



# **Child Safeguarding Statement**

June 2025

St. Peter's Primary School is a 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. Peter's Primary 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 Mr. Scott Vance
3. The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is Ms. Emer Whyte
4. The relevant person is Scott Vance
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.

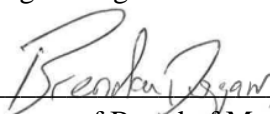
- In relation to the provision of information and, where necessary, instruction and training, to staff in respect of the identification of the occurrence of harm (as defined in the 2015 Act) the school-
  - Has provided each member of staff with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement
  - 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.
- Procedures for managing retrospective disclosures made by adults
- Procedures for oversight and internal review, including use of the Child Protection Oversight Report (CPOR).
- The various procedures referred to in this Statement can be accessed via 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.

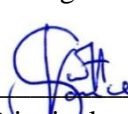
7. This statement has been published on the school's website and has been provided to all members of school personnel, the Parents' Association (if any) and the patron. It is readily accessible to parents and guardians on request. A copy of this Statement will be made available to Tusla and the Department 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 10/6/25

This Child Safeguarding Statement was reviewed by the Board of Management on 10/6/25

Signed:   
Chairperson of Board of Management

Date: 10/6/25

Signed:   
Principal

Date: 10/6/25

## Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment

This risk assessment has been developed in line with the Addendum to Children First (2019 & 2025) and the updated Child Protection Procedures 2025

School Activities	Risk Level (Low,med,High)	The School has identified the following risk or harm	The school has the following procedures/safe guards in place to address the identified risk
Training of school personnel in Child Protection matters	High	Harm not recognised or reported promptly	Child Safeguarding Statement & DES procedures made available to all staff DLP& DDLP to attend PDST face to face training All Staff to complete Tusla training module BOM have been given Child Protection Procedures BOM records all records of staff and board training
Recruitment of new staff	Medium	Harm not recognised or reported promptly	Follow Garda Vetting Circular 31/16 Statutory Declaration and Form of Undertaking signed Given copy of Child Protection Safety Statement and Risk Assessment Read and sign that they have read the Children's First Guidelines
Teaching practice for Student teachers	Medium	Harm to pupils	Garda Vetted in accordance with circular 31/16 Given copy of Child Protection Safety Statement
Secondary students participating in work experience	Low	Harm by student	Child Safeguarding Statement. Pupils are Garda vetted Never one on one with pupils Children under 16 not allowed to do work experience
Volunteers and Parents	Medium	Harm to pupils	Garda Vetted in accordance with circular 31/16
Visitors	Med	Harm to pupils	Given Guest Lanyards to wear Sign in and out at office
One to one teaching	Medium	Harm by school personnel	Open door or glass panel in door
Care of children with special needs, including intimate care needs	High	Harm by school personnel	Toileting Guidelines
Care of pupils with specific vulnerabilities	Medium	Bullying Toileting	Anti-Bullying Policy Gender Neutral toilet (beside 2 <sup>nd</sup> class ).
Toilet areas	High	Inappropriate behaviour	Supervision policy

School Activities	Risk Level (Low,med,High)	The School has identified the following risk or harm	The school has the following procedures/safe guards in place to address the identified risk
Curricular Provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay safe.	Medium	Non-teaching of same	School implements SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe in full Staff to sign a document to say they have taught above programs Evidence of above being taught in Cuntas <u>Miosúil</u>
Managing of challenging behaviour amongst pupils, including appropriate use of restraint	Medium	Injury to pupils and staff	Code of Behaviour Health and safety Policy Anti-Bullying Physical Intervention Policy Risk Assessment
Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils	Medium	Harm from other pupils, unknown adults on the playground	Supervision Policy Health & Safety Policy Anti-bullying Policy
Recreation breaks for pupils	High	Injury to pupils/Bullying Harm not recognised or properly or promptly reported	Anti-Bullying Supervision Policy Code of Behaviour
Classroom teaching	Low	Harm by others	Glass in class door Supervision policy.
Outside Sporting Activities	Medium	Harm by others	Minimum 2 Garda vetted adults to attend sporting events
After school activities	Medium	Harm to pupils	Garda Vetted References sought for all new after school co-ordinators
School Tours	High	Harm to Pupils	School Tour Policy Supervision policy Any adults going on tours are Garda Vetted
School transport arrangements including use of bus escorts	High	Harm to pupils Harm not recognised or properly or promptly reported	Always two adults present
Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst pupils	Medium	Harm to pupils	Anti-Bullying Policy Code of behaviour Acceptable Use Policy Mobile Phone Policy

School Activities	Risk Level (Low,med,High)	The School has identified the following risk or harm	The school has the following procedures/safe guards in place to address the identified risk
<b>Online</b> Use of Information and Communication Technology by pupils in school	Medium	Harm to pupils	Acceptable Use Policy Anti-Bullying Policy Code of Behaviour Blog Policy Webwise lessons- Garda visit Teacher always present when children are online
Remote Teaching	Medium	Harm to pupils	Each child will be given a password to enter the Zoom lesson A waiting list set to ensure only pupils are admitted Zoom teaching guidelines sent out to parents and staff
Festina Lente	High	Harm to pupils	Where possible, children will be brought to and from Festina Lente by two members of staff. A child will never travel alone with a member of staff.
Use of video/photography/other media to record school events	Medium	Sharing information over social media	Parents are informed not to post any videos on social media
Children going on messages in the school	Medium	Harm to Pupils	Students carry out messages in pairs
Swimming	Medium	Harm to Pupils	At least two teachers supervising at any given time
Administration of Medication	High	Incorrect administration of medication	Administration of Medication Policy Indemnity form signed
Key code at front of school	Low	Parents/Children finding out the code	The school will change the code each month
Back door to school	Low	Risk of back door being on the latch throughout the day	Door regularly checked to ensure it is closed.
Bringing infants to the toilet during yard time	High	Harm to pupils	2 infants will be brought to the toilet by a 6 <sup>th</sup> class pupil. 6 <sup>th</sup> class pupil to remain in the corridor outside the bathroom Supervision Policy

School Activities	Risk Level (Low,med,High)	The School has identified the following risk or harm	The school has the following procedures/safe guards in place to address the identified risk
Sensory Room	High	Harm by school personnel	Sensory Room Policy
Instagram	Medium	Harm to pupils	We have turned off the comments section Staff have been issued with a document which informs them not to name children in posts.
Hollyoaks	Medium	Harm to pupils	Parents of children in Hollyoaks Montessori will not be allowed into the school in the morning. They will be collected from outside the school and brought in.
Elopment (running off) into carpark	Medium	Harm to pupils	Put in a new gate to the car park Ensure gate is always closed Get a code pad on gate
Non verbal	Medium	Harm to pupil	staff should be trained in alternative communication methods (e.g. PECS, Lámh)
Risk of harm due to retrospective disclosures by adults	Low	Harm to disclosing person	Procedure for Retrospective Disclosures (as per 2025 Guidelines)
Risk of harm due to gaps in internal safeguarding oversight	Medium	Harm to pupil	Use of CPOR; Child Protection Oversight Reporting; Annual Review Process

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 the 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 risk assessment has been completed by the Board of Management on 10/6/25.

It shall be reviewed as part of the school's annual review of its Child Safeguarding statement.

Signed  Chairperson of the BOM Date: 10/6/25

Signed  Principal Date: 10/6/25