

## Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment

### Child Safeguarding Statement

Saint John Bosco Senior Boys' School is a primary school providing primary education to pupils from Second Class 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 [insert school name] 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 Mr. Emmanuel Bourke
- 3 The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is Ms. Sorcha O'Dwyer
- 4 The Relevant Person is Mr. Emmanuel Bourke  
(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. In a school setting the relevant person shall be the designated liaison person.)
- 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](http://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](http://gov.ie) 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](http://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](http://gov.ie) website or will be made available on request by the school.

**Note:** The above is not intended as an exhaustive list. Individual Boards of Management shall also include in this section such other procedures/measures that are of relevance to the school in question.

- 7 This statement has been published on the school’s website and has been provided to all members of school personnel, the Parents’ Association (if any) 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.
  
- 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 was adopted by the Board of Management on **11<sup>th</sup> November 2024**

This Child Safeguarding Statement was reviewed by the Board of Management on **11<sup>th</sup> November 2024**

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Frances Boland

Chairperson of Board of Management

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Emmanuel Bourke

Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment

### Written Assessment of Risk of St. John Bosco Senior Boys' School

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 PostPrimary Schools (revised 2023)*, the following is the Written Risk Assessment of St. John Bosco Senior Boys' 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
Training of school personnel in Child Protection matters	Harm not recognised or reported promptly	<p>Child Safeguarding Statement &amp; DES procedures made available to all staff</p> <p>DLP&amp; DDLP to attend PDST face to face training All Staff to view Tusla training module &amp; any other online training offered by PDST</p> <p>BOM records all records of staff and board training Purpose: September each year Child Protection addressed at Staff Meeting/CP time to ensure all new staff are aware of CP/ current staff refreshed procedures. Update training every three years – or as required by relevant external agencies or the B.O.M.</p> <p>CPD courses can be under-taken by staff – Well-being, SPHE, Stay Safe Course, RSE courses during Haddington Road Agreement time.</p>

<b>List of School Activities</b>	<b>The School has identified the following Risk of Harm</b>	<b>The School has the following Procedures in place to address risk identified in this assessment</b>
One to one teaching	Harm by school personnel	School has policy in place for one-to-one teaching Open doors Table between teacher and pupil Child to be collected by teacher/SNA and returned by teacher/SNA to class
Care of children with special needs, including intimate care needs	Harm by school personnel	Policy on intimate care to be agreed by staff & BOM Permission from parents to change children Always make sure another adult is present when changing a child. Inform parents of incident IBP prepared for a child, where required, regarding intimate care needs
Toilet areas	Inappropriate behaviour	Usage and supervision policy. Policy to be agreed by staff & BOM. One child in the toilet at time Permission from parents to change children in case of accident –two adults present always
Curricular Provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay safe.	Non-teaching of same	School implements SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe, in full CP time to be used to upskill staff on above
Managing of challenging behaviour amongst pupils, including appropriate use of restraint	Injury to pupils and staff	Health & Safety Policy Code of Behaviour, IBP Exit Strategy to get class out of the room if there is extremely challenging behaviour T.C.I. training will be provided for any teachers with pupils who are required to be restrained – where they

		present a danger to themselves or others
Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils	Harm from other pupils, unknown adults on the playground Traffic on avenue Inappropriate behaviour	Arrival and Dismissal Policy & Procedures to be agreed by staff and BOM Supervision Policy to be agreed by staff and BOM Traffic Management Policy & Procedures to be agreed by staff and BOM Health & Safety Policy Supervision Policy Teachers/SNAs/DLP/DDLP to be agreed by staff and BOM. Children availing of transport (ASD Class) are collected directly from the vehicle by a member of school personnel Children availing of transport (ASD Class) are brought directly from the classroom to the vehicle Child Safeguarding Statement.
Recreation breaks for pupils	Injury to pupils/Bullying Harm not recognised or properly or promptly reported	Policy & Procedures in place Photographs of high-risk children Hi-Viz jackets and whistles for staff on supervision duty Health & Safety Policy Code of Behaviour Child Safeguarding Statement.
Classroom teaching	Personal injuries Allergic reactions Flight risks Bullying Internet Safety	Code of Behaviour Anti-bullying Medical Cupboard in staffroom. Administering Medication Policy Basic First Aid Course for all staff Health & Safety Policy RSE Policy

		Acceptable use policy I.T. and Internet usage Child Safeguarding Statement.
Sporting Activities	Personal injury Unknown adults around Road safety Allergic reactions Bullying Flight risks Lack of supervision	Health & Safety Policy Supervision Policy to be agreed by staff and BOM. Code of behaviour Anti-bullying SPHE Policy Daily First Aid Log & medical boxes (administering medication) Child Safeguarding Statement.
Choir	Personal injury Road safety (outings) Child protection (outings) Bullying	Health & Safety policy SPHE policy Daily First Aid Log & medical cupboard (administering medication) Supervision policy to be agreed by staff and BOM. Code of Behaviour Child Safeguarding Statement.
Sports Coaches	Harm to pupils	Policy & Procedures in place Rugby Soccer Basketball Gaelic Games Cricket Chess Swimming coach
Students participating in work experience	Harm by student	Child Safeguarding Statement.
Educational Trips/Matches	Heightened exposure to risk because of different environment.	Teachers will follow the school tour protocol.

Use of toilet in class	Inappropriate Behaviour, risk heightened particularly when breaks are being taken indoors/class teacher not present	Rule for use of toilet – one child per toilet at a time
Use of toilet outside of class	First aid toilets - room 1 and 2 toilet facilities	Use of toilet requires permission from supervising adult.
Changing for sport activities	Exposure to inappropriate behaviour	Use of nearest classroom
Annual Sports Day	Heightened exposure to risk because of different environment.	Toileting policy to be agreed by staff and BOM.
Annual Art Exhibition	Heightened exposure to risk because of different environment.	Supervision by Class teacher of their own class
Extra-curricular activities taking place on school premises led by external facilitators eg cycling	Heightened exposure to risk because of different environment.	Family event in the evening – Teacher present but supervision of children by parent.
Supervision by Class teacher of their own class	Heightened exposure to risk because of different environment.	Teachers will follow the school tour protocol.
Family event in the evening – Teacher present but supervision of children by parent.	Harm to pupils	N/A
Class teacher always present and supervising during activity.	Harm not recognised or properly or promptly reported	
Supervision by Class teacher of their own class	New foods, New visitors to school	Garda Vetting
Family event in the evening – Teacher present but supervision of children by parent.	Harm to pupils	Visitor sign-in procedure in place as per Covi- 19 response plan.
Management of challenging behaviour amongst pupils, including appropriate use of restraint where required	Physical harm	Child Behaviour Policy Code of Discipline
Administration of First Aid	Inaccessible equipment Non-functioning equipment Out of date equipment	Child Safeguarding Statement & DES
Administration of Medicine	Lack of adequate provisions e.g. ice packs	Procedures made available to all staff



Curricular provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe	Allergic reaction to medicines administered	Provision of defibrillator Health & Safety Policy
Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst pupils	Unnecessary medication	Training courses in relevant equipment e.g. EpiPens, defibrillator, First Aid
Training of school personnel in child protection matters	Oversight of children at possible risk	Inservice training on relevant legislation e.g. Child First 2015
Use of external personnel to supplement curriculum	Non vetted people interacting with the children Non implementation of school's policies e.g Child Behaviour Policy Disclosure of confidential information	Staff supervision of external personnel Training of external personnel in school policies Garda Vetting Policy Non disclosure agreement for external school personnel to be agreed by staff and BOM.
Care of pupils with specific vulnerabilities/ needs such as <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pupils from ethnic minorities/migrants</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> <li>• Children on CPNS</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inappropriate behaviour</li> <li>• Injury to pupils</li> <li>• Bullying</li> <li>• Harm not recognised or properly promptly reported</li> <li>• Harm by school personnel</li> <li>• Harm by other adults</li> <li>• Discrimination on access to enrolment</li> </ul> or	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Anti-bullying policy</li> <li>• Implementation of Stay Safe, RSE and SPHE Programmes</li> <li>• Code Of Behaviour</li> <li>• Arrival and dismissal Policy &amp; Procedures</li> <li>• Supervision Policy Teachers/SNAs</li> <li>• Child Safeguarding Statement &amp; DES procedures made available to all staff</li> <li>• Confidential record keeping</li> <li>• Admissions policy</li> </ul>
Use of Information and Communication Technology by pupils in school	Bullying Staff not following policies & procedures YouTube access (Filtering not sufficient) Children having smartphones/watches	ICT policy Anti-Bullying Policy Code of Behaviour Acceptable Usage Policy Mobile phone policy to be agreed by staff and BOM
Application of sanctions under the school's Code of Behaviour including, yellow and red cards, No Phones Policy	Excessive reaction and repercussion at home. Children's safety on journey home if phone confiscated.	Refer to DLP before applying sanction. Parents contacted if phone confiscated. Mobile phone policy to be agreed by staff and BOM

Students participating in work experience in the school	No Garda Vetting Use of devices, social media Unaware of school policies and code of behaviour, anti-bullying etc. How to react to a situation that arises with a placement student Injured in the grounds/building.	Visitor/volunteer/work-experience policy to be agreed by staff and BOM
Student teachers undertaking training placement in school	Following correct procedures and policies Student teacher receiving a disclosure	Class teacher to supervise, advise and guide student teacher
Use of video/photography/other media to record school events	Schools media designated	Parents sign permission slip for pupils on admission to school Photographs of children only taken in groups

**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.

The Addendum to Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children 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.

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.

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)*