

Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment

Child Safeguarding Statement

Patrician Primary School (Scoil Chonnla Phádraig) is a primary school providing 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 2017](#) and [Tusla Guidance on the preparation of Child Safeguarding Statements](#), the Board of Management of Patrician Primary 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 David Dempsey
- 3 The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is Cormac O'Shea
- 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.

5 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](#) 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 Tusla, 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.

- 6 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.
- 7 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 in March 2018.

This Child Safeguarding Statement was reviewed by the Board of Management on **4th May 2022**

Signed: _____

Chairperson of Board of Management

Niall Bradley

Date: _____

Signed: _____

Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

David Dempsey

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 2017*, 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safeguarding Statement, Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment and Department of Education and Skills procedures are made available to all staff. • Staff members acknowledge receipt of The Child Safeguarding Statement, Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment and Department of Education and Skills procedures • 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 attended the PDST face to face training. • All staff members will view Túsla training module & any other online training offered by PDST. • All new staff are given clear information about all aspects of the service including information on the Code of Behaviour and the child safeguarding policies and procedures.

2.	Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils	<p>Risk of child being harmed in the school by another child</p> <p>Risk of harm not being recognised by school personnel</p>	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The school has a yard/playground supervision system to ensure appropriate supervision of children from 9:10am assembly in the lines and during all class breaks up until class dismissal from the class teacher at 2:50pm • Children are distributed across the three 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
3.	Recreation breaks for pupils	<p>Risk of harm due to bullying of child</p> <p>Visitors on the school grounds</p> <p>People approaching the wall during playtime</p> <p>Risk of harm due to class teacher being out of the classroom on wet days</p>	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 • Children are clear that they are not allowed to talk to anyone at the wall without permission. • Parents are clear 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 • 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. • All classes have indoor, seated activities organised for the duration of the break.

4.	Administration of First Aid	<p>Risk of child being harmed in the school by another adult.</p> <p>Risk of the child not receiving the required medical attention</p>	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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; <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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).
5.	Administration of Medicine	<p>Risk of Child receiving incorrect dosage</p> <p>Risk of child not receiving required medication</p>	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Administration of Medicine policy. • Medication Indemnity Form signed by parent/guardian and responsible teacher. • Children only receive medication in school with written permission from the parent/guardian.
6.	Classroom teaching	Risk of harm due to inappropriate relationship/communications between child and another child or adult	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All school personnel are provided with a copy of the school's <i>Child Safeguarding Statement</i>. • The <i>Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017</i> are made available to all school personnel. • School Personnel are required to adhere to the <i>Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017</i> and all registered teaching staff are required to adhere to the <i>Children First Act 2015</i>. • The school implements in full the Stay Safe Programme. • The school implements in full the SPHE curriculum and has an RSE policy for the teaching of this subject area. • The school has an Anti-Bullying Policy which fully adheres to the requirements of the Department's <i>Anti-Bullying Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools</i>. • 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	<p>Risk of harm due to inappropriate relationship/communications between child and the adult</p> <p>Risk of accusation against the adult</p>	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parents/Guardians are informed and provide written consent if children are in receipt of learning support / resource support. • Children with SNA provision will receive assistance from the SNA in the classroom or throughout the school public spaces. • Class Viewing panels 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 Code of Professional Conduct • The school implements in full the Stay Safe Programme • The school implements in full the SPHE curriculum
8.	Extra-Curricular activities with staff members	<p>Risk of harm due to inappropriate relationship/communications between child and another child or adult</p>	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All school personnel are provided with a copy of the school's <i>Child Safeguarding Statement</i>. • The <i>Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017</i> are made available to all school personnel. • School Personnel are required to adhere to the <i>Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017</i> and all registered teaching staff are required to adhere to the <i>Children First Act 2015</i>. • The school implements in full the Stay Safe Programme. • The school implements in full the SPHE curriculum. • The school has an Anti-Bullying Policy which fully adheres to the requirements of the Department's <i>Anti-Bullying Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools</i>. • 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	Risk of harm due to inappropriate relationship/communications between child and another child or adult	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 curriculum. • The Class teacher is present with the class at all times.
10.	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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. • Responsible Teacher is present with the children at all times.
11.	Off-Site Excursions	<p>Risk of harm due to inappropriate communications between child and another child or adult</p> <p>Risk of harm due to strangers</p> <p>Risk of getting lost in unknown surroundings</p>	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All Personnel abide by the Code of Professional Conduct. • Responsible Teacher is present with the children at all times. • All venues are asked for evidence of their compliance with Garda Vetting. • All bus companies that we use are in compliance with Garda Vetting. • Pre-trip discussion with groups to ensure clarity of rules with regard to staying safe and appropriate behaviour. • Class organised into groups with lists and assigned single point of contact.

12.	Visitors to the school	Risk of child being harmed by a school visitor	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teaching Staff are available to the children at all times and in a supervisory capacity. • Where parents 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 The Cake Sale, 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
14.	Swimming	<p>Risk of harm due to external instructors at external location</p> <p>Vulnerable children at risk of harm from other children while in the changing area</p> <p>Risk of injury due to poor maintenance/facilities</p> <p>Risk of harm due to strangers being present at the external location (administrative staff, cleaners, other facility users)</p>	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teacher remains present during the entire swimming lesson and is responsible for the children in his/her care. • Instructors are Garda vetted. • Members of the public use a separate area in the changing rooms. • Responsible Teacher is present with the children at all times. • All venues are asked for evidence of their compliance with Garda Vetting. • Extra personnel if required for children with special needs. • Clear behavioural guidelines outlined to the children before entering the changing rooms. • Appropriate feedback given to the facility in the case of poor maintenance. • If a child has SNA access and needs assistance dressing and 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. • Only female staff members will enter the girl's changing area. • Only male staff members will enter the boy's changing area. • 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

15.	Walking to events from the school	<p>Risk of harm due to strangers being present at the external location</p> <p>Risk of physical harm due to road dangers</p>	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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.	Altar Servers	<p>Risk of harm due to strangers being present in the church</p> <p>Risk of physical harm due to road dangers</p>	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Permission Form signed by parents/guardians for the parish. • Permission Form signed by parents/guardians for the school. • A designated parish representative will collect the children and accompany them back to the school for all church activities.
17.	Homework Club	<p>Risk of harm from other children</p> <p>Risk of physical harm due to road dangers</p>	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All school personnel are provided with a copy of the school's <i>Child Safeguarding Statement</i>. • The <i>Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017</i> are made available to all school personnel. • School Personnel are required to adhere to the <i>Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017</i> and all registered teaching staff are required to adhere to the <i>Children First Act 2015</i>. • The school implements in full the Stay Safe Programme. • The school implements in full the SPHE curriculum. • The school has an Anti-Bullying Policy which fully adheres to the requirements of the Department's <i>Anti-Bullying Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools</i>. • 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 present with the children at all times.

18.	Students on work experience/teaching practice	Risk of harm due to inappropriate relationship/communications between child and visiting student.	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 with the children. • All new staff are given clear information about all aspects of the service including information on the Code of Behaviour and the child safeguarding policies and procedures.
19.	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.	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access to internet is filtered by the PDST Technology in Education. All Filtering Levels are designed to block content of an illegal or pornographic content. • 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 unless they are requested to bring same to school by a member of the teaching staff for use during school for educational purposes. • The Mobile Phone Policy prohibits a mobile phone being turned on while on the school grounds. • Acceptable Use Policy on the use of the Internet (ICT Policy) is in place.
20.	Photographs	Risk of photograph causing offence or being used inappropriately by a third party	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parents/Guardians sign a consent form in relation to the taking and using of photographs of their child while attending The Patrician Primary School. • Teachers take photographs of the children for Twitter. Once the photographs are forwarded to the Twitter 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 Twitter and The Twitter Manager also cross references this list with the photographs.

21.	Toilet Areas	Risk of child being harmed while in the toilet area, by another child	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Systems are in place to ensure that pupils are not in the toilet unsupervised for an overly long period of time and that a maximum number of pupils can be in the toilet area at the same time • 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 boys/girls toilets must seek permission from the teacher on yard duty • Pupils are only permitted access to the boy/girls toilets during break times through the main door
22.	Lack of/ insufficient lunch	Child at risk of neglect	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If a child is not provided with any lunch in school, the school phones the parents and 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 the class teacher will take appropriate action to ensure resolution
23.	Application of sanctions under the school's behavioural policy	Risk of harm by school personnel	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Detention of pupils during break may be used as a sanction for negative behaviour. • Pupils are detained in a designated classroom or hall with assigned work. • During detention pupils are supervised by an appointed staff member. • Serious breaches of behaviour may be dealt with by the School Disciplinary Committee, comprising of teaching staff. • Detailed written records of such meetings are filed by the secretary on the committee. • Code of behaviour will be reviewed on a regular basis by staff and Board of Management
24	Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst pupils	Risk of harm due to bullying of child	low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The school has an Anti-Bullying 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 • Anti-bullying 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	low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The school has an Anti-Bullying 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.
26	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	low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The school has an Anti-Bullying 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.
27	Pupils perceived to be LGBT	Risk of child being harmed in the school by another child Risk of harm due to bullying of child because of background	low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The school has an Anti-Bullying 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.
28	Children in care	Risk of harm due to bullying of child because of background	low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The school has an Anti-Bullying 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where known, the background of children in this situation will be treated with the utmost confidentiality and sensitivity by the appropriate staff members
30	Recruitment of school personnel including: Teachers/SNAs/Ancillary staff	Danger of recruitment of individuals who are a risk to children	low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completion of the Garda Vetting process is a requirement before finalising recruitment for staff working in the school
31	Visitors/contractors present in school during school hours	Risk of child being harmed in the school by a visitor	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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
32	The use of remote learning during lockdowns or COVID illness	Unauthorised access by outside parties to children's Seesaw accounts or Zoom calls	low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All Seesaw accounts have personal passwords that are not shared. Zoom sessions are accessed only by guests approved by the teacher.
33	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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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.)
34	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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The school will have an intimate care policy/plan in respect of students who require such care
35	Fundraising events involving pupils	Risk of child being harmed in the school by a family member of another child / member of the public	low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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.

36	Recording of concerns	Risk of issues not being followed up appropriately	low	<p>In line with the child safeguarding checklist:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 2017*

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.

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 2017.