St. John’s NS Carramore 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](http://www.irishstatutebook.ie/eli/2015/act/36/enacted/en/pdf), [Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children 2017](https://assets.gov.ie/25844/b90aafa55804462f84d05f87f0ca2bf6.pdf), [the Addendum to Children First (2019)](https://assets.gov.ie/25819/c9744b64dfd6447985eeffa5c0d71bbb.pdf), the [Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools 2017](https://www.gov.ie/pdf/?file=https://assets.gov.ie/45063/2d4b5b3d781e4ec1ab4f3e5d198717d9.pdf#page=1) and [Túsla Guidance on the preparation of Child Safeguarding Statements](https://www.tusla.ie/uploads/content/4214-TUSLA_Guidance_on_Developing_a_CSS_LR.PDF), the Board of Management of St. John’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 2017 as part of this overall Child Safeguarding Statement
2. The Designated Liaison Person (DLP) is Marie Fallon
3. The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is Mairéad Kelly
4. 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.

1. 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 2017 and to the relevant agreed disciplinary procedures for school staff which are published on the DE 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](https://revisedacts.lawreform.ie/eli/2012/act/47/revised/en/pdf) 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 DE 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 Túsla, all school personnel are required to adhere to the procedures set out in the Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017, including in the case of registered teachers, those in relation to mandated reporting under the Children First Act 2015.
* In this school the Board has appointed the abovenamed DLP as the “relevant person” (as defined in the Children First Act 2015) to be the first point of contact in respect of the schools child safeguarding statement.
* 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 DE 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.

1. This statement has been published on the school’s website and has been provided to all members of school personnel and the patron. It is readily accessible to parents and guardians on request. A copy of this Statement will be made available to Túsla and the Department if requested.
2. 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 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

This Child Safeguarding Statement will be reviewed by the Board of Management on \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Signed: Fr. John Durkan Signed: Marie Fallon

Chairperson of Board of Management Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Date: 24/11/2021 Date: 24/11/2021

**Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment**

**Written Assessment of Risk of St. John’s NS Carramore**

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 2017*, the following is the Written Risk Assessment of St. John’s NS.

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| --- | --- | --- |
| 1. **List of school activities** | 1. **The school has identified the following risk of harm in respect of its activities –** | 1. **The school has the following procedures in place to address the risks of harm identified in this assessment -** |
| Daily arrival and dismissal of children on the playground and within the school building | Risk of harm to child due to inadequate supervision | Arrival and dismissal is supervised by a teacher on a rota, from 08.50am until 9.00am and from 2.40pm until 2.50pm |
| Child’s use of toilet facilities | Risk of child being harmed by another child | Only one child allowed out to toilet facilities at any given time  At break time only hall toilets are used |
| Management of children during lunchtime | Risk of inadequate supervision | Teacher waits until the last child has left the room  2 staff on duty during all breaks |
| Wet play activities | Risk of harm to child inappropriately accessing online sites | One adult is present in each room  You Tube is not allowed for children  Use of technology is limited  Children are seated  Wet play equipment is stored outside of infant room |
| Child unsupervised when they need to stay inside the school at playtime | Risk of child getting hurt | Child stays inside the front door with a book or colouring  Child sits outside the office in view of the staffroom |
| Drinking from a bottle in class and outdoors | Risk of harm from glass bottles | Only plastic bottles allowed |
| Child going on messages within the school building | Risk of child getting hurt | 2 children are sent on all messages |
| Visiting Sports Coaches / dance / gymnastics/ football | Risk of harm to child in coaching situation | Member of staff are always present |
| Parents/ volunteers offering to help with in-school activities | Risk of harm to child | Teachers are always present  Where possible participating adults are Garda vetted |
| Delivery of music lessons by teacher after school hours | Risk of child being harmed/mistreated by an adult | Doors of classroom left open at all times |
| Attending swimming lessons at a designated swimming facility | Risk of injury or harm to child | Teacher is present in girls’ changing room during the changing times of clothing  Teacher stands just outside boys’ changing room |
| Employment of a student teacher | Risk of child being harmed | All student teachers are Garda vetted in advance of employment  Student teacher is fully briefed on all matters relating to child safeguarding |
| Delivery of a one-to-one child teaching lesson | Risk of child being harmed | Doors are open at all times  A table is positioned between the teacher and the child  The door of the lesson room has a glass panel  Corridor outside of the infant room is used where possible  Staff room door is left open during the lesson |
| Student participating in work experience | Risk of harm to child due to inadequate supervision | Student is not left unsupervised with any individual children |
| Engaging in sporting activities away from the school in other facilities | Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision | 2 adults are present at all stages of the activity where at all possible  Club changing room doors are left open |
| Management of the After School Club | Risk of harm to child in hall | Supervising adult is in possession of a mobile phone |
| Management of School tours | Risk of injury/ harm to child due to inadequate supervision | A minimum of 2 adults to be in attendance on school tours |
| School trips involving overnight stay | Risk of injury/harm to child due to inadequate supervision | Supervision rota is established and implement during the overnight stay  Children will not be permitted to have access to mobile phones during the night |
| Attendance of children at masses / sacraments | Risk of harm to child due to inadequate supervision | Parents are requested to bring their child to and from church for sacrament practises and altar serving |
| Attendance at St. Patrick’s Day parade | Risk of harm to child due to inadequate supervision | Parents are requested to collect their child from a designated area after the parade |
| Management of child alone with an unknown adult during a NEPS assessment | Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of child and external personnel | Staff member is made available where at all possible  Classroom is used for the assessment. A teacher may be working in room also  Seek advice from NEPS |
| Use of ICT | Risk of harm to child accessing inappropriate material online | Code of Behaviour is implemented and adhered to  Anti-Bullying Policy is implemented and adhered to  ICT policy is implemented and adhered to  Use of mobile phones is prohibited |
| Management of a child with challenging behaviour | Risk of harm to child by bullying of a child | When the need for difficult discussions/investigations arises a minimum of 2 staff are involved in this process  When one staff member needs to speak with one child the office door is left open with the adult in full view |
| Administration of medicine and first aid to a child | Risk of harm to children with vulnerabilities | Medicine is stored in a press in the office, out of reach of the children  Medicine is administered in the staff room  Only the SNA is permitted to administer medicine  Parents give written consent for medicine to be given  A note is written for parents when required  A phone call to parents is made if required instead of a note  Defibrillator is checked monthly |
| Dealing with upset child | Risk of harm to child while being consoled | No physical contact is made between the adult and the child |
| Dealing with child who requires a change of clothes | Risk of harm to child while being changed | Older sibling attends to the child where possible  Parents contacted by phone when required |
| Care of children with specific vulnerabilities/ needs | Risk of harm to child with SEN | Anti-Bullying Policy implemented and adhered to. Policy to take cognisance of the child from ethnic minorities/migrants such as but not limited to:   * Members of the travelling community * Lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender (LGBT) * Child perceived to be LGBT * Child of minority religion |
| Delivery of curricular provision in respect of SPHE, RSE and Stay safe | Risk of harm to children | School fully implements SPHE, RSE and Stay Safe |
| Recruitment of school personnel | Risk of harm to children | Child Safeguarding Statement & DES procedures to be made available to all staff on recruitment  Staff to view Túsla training module & any other online training offered by PDST  Garda Vetting Procedures to be followed  Policy of Parents / Volunteers to be explained |
| Use of video/photography/other media to record school events | Risk of harm caused by circulating inappropriate material via social media | Parents to sign relevant consent form  A child’s name and photograph must not put on website together  More than one child to be in each photograph  Parents to be requested not to share videos or photos of school events on social media |
| Security camera | Risk of harm to general public due to being recorded on video | No parent can view the school camera recording without sending a written request to the BOM.  All other children’s faces to be blurred out before it is viewed. Parent must fund the cost of this. |
| Management of snow/ ice days | Risk of harm to children, parents and staff | 11am opening an option when necessary  Online teaching via zoom an option  Met Éireann weather forecast and advice to be considered during inclement weather.  Children to be kept indoors when weather presents a risk to their welfare. |
| Online teaching and learning | Risk of harm due to inappropriate use of online teaching platform such as uninvited person accessing the class link | It is the duty of parents/guardians to supervise children while they are working online and to ensure any content which they are submitting to their teacher is appropriate |
| Intimate care needs of child with special needs | Risk to vulnerable child | Two adults to attend to a child at all times |
| Use of a mechanical hoist to lift a child with special needs | Risk to vulnerable child and to SNA | Parent will assist in the hoisting in the morning and end of the day  SNA is advised to receive training |