Child Safeguarding Statement- St.Declan's NS

St. Declan's NS 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 St. Declan'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 *(revised 2023)* as part of this overall Child Safeguarding Statement

2 The Designated Liaison Person (DLP) is Ciara Parris

3 The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is Sarah Connolly

4 The Relevant Person is Ciara Parris
(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 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 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.

7 This statement has been published on the school's website and has been provided to all members of school personnel, the Parents' Association 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 September 18h 2024.

This Child Safeguarding Statement was reviewed by the Board of Management on June 11th 2026

Signed: _____ Signed: C. Ryan

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

Date: 18/6/2026 Date: 18/06/26

Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment

Written Assessment of Risk of St. Declan's NS

In accordance with section 11 of the Children First Act 2015 and with the requirements of Chapter 8 of the *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools (revised 2023)*, the following is the Written Risk Assessment of St.Declan's NS.

1. **List of school activities**

- Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils through two gates
- Break times
- Classroom teaching
- One-to-one teaching
- One-to-one learning support
- Outdoor teaching activities
- Online teaching and learning remotely (exceptional circumstances)
- Sporting activities
- School outings
- Use of toilet areas in school
- Sports day
- Fundraising events involving pupils
- Use of off-site facilities for school activities
- School transport arrangements
- Care of children with special education needs including intimate care where needed.
- Management of challenging behaviour amongst people's including appropriate use of restrained where required for safety
- Management of provision of food and drink
- Administration of Medicine
- Administration of First Aid
- Circular provision in respect of SPHE, RSE and Stay Safe.
- Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst pupils
- Trading of school personal in child protection matters
- Use of external personnel to supplement curriculum
- Use of external personal to support sports and other extracurricular activities.
- Care pupils with specific vulnerabilities needs such as;
- Pupils from ethnic minority migrants
- Members of the Traveller Community
- Lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender (LGBT+) children
- People's perceived to be LGBT
- Coupons of minority religious fates
- Children in care
- Children on TUSLA'a Child Protection Notification System (CPNS)
- Children with medical needs
- Recruitment of school personnel including-
- Teachers/SNA
- 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 during after school activities
- Participation by pupils in religious ceremonies/religious instruction external to the school
- Use of Information and Communication Technology by pupils and school including social media
- Applications of sanctions under the schools Code of Behaviour including confiscation of phones etc
- Students participating in work experience in the school
- Student teachers undertaking training placement in school
- Use of video photography and other media to record school events
- After school use of school premises by other organizations
- Use the school premises by other organizations during school day
- After school activity

2. The school has identified the following risk of harm in respect of its activities -

- Risk of harm not being recognised by school personnel
- Risk of harm not being reportedly and promptly by school personnel
- Risk of child being harmed in the school by a member of school personnel
- Risk of child being harmed in the school of by another child
- Risk of child being harmed in the school by volunteer or visitor to the school
- Risk of child being harmed in the school by a member
- Risk of child being harmed by a member of school personnel, a member of staff of another organisation, or other person while child participating in out of school activities for example school trips, swimming lessons
- Risk of harm due to inappropriate use of online remote teaching and learning communication platform such as uninvited person accessing the lesson links
- Risk of harm due to bullying of child
- Risk of harm due to racism
- Risk of harm due to medical supervision of children in school
- Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children while attending out of school activities
- Risk of harm due to inappropriate relationship/communications between child and other children or adult
- Risk of harm due to children inappropriately accessing using computers/ipads while at school
- Risk of harm to children with special education needs with vulnerabilities, including medical vulnerabilities
- Risk of harm to children while child is receiving intimate care
- Risk of harm due to inadequate implementation of the Code of Behaviour
- Risk of harm in one-to-one teaching situations
- Risk of harm caused by members of school personnel communication with pupils in an inappropriate manner via social media, texting or other manner
- Risk of harm caused by a member of school personnel accessing/circulating inappropriate material via social media, texting or other manner.

3. **The school has the following procedures in place to address the risks of harm identified in this assessment -**

- All school personnel are provided with a copy of the school's *Child Safeguardin Statement.*
- The *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools (revised 2023)* are made available to all school personnel.
- School personnel are required to adhere to the *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools (revised 2023)* and all registered teaching staff are required to adhere to the *Children First Act 2015* and it's Addendum (2019)
- The school implements in full the Stay Safe Programme
- The school implements in full the SPHE Programme
- The school has an Anti-Bullying Policy which adheres to the *Bí Cineálta Procedures to Prevent and Address Bullying Behaviour for Primary and PostPrimary Schools 2024*
- The school undertakes anti-racism awareness initiatives
- The school has yard supervision procedures to ensure appropriate supervision of children during assembly, dismissal and breaks in a respect of specific areas such as toilets, school hall etc
- The school has in place clear procedures in respect to school outings
- The schools and safety guidelines in place
- The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation and relevant DE circulars in relation to recruitment and Garda Vetting
- The school complies with the agreed disciplinary procedures for teaching staff
- The school has Special Educational Needs Policy
- The school has in place procedures for the administration of medication to pupils
- The school-
    - Has provided each member of school staff would a copy this school's child safe guiding statement
    - Ensures all new staff for provided with this copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement
    - School staff all complete Child First Training every three years
    - Encourages staff to avail of relevant training
    - Encourages board management members to avail of relevant training
    - Maintains records of all staff and board member training
- The school is in place a policy and procedures through the administration of First Aid
- The school is in place a code of behavior for pupils
- The school has an Acceptable Use Policy in place, to include provision for online teaching and learning remotely
- The school has in place a policy governing the use of smartphones and tablet devices in the school
- The school has in place a Critical Incident Management Plan
- The school for the use of external persons to supplement delivery of the curriculum
- The school exposure for the use of external sports coaches
- The school has clear procedure for one-to-one teaching activities
- The school has proceeded in respect of student teacher placements
- The school has in place a policy and procedures in respect of students undertaking work experience in the school.

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.