



St Nicholas of Myra NS

Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment

Child Safeguarding Statement

St Nicholas of Myra 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 St Nicholas of Myra 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 **Rónán Kennedy**
3. The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is **Mary McDermott**
4. The Relevant Person is **Rónán Kennedy**
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.



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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 DES 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.



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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.

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 October 2nd 2023

This Child Safeguarding Statement will be reviewed by the Board of Management in October 2024

Signed: Brian James
Chairperson of Board of Management

Signed: Páircín Kennedy
Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Date: 2-10-2023

Date: 2-10-23



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Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment

Written Assessment of Risk of St Nicholas of Myra NS

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 St Nicholas of Myra NS.

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.

List of school activities	Risk of harm identified in respect of the activity	Procedure in place to address the risk of harm
Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils	Risk of harm not being recognised by school personnel Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children in school	The school has a Supervision Policy to ensure appropriate supervision of pupils
Recreation breaks for pupils	Risks of harm not being reported properly and promptly by school personnel Risk of child being harmed by another child	The school has a Supervision Policy to ensure appropriate supervision of pupils



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	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children in school	
Classroom teaching		<p>All school personnel are provided with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement</p> <p>The Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools (revised 2023) are made available to all school personnel</p> <p>School Personnel are required to adhere to the Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary (revised 2023) Schools and all registered teaching staff are required to adhere to the Children First Act 2015</p>
One-to-one teaching	Risk of harm in one-to-one teaching, counselling, coaching situations	<p>The school has a policy in place for one-to-one teaching</p> <p>All persons accessing children in one-to-one situations are fully Garda vetted</p>



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<p>Outdoor teaching activities</p>	<p>Risk of child being harmed in the school by a member of school personnel</p>	<p>All school personnel are provided with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement</p> <p>The Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools (revised 2023) are made available to all school personnel</p> <p>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</p>
<p>Sporting activities Annual Sports Day/Active Week</p>	<p>Risk of child being harmed in the school by a volunteer or visitor to the school</p> <p>Risk of child being harmed by member of school personnel</p> <p>Risk of child being harmed in school by another child</p>	<p>Vetting procedures are in place for all visitors /volunteers in the school</p> <p>All school personnel are provided with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement</p> <p>The Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools (revised 2023) are made</p>



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		<p>available to all school personnel</p> <p>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</p> <p>The school has a Code of Behaviour in place</p>
<p>School tours/outings</p> <p>Use of off-site facilities for school activities</p> <p>School transport arrangements</p> <p>Swimming lessons</p>	<p>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 eg school trip, sports match, music competition</p>	<p>All venues and organisations that are used for school tours, educational trips etc are fully checked beforehand</p> <p>Teachers present with the group at all times</p> <p>The school has a Swimming Lessons Policy</p>
<p>Use of toilet/changing areas in schools</p>	<p>Risk of harm while a child is receiving intimate care</p>	<p>The school has an Intimate Care and Toileting policy</p>
<p>Fundraising events involving pupils</p>	<p>Risk of child being harmed in the school by a volunteer or visitor to the school</p>	<p>Vetting procedures are in place for all visitors /volunteers in the school</p> <p>Teachers present with the group at all times</p>



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Care of children with special educational needs, including intimate care where needed	Risk of harm to a child while a child is receiving intimate care	The school has SEN and Intimate Care policies in place
Management of challenging behaviour amongst pupils, including appropriate use of restraint where required	Risk of child being harmed in the school by another child	The school has a Code of Behaviour and Pupil Restraint in place
Administration of First Aid	Risk of the child being harmed in the school by a member of school personnel	The school has a First Aid policy in place All school personnel have received basic First Aid training
Curricular provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe	Risk of harm in various situations	The school implements in full the SPHE curriculum, as well as the Stay Safe and RSE programmes
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 in place The school teaches Anti-Bullying lessons at the beginning of each year as part of the Stay Safe programme and its SPHE plan. The school also undertakes initiatives such as the Worry Box, Secret Friends, Random Acts of Kindness etc



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<p>Training of school personnel in child protection matters</p>		<p>All school personnel are provided with a copy of the school’s Child Safeguarding Statement</p> <p>The Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools (revised 2023) are made available to all school personnel</p> <p>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</p> <p>All school personnel have completed Tusla “Introduction to Children First” training</p>
<p>Use of external personnel to supplement curriculum</p> <p>Use of external personnel to support sports and other extra-curricular activities</p>	<p>Risk of child being harmed in the school by a volunteer or visitor to the school</p>	<p>Vetting procedures are in place for all visitors /volunteers in the school</p> <p>Teachers present with the group at all times</p>



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<p>Care of pupils with specific vulnerabilities/needs such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -pupils from ethnic minorities/migrants -members of the Traveller community -lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender (LGBT) children -pupils perceived to be LGBT -pupils of minority religious faiths -children in care -children on CPNS 	<p>Risk of harm to children with specific vulnerabilities</p>	<p>The school has SEN and Inclusion policies in place</p>
<p>Recruitment of school personnel including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Teachers/SNAs -Caretaker/Secretary/Cleaner -Sports coaches -external tutors/guest speakers -volunteers/parents in school activities 	<p>Risk of harm not being reported properly and promptly by school personnel</p> <p>Risk of harm due to inappropriate relationship/communication between the child and another child or adult</p>	<p>The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation and relevant DES circulars in relation to recruitment and Garda vetting</p> <p>All school personnel are provided with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement</p> <p>The Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary</p>



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<p>-visitors/contractors present in school during school hours</p> <p>-visitors/contractors present during after school activities</p>		<p>Schools(revised 2023) are made available to all school personnel</p> <p>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</p>
<p>Participation by pupils in religious ceremonies external to the school</p>	<p>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</p>	<p>Teacher present with the group at all times</p>
<p>Use of Information and Communication Technology by pupils in the school</p>	<p>Risk of harm due to children inappropriately accessing/using computers, social media, phones and other devices at school</p> <p>Risk of harm caused by member of the school personnel communicating with pupils in an inappropriate manner via</p>	<p>The school has Anti-Bullying, Anti-Cyber Bullying, and Mobile Phone policy.</p> <p>Children engage in Internet Safety lessons</p>



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	social media, texting, digital service or other manner	
Application of sanctions under the school's Code of Behaviour including detention of pupils, confiscation of phones etc	Risk of harm due to inadequate Code of Behaviour	The school has a Code of Behaviour and Anti-Bullying policy in place
Students participating in work experience in the school	Risk of child being harmed by a volunteer or visitor to the school	Vetting procedures are in place for all visitors /volunteers in the school Teachers present with the group at all times
Student teachers undertaking training placement in school	Risk of child being harmed by a volunteer or visitor to the school	Vetting procedures are in place for all visitors /volunteers in the school Teachers present with the group at all times Child Safeguarding Statement made available to student teachers
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 school has an ICT and Cyberbullying policy in place
After school use of school premises by other organisations	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children in school	Vetting procedures are in place for all visitors /volunteers in the school



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Use of school premises by other organisations during the school day	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children in school	Vetting procedures are in place for all visitors /volunteers in the school Private liability insurance must be provided
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As part of its annual review, the Board of Management will use the following checklist to ensure that the school Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment are up to date.

	Yes/No
1. Has the Board formally adopted a Child Safeguarding Statement in accordance with the ' <i>Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools</i> (revised 2023)?	
2. Is the Board satisfied that the Child Safeguarding Statement is displayed in a prominent place near the main entrance to the school?	
3. As part of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement, has the Board formally adopted, without modification <i>the Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools</i> (revised 2023)?	
4. Does the school's Child Safeguarding Statement include a written assessment of risk as required under the Children First Act 2015? (This includes considering the specific issue of online safety as required by the <i>Addendum to Children First</i>)	
5. Has the Board reviewed and updated where necessary the written assessment of risk as part of this overall review?	



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6. Has the Risk Assessment taken account of the risk of harm relevant to online teaching and learning remotely?	
7. Has the DLP attended available child protection training?	
8. Has the Deputy DLP attended available child protection training?	
9. Have any members of the Board attended child protection training?	
10. Are there both a DLP and a Deputy DLP currently appointed?	
11. Are the relevant contact details (Tusla and An Garda Síochána) to hand?	
12. Has the Board arrangements in place to communicate the school's Child Safeguarding Statement to new school personnel?	
13. Is the Board satisfied that all school personnel have been made aware of their responsibilities under the Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools 2017 and the Children First Act 2015?	
14. Has the Board received a Principals Child Protection Oversight Report (CPOR) at each Board meeting held since the last review was undertaken?	
15. Since the Board's last review, did each CPOR contain all of the information required under each of the 4 headings set out in sections 9.5 to 9.8 inclusive of the procedures?	
16. Since the Board's last review, has the Board been provided with and reviewed all documents relevant to the CPOR?	
17. Since the Board's last review, have the minutes of each Board meeting appropriately recorded the records provided to the Board as part of CPOR report?	
18. Have the minutes of each Board meeting appropriately recorded the CPOR report?	
19. Is the Board satisfied that the child protection procedures in relation to the making of reports to Tusla/An Garda Síochána were appropriately followed in each case reviewed?	
20. Is the Board satisfied that since the last review, all appropriate actions are being or have been taken in respect of any member of school personnel against whom an allegation of abuse or neglect has been made?*	
21. Where applicable, were unique identifiers used to record child protection matters in the Board minutes?	
22. Is the Board satisfied that all records relating to child protection are appropriately filed and stored securely?	



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<p>23. Has the Board been notified by any parent in relation to that parent not receiving the standard notification required under <i>section 5.6 of the Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools (revised 2023)</i>?</p>	
<p>24. In relation to any cases identified at question 21 above, has the Board ensured that any notifications required under section 5.6 of the Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools (revised 2023) were subsequently issued by the DLP?</p>	
<p>25. Has the Board ensured that the Parents' Association (if any), has been provided with the school's Child Safeguarding Statement?</p>	
<p>26. Has the Board ensured that the patron has been provided with the school's Child Safeguarding Statement?</p>	
<p>27. Has the Board ensured that the school's Child Safeguarding Statement is available to parents on request?</p>	
<p>28. Has the Board ensured that the Stay Safe programme is implemented in full in the school? (applies to primary schools)</p>	
<p>29. Has the Board ensured that the Wellbeing Programme for Junior Cycle students is implemented in full in the school? (applies to post- primary schools)</p>	
<p>30. Has the Board ensured that the SPHE curriculum is implemented in full in the school?</p>	
<p>31. Is the Board satisfied that the statutory requirements for Garda Vetting have been met in respect of all school personnel (employees and volunteers)? *</p>	
<p>32. Is the Board satisfied that the Department's requirements in relation to the provision of a child protection related statutory declaration and associated form of undertaking have been met in respect of persons appointed to teaching and non-teaching positions?*</p>	
<p>33. Is the Board satisfied that, from a child protection perspective, thorough recruitment and selection procedures are applied by the school in relation to all school personnel (employees and volunteers)?*</p>	
<p>34. Has the Board considered and addressed any complaints or suggestions for improvements regarding the school's Child Safeguarding Statement?</p>	



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35. Has the Board sought the feedback of parents in relation to the school's compliance with the requirements of the child safeguarding requirements of <i>the Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools</i> (revised 2023) ?	
36. Has the Board sought the feedback of pupils in relation to the school's child safeguarding arrangements?	
37. Is the Board satisfied that the <i>Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools</i> (revised 2023) are being fully and adequately implemented by the school?	
38. Has the Board identified any aspects of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement and/or its implementation that require further improvement?	
39. Has the Board put in place an action plan containing appropriate timelines to address those aspects of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement and/or its implementation that have been identified as requiring further improvement?	
40. Has the Board ensured that any areas for improvement that were identified in any previous review of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement have been adequately addressed?	