on enrolment Supervision
27.	Student teachers undertaking training placement in school	Harm by student	Supervised by a member of the teaching staff. Pupils on teaching practice are Garda Vetted
28.	Use of video/photography/other media to record school events	Website and other media can be accessed by public	Image Policy Consent given by parents
29.	After school use of school premises by other organisations	Harm from unknown children and adults	Supervised dismissal of school children by a

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
			member or members of the teaching staff. Staff of outside organisations using the school are garda vetted and trained in Child Protection procedures.

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 _____ (*most recent review date)*

Signed:*		**Date**:

Chairperson of the board of management

Signed:*		**Date**:

Principal/Secretary to the board of management

This Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment is expected to be reviewed again on _____ *(expected review date)*

** Document to be printed and signed with original signatures*

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

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.

Hard copies of the Child Protection Procedures and Children First Guidance are available on the bookshelf in the school office.