

Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment

Child Safeguarding Statement

Sandford Parish 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 [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 Sandford Parish National School 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: **Mrs. Jennie Kirwan**
- 3 The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is: **Mrs. Andrea Dowzer**
- 4 The Relevant Person is: **Mrs. Jennie Kirwan**
(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](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 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.

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.

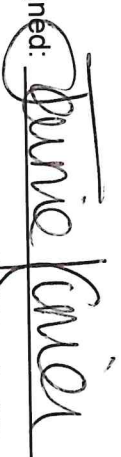
7 This statement has been published on the school's website and has been provided to all members of school personnel, the Parents' Association (if any) and the patron. It is readily accessible to parents and guardians on request. A copy of this Statement will be made available to Tusla and the Department 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 12/9/23.

This Child Safeguarding Statement was reviewed by the Board of Management on 12/9/23.

Signed: 
Chairperson of Board of Management

Signed: 
Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Date: 22/08/2023

Date: 22/9/23

Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment

Written Assessment of Risk of Sandford Parish National 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 Post Primary Schools (revised 2023)*, the following is the Written Risk Assessment of **Sandford Parish National School**.

List of school activities	The school has identified the following risk of harm in respect of its activities-	The school has the following procedures in place to address the risks of harm identified in this assessment-
Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of pupils in school.	- Arrival and dismissal supervised by staff member. - Gates closed during yard time. - Communication that school opens for supervision from 8:30-2:10 to parents/guardians, no supervision for early drop off/ late collection. - Supervision Policy- yard playground supervision policy to ensure appropriate supervision during assembly and dismissal.
Recreation breaks for pupils	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of pupils in school.	- Breaks supervised by teacher/s and/or SNA. - Supervision Policy- yard playground supervision policy to ensure appropriate supervision during assembly and dismissal.
Training of school personnel in Child Protection matters	Harm not recognised or reported promptly.	- Child Safeguarding Statement & DE procedures made available to all staff. - DLP& DDLP to attend Oide face to face training. - All Staff to view TUSLA training module & any other online training offered by Oide.
Classroom Teaching	Risk of harm not being recognised by school personnel.	- The Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2023 are made available to all school personnel. - Child Safeguarding Statement & DE procedures made available to all staff. - DLP& DDLP to attend Oide face to face training.

		- All Staff to view TUSLA training module & any other online training offered by Oide.
Recreation breaks for pupils	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of pupils in school.	- Breaks supervised by teacher/s and/or SNA. - Supervision Policy - yard playground supervision policy to ensure appropriate supervision during assembly and dismissal.
One-to-One Teaching	Risk of harm in one-to-one teaching, counselling, coaching situation.	- The school has in place a policy and clear procedures for one-to-one teaching activities.
Outdoor teacher activities	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children while attending out of school activities.	- Health and Safety Policy. - The Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2023 are made available to all school personnel.
Sporting Activities	Risk of harm not being reported properly and promptly by school personnel.	- The Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2023 are made available to all school personnel.
Recruitment of school personnel including - Teachers SNA's Caretaker/Secretary/Cleaners Sports coaches External Tutors/Guest Speakers Volunteers/Parents in school activities Visitors/contractors present in school during school hours Visitors/contractors present in school during after school hours	Risk of being harmed in the school by volunteer or visitor to the school.	- The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation and relevant DE circulars in relation to recruitment and Garda vetting. - The Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2023 are made available to all school personnel working directly with pupils.
Use of external personnel to supplement curriculum	Risk of child being harmed in the school by volunteer or visitor to the school.	- The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation and relevant DE circulars in relation to recruitment and Garda vetting. - The school has in place a policy and procedures for the use of external coaches/curriculum teachers.

Use of external personnel to support sports and other extra-curricular activities	Risk of child being harmed in the school by volunteer or visitor to the school.	- The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation and relevant DE circulars in relation to recruitment and Garda vetting. - The school has in place a policy and procedures for the use of external sports coaches.
Care of Children with special needs, including intimate care needs – toileting, changing	Risk of harm to children with additional needs who have particular vulnerabilities.	- The school has an Intimate Care Policy/Plan in respect of students who require such care.
Use of toilet in school	Risk of harm not being recognised by school personnel.	- The Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2023 are made available to all school personnel working directly with pupils. - The school has an Intimate Care Policy/Plan in respect of students who require such care.
Administration of Medicine Administration of First Aid	Risk of harm to child while a child is receiving intimate care.	- The school has in place a policy and procedures for the Administration of First Aid and medication to pupils.
Care of pupils with specific vulnerabilities/needs such as Pupils from ethnic minorities/migrants Members of the Traveller community Lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender (LGBTQ) children Pupils perceived to be LGBTQ. Pupils of minority religious faiths Children in care Child on CPNS Children with medical needs	Risk of harm not being recognised by school personnel	- The school has an Anti-Bullying Policy which fully adheres to the requirements of the DE Anti-Bullying Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools. - Code of Behaviour
Application of sanctions under the school's Code of Behaviour including detention of pupils, confiscation of smart devices	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children in school.	- The Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2023 are made available to all school personnel working directly with pupils. - Code of Behaviour

Managing of challenging behaviour amongst pupils, including appropriate restraint where required	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children in school.	- The Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2023 are made available to all school personnel working directly with pupils.
Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst pupils	Risk of child being harmed in the school by another child.	- The school has an Anti-Bullying Policy which fully adheres to the requirements of the DE Anti-Bullying Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools. - Code of Behaviour
Use of video/photography/other media to record school events	Risk of harm caused by a member of school personnel accessing/ circulating inappropriate material via social media, texting, digital device, or other manner.	- The Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2023 are made available to all school personnel working directly with pupils. - Data Protection Policy
Use of Information and Communication Technology by pupils in school	Risk of harm not being recognised by school personnel	- The school has in place an ICT Policy in respect of usage of ICT by pupils. - Data Protection Policy - Acceptable Use Policy - Anti-Bullying Policy - Code of Behaviour
Online teaching and learning remotely	Risk of harm not being recognised by school personnel	- The school has in place an ICT Policy in respect of usage of ICT by pupils. - Data Protection Policy - Acceptable Use Policy - Anti-Bullying Policy - Code of Behaviour
Curricular provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe	Risk of harm not being recognised by school personnel	- The school implements in full the SPHE curriculum and Stay Safe programme.
Student teachers undertaking training placement in school. Students participating in work experience in the school.	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children in school.	- The school has in place a policy and procedures in respect of students undertaking work experience and teaching placements in the school.
Annual Sports Day	Risk of harm not being recognised by school personnel.	- The school has a yard/ playground supervision policy to ensure appropriate supervision of pupils.

Participation by pupils in religious ceremonies/religious instruction external to the school	Risk of child being harmed by a member of school personnel, a member of staff of another organisation or other person while the child is participating in out of school activities.	- Code of Behaviour - The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation and relevant DE circulars in relation to recruitment and Garda vetting. -
Fundraising events involving pupils	Risk of harm due to inappropriate relationship/communications between a child and another child or adult.	- Code of Behaviour - The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation and relevant DE circulars in relation to recruitment and Garda vetting.
School Outings	Risk of child being harmed by a member of school personnel, a member of staff of another organisation or other person while the child is participating in out of school activities.	- The school has in place a policy and clear procedures in respect of school outings.
Use of off-site facilities for school activities	Risk of child being harmed by a member of school personnel, a member of staff of another organisation or other person while the child is participating in out of school activities.	- The school has in place a policy and clear procedures in respect of school outings.
School transport arrangements including use of bus escorts	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children while attending out of school activities.	- The school has in place a policy and clear procedures in respect of school outings.
After school use of premises by other organisations	Risk of harm not being recognised by school personnel.	- The school has a plan for behaviour on school grounds and use of school facilities.

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.