Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment

Child Safeguarding Statement

Patrician Primary School (Scoil Chonnla Phádraig) is a primary school providing primary education to pupils from 2nd class to 6th 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 Tulsa Guidance on the preparation of Child Safeguarding Statements, the Board of Management of Patrician 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 Ciara O' Hara

3 The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is Cormac O'Shea

4 The Relevant Person is Ciara O' Hara
(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;
- fully respect confidentiality requirements in dealing with child protection matters.

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.

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 **March 2018**

This Child Safeguarding Statement was reviewed by the Board of Management on **5th of October 2026**

Signed: _____ Signed: _____

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

Date: _____ Date: _____

Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment

Written Assessment of Risk of Patrician Primary 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 Patrician Primary School .

	School Activity	Possible Risk of Harm	Level	Response
1.	Training of school personnel in Child Protection matters	Harm not recognised or reported promptly	Low	• Safeguarding Statement, Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment and Department of Education and Skills procedures are made available to all staff (including subs and BoM) • Staff members acknowledge receipt of The Child Safeguarding Statement, Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment and Department of Education and Skills procedures. This will be completed at the first staff meeting annually. • Staff Members acknowledge in writing that they are aware of their responsibility to be familiar with and consistently implement the contents of the Child Safeguarding Statement and The Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment. • DLP and DDLP have attended the most up-to-date child-safeguarding training. • All staff members will view Túsla training module & any other online training offered by Oide. All staff will be asked to complete training using Croke Park hours over the same period every three years to support accountability and tracking of training. • All new staff are given clear information about the Code of Behaviour and the child safeguarding policies and procedures.

				• All class teachers discuss the Code of Behaviour with students annually through SPHE lessons.
2.	Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils	Risk of child being harmed in the school by another child Risk of harm not being recognised by school personnel Query late collection	Low	• The school has a yard/playground supervision system to ensure appropriate supervision of children from 8:50am-9:10am and during all yard breaks up until class dismissal from the teacher at 2:50pm • Children are distributed across the different yard areas by class group to aid supervision of active play • All children are aware of the school yard rules from when they enter the school grounds • Class teacher greets the children from their line in the yard and receives any feedback from supervising staff members • Families are reminded that children cannot leave the premises without staff permission. The rules around this are reinforced regularly at school assemblies, in school newsletters and in the 'custody and collection' policy.
3.	Recreation breaks for pupils	Risk of harm due to bullying of child Visitors on the school grounds People approaching the wall during playtime Risk of harm due to class teacher being out of the classroom on wet days	Low	• Yard supervision and rota • Classroom Supervision and rota on wet days • All visitors to the school must enter the school building across the yard into reception • Teachers to be vigilant of children speaking to adults or other children over the school wall. This is to be discouraged. • It is made clear to parents / guardians that they should not approach children on the yard/at the wall during break times. • Adults appearing at the school wall during break times are approached by yard supervision staff and asked to report to the school reception if they need to speak to a child.

				• Appointed adults wishing to collect a child during break times must report to reception and sign the child out • All visitors to the school must wear a Visitor Lanyard obtained from the office. • Toilet-monitoring log-in operation may be used during break times • Children must seek permission to leave their seat from a teacher/SNA on classroom supervision during wet break • All classes have indoor, seated activities organised for the duration of wet break.
4.	Administration of First Aid	Risk of child being harmed in the school by another adult. Risk of the child not receiving the required medical attention Head Injury -	Low	• Accident, Illness and Injury policy is in place for full details • All staff will exercise their duty of care to pupils for the duration of the school day. • In the event of accident or injury to a pupil; 1. Minor accidents/injuries will be treated by the relevant staff member in the presence/view of other pupil/s. 2. The school principal will be notified, and every effort will be made to contact the parent/guardian, in the event of suspected serious injuries (where medical assistance is required). Text through Aladdin or phonecall.
5.	Administration of Medicine	Risk of Child receiving incorrect dosage Risk of child not receiving required medication	Low	• Administration of Medicine policy is in place for full details • Medication Indemnity Form signed by parent/guardian and responsible teacher. • Children only receive medication in school with written permission from the parent/guardian. • If a child is observed taking medicine, contact must be made with parents .
6.	Classroom teaching	Risk of harm due to inappropriate relationship/communications between child and another child or adult	Low	• All school personnel are provided with a copy of the school's *Child Safeguarding Statement and is displayed in the entry to the school.* • The *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 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 2023* and all registered teaching staff are required to adhere to the *Children First Act 2015.* • The school implements in full the Stay Safe Programme. • The school implements in full the SPHE / Wellbeing curriculum and has an RSE policy for the teaching of this subject area. • The school has a Bi Cinealta Policy which fully adheres to the requirements of the Department's *Bi Cinealta Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools.* • The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation and relevant DES circulars in relation to recruitment and Garda vetting. • All Personnel abide by the Code of Professional Conduct. • Class viewing panels are installed in all doors.
7.	One-to-one teaching / Counselling/ work	Risk of harm due to inappropriate relationship/communications between child and the adult Risk of accusation against the adult	Low	• Parents/Guardians are informed and provide written consent if children are in receipt of SET support. • Children with SNA provision will receive assistance from the SNA in the classroom or throughout the school public spaces. • Class viewing panels are installed in all doors • The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation and relevant DES circulars in relation to recruitment and Garda vetting • All personnel abide by the school Code of Professional Conduct • The school implements in full the Stay Safe Programme • The school implements in full the SPHE curriculum/ Wellbeing specification • A Stay Safe passport will be introduced from second class and will move with every child to their new class level each year.

8.	Extra-Curricular activities with internal staff members	Risk of harm due to inappropriate relationship/communications between child and another child or adult	Low	• All extra-curricular school personnel are provided with a copy of the school's *Child Safeguarding Statement is displayed at entry.* • The *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2023* are made available to all extra-curricular school personnel through the office/ website. • School Personnel are required to adhere to the *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2023* and all registered teaching staff are required to adhere to the *Children First Act 2015.* • The school implements in full the Stay Safe Programme. • The school implements in full the SPHE curriculum/ Wellbeing specification. • The school has aBi Cinealta Policy which fully adheres to the requirements of the Department's *Bi Cinealta Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools.* • The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation and relevant DES circulars in relation to recruitment and Garda vetting. • All Personnel abide by the Code of Professional Conduct.
9.	Classes with External Instructors on the school grounds during the school day	Risk of harm due to inappropriate relationship/communications between child and another child or adult	Low	• The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation and relevant DES circulars in relation to recruitment and Garda vetting. • All Personnel abide by the Code of Professional Conduct. • The school implements in full the Stay Safe Programme. • The school implements in full the SPHE / Wellbeing curriculum. • The Class teacher is present with the class at all times insofar as is practicable

10	Privately run evening classes in the school grounds involving children	Risk of harm due to inappropriate relationship/communications between child and another child or adult	Low	• The *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2023* and Child Safeguarding Statement are made available to all such personnel. • The responsibility for child safeguarding lies with the DLP of such privately run groups
11.	Sporting Activities onsite or off site where other children and adults are present	Risk of harm due to inappropriate communications between child and another child or adult	Low	• The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation and relevant DES circulars in relation to recruitment and Garda vetting. • All Personnel abide by the Code of Professional Conduct.
12.	Off-Site Excursions	Risk of harm due to inappropriate communications between child and another child or adult Risk of harm due to strangers Risk of getting lost in unknown surroundings	Mediu m	• Trips and Tours policy is in place for full details • All Personnel abide by the Code of Professional Conduct. • Responsible Teacher is present at the event but venues will also divide children in groups with their vetted employees. A vetted adult will therefore always be with the children. • All venues are asked for evidence of their compliance with Garda Vetting. • All bus companies that we use are following Garda Vetting. • Pre-trip discussion with groups to ensure clarity of rules regarding staying safe and appropriate behaviour.
13.	Visitors to the school	Risk of child being harmed by a school visitor	Medium	• Teaching Staff are always available to the children and in a supervisory capacity. • Where parents/guardians visit the school to take part in or assist in school activities on an irregular or one-off basis, the responsibility for the supervision of the children and care of the pupils rests with the relevant teacher.

				• All visitors to the school must wear a Visitor Lanyard including visitors for cake sales, invited guests, past pupils, past staff members, family members, children over Primary school age who are passing reception etc. • Visitors who are only reporting to reception DO NOT require a Visitors Lanyard • Visitors to Open Night, School Concerts or shows etc DO NOT require a Visitors Lanyard • Visiting teams for matches etc will always be supervised by the visiting teachers.
14.	Swimming	Risk of harm due to external instructors at external location Vulnerable children at risk of harm from other children while in the changing area Risk of injury due to poor maintenance/facilities Risk of harm due to strangers being present at the external location (administrative staff, cleaners, other facility users)	high	• If school swimming lessons are taking place: • Instructors are Garda vetted • All venues are asked for evidence of their compliance with Garda Vetting. • Teacher remains present during the entire swimming lesson and is responsible for the children in his/her care. • Members of the public use separate changing rooms. • Teacher/SNA supervises each of the gender separated dressing rooms • Clear behavioural guidelines outlined to the children before entering the changing rooms. • Extra personnel if required for children with special needs. • Appropriate feedback given to the facility in the case of poor maintenance. • If a child needs assistance dressing/undressing, written permission is sought from parents/guardians and assistance will be given in the presence of another child or adult. • Cleaners do not work in the changing areas while the children are in there. • Vulnerable children are reminded of their point of contact being the SNA/Teacher (as appropriate) during the offsite visit. • All personnel abide by the Code of Professional Conduct

				• School Swimming Policy is in place with full details (look it up)
15.	Walking to events from the school	Risk of harm due to strangers being present at the external location Risk of physical harm due to road dangers	Low	• The Responsible Teacher is present with the children at all times. • Extra personnel if required for children with special needs. • Clear behavioural guidelines outlined to the children before leaving the school premises.
16.	Homework Club	Risk of harm from other children Risk of physical harm due to road dangers	Low	• Homework Club is supervised by school personnel. This may include the assigned SCP Project Worker • All school personnel are provided with a copy of the school's *Child Safeguarding Statement.* • School Personnel are required to adhere to the *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2023* and all registered staff are required to adhere to the *Children First Act 2015.* • The school implements in full the Stay Safe Programme. • The school implements in full the SPHE curriculum/ Wellbeing specification. • The school has Bi Cinealta Policy which fully adheres to the requirements of the Department's *Bi Cinealta Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools.* • The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation and relevant DES circulars in relation to recruitment and Garda vetting. • All Personnel abide by the Code of Professional Conduct. • Class viewing panels installed in all doors. • The responsible teacher is always present with the children.

17.	Students on work experience/teaching practice	Risk of harm due to inappropriate relationship/communications between child and visiting student.	Medium	• The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation and relevant DES circulars in relation to recruitment and Garda vetting. • Responsible Teacher is present • All work experience/teaching practice staff are made aware of t the Code of Behaviour and the child safeguarding policies and procedures. (website/ hard copy) • All teaching practice staff must have completed Children First training and present document to school before/on commencement
18.	Information Communication Technology and other digital devices.	Risk of harm due to children inappropriately accessing/using computers, social media, phones and other devices while at school.	Mediu m	• Access to school internet facilities is filtered by the Oide Technology in Education section. All filtering levels are designed to block content of an illegal, pornographic content or otherwise unsuitable nature. • School internet sessions will always be supervised by a teacher. If there is no teacher in the room, access to the Internet is prohibited. • Pupils are not permitted to use personal devices in school • The Smart Device Policy prohibits a mobile phone or other smart devices being turned on while on the school grounds. • Acceptable Use Policy on the use of the Internet (ICT Policy) is in place. • Staff will be reminded about the related procedures to this point at a staff meeting in term 1
19.	Online Safety	Risk of children encountering inappropriate people or content Risk of online bullying	High	• School Bi Cinealta policy is in place with full details • Parents/guardians and staff offered cyber safety training talks when required • Children given regular assembly talks and classroom lessons on this topic
20.	The use of online remote learning during lockdowns or similar situations	Unauthorised access by outside parties to children's Seesaw accounts or Zoom calls etc.	low	• Children are instructed to have personal passwords that are not shared for Seesaw accounts (or similar). Zoom sessions are accessed only by guests approved by the teacher.

21.	Photographs	Risk of photograph causing offence or being used inappropriately by a third party	Medium	• Parents/Guardians sign a consent form in relation to the taking and using of photographs of their child while attending Patrician Primary School. • Teachers take photographs of the children for Instagram. Once the photographs are forwarded to the school Instagram manager, the photographs are deleted from the personal device. • Each teacher is aware of the children in his/her class who have not given consent for photographs to appear on Instagram manager also cross references this list with the photographs. • Photographs will only be taken and used by staff for school purposes • Staff will be reminded about related procedures to this point at staff meeting in term 1
22.	Toilet Areas	Risk of child being harmed while in the toilet area, by another child	Low	• Main toilets are located on the public corridor and the entrance and exit to the corridor are monitored by CCTV. • During break times, children who use the main boy's/girl's toilets must seek permission from the staff member on yard duty • Pupils are only permitted access to the boy's/girl's toilets during break times through the main door
23.	Lack of/ insufficient lunch	Child at risk of neglect	Low	• If a child in not provided with any lunch in school, the school may phone the parents are asks them to bring the lunch to school. • If a lunch is not provided, best efforts are made by the class teacher to ensure the child is adequately fed throughout the day. • If a child is regularly provided with insufficient lunch, the class teacher discusses it with the parents. • If the situation does not improve after discussion with parents/guardians, the school's reporting responsibilities to Tusla will take effect

24	Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst pupils	Risk of harm due to bullying of child	low	• The school has a Bi Cinealta Policy which fully adheres to the requirements of the Department's Bi Cinealta Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools • The school implements in full the SPHE/ Wellbeing curriculum, including Stay Safe, to educate students on this • Bi Cinealta training is organised for all staff members
25	Pupils from ethnic minorities/migrants	Risk of child being harmed in the school by another child Risk of harm due to bullying of child because of background and due to heightened tensions in modern society	low	• The school has a Bi Cinealta Policy which fully adheres to the requirements of the Department's Anti-Bullying Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools • The school implements in full the SPHE / Wellbeing curriculum, including Stay Safe, to educate students on this • The school ethos promotes an inclusive atmosphere and environment for all.
b	Members of the Traveller community	Risk of child being harmed in the school by another child Risk of harm due to bullying of child because of background and due to heightened tensions in modern society	low	• The school has an Anti-Bullying Policy which fully adheres to the requirements of the Department's Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools • The school implements in full the SPHE/ Wellbeing curriculum, including Stay Safe, to educate students on this • The school ethos promotes an inclusive atmosphere and environment for all.
b	Pupils perceived to be LGBTQ+	Risk of child being harmed in the school by another child Risk of harm due to bullying of child because of background and due to heightened tensions in modern society	low	• The school has a Bi Cinealta Policy which fully adheres to the requirements of the Department's Bi Cinealta Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools • The school implements in full the SPHE curriculum, including Stay Safe, to educate students on this • The school ethos promotes an inclusive atmosphere and environment for all.

28	Children in care	Risk of harm due to bullying of child because of background	low	• The school has a Bi Cinelata Policy which fully adheres to the requirements of the Department's Anti-Bullying Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools • The school implements in full the SPHE curriculum, including Stay Safe, to educate students on this • The school ethos promotes an inclusive atmosphere and environment for all. • The school will liaise with relevant social workers for such children and keep them informed of any relevant information.
29	Children on CPNS (Child Protection Notification System)	Risk of child's anonymity being jeopardised	low	• Where known, the background of children in this situation will be treated with the utmost confidentiality and sensitivity by the appropriate staff members who directly deal with the child. Staff members will be given details on a need-to-know basis
30	Recruitment of school personnel including: Teachers/SNAs/Ancillary staff	Danger of recruitment of individuals who are a risk to children	low	• Completion of the Garda Vetting process is a requirement before finalising recruitment for staff working in the school • References will be checked prior to finalising recruitment
31	Visitors/contractors present in school during school hours	Risk of child being harmed in the school by a visitor	Low	• Visiting contractors/workers will be encouraged to visit the school after hours. Where this is not possible, visitors will be accompanied by a member of staff if in the presence of children and will be required to wear a visitor lanyard • In the event of building/contract work taking place for an extended period during school (i.e. more than a week). A specific child safeguarding set of procedures will be furnished to the contractor/builder
32	Court orders that state individual parents do not have full custody or collection rights to their child.	The school must ensure not to breach the stipulations of the court order.	low	• School will insist that any such relevant court orders and relevant details must be shared with the school in writing signed by an appropriate party (e.g. solicitor, Tusla, Gardaí Síochána etc.)

33	Care of children with special educational needs, including intimate care where needed	Risk of harm to child while a child is receiving intimate care	low	• An intimate care/toileting policy is in place with full details. A paper copy of this policy is given to any staff member who is directly dealing with regular intimate/toileting care needs
34	Fundraising events involving pupils	Risk of child being harmed by a family member of another child / member of the public	low	• Children will be supervised for events such as these during school. For events that are outside of school hours, children remain the responsibility of their parents/guardians. • In the event of children taking part in door-to-door collections, teachers remind them of the Stay Safe rules, to never collect alone, never to enter someone's home, to bring an adult if possible and to notify their parent/guardian that they are doing so and when they expect to return
35	Recording of concerns	Risk of issues not being followed up appropriately	low	In line with the child safeguarding checklist: • Regular child protection oversight reports are given to the Board of Management (BoM). • In cases that are not reported to Tusla by the DLP (Designated Liaison Person) for whatever reason, the BoM are furnished with the relevant documents relating to the steps taken (see check 6.4) • In cases where a mandated person other than the DLP has made a report to Tusla, relevant documents are furnished to the BoM (see check 6.4.5) • In cases involving alleged bullying behaviour, the BoM are furnished with the relevant documents (see check 6.5) • Minutes of BoM meetings use unique identifier codes to refer to any individuals involved in any way with the above cases

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 utilise the procedures listed in this risk assessment to manage and reduce risk to the greatest possible extent.

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Approved by		
Date	5th October 2026	