

Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment

Child Safeguarding Statement

St. Columbanus N.S. 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 2017](#) and [Tusla Guidance on the preparation of Child Safeguarding Statements](#), the Board of Management of [insert school name] 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 **Mrs. Carmel Murphy**
- 3 The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is **Mr. Seán Walshe**
- 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:

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- 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 school's 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.

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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 (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.
- 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 on 13/10/21

This Child Safeguarding Statement was reviewed by the Board of Management on 13/10/21 (to adopt the new templates required)

Signed: _____

Chairperson of Board of Management

Signed: _____

Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Date: _____

Date: _____

**Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment
(of any potential harm)**

List of School Activities	Risk Level	The School has identified the following Risk of Harm	The School has the following Procedures in place to address risk identified in this assessment
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 view Túsla training module & any other online training offered by PDST BOM records all records of staff and board training
One to one teaching	Med	Harm by school personnel	School has policy in place for one to one teaching Open doors/common space/Glass Window
Care of Children with special needs, including intimate care needs	High	Harm by school personnel	Policy on SNA Duties and responsibilities.
Toilet areas	High	Inappropriate behaviour	One child only to attend toilet at any one time.
Curricular Provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay safe.	Med	Non-teaching of same	School implements SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe in full
LGBT Children/Pupils perceived to be LGBT	Low	Bullying	Anti-Bullying Policy Code of Behaviour SPHE lessons

List of School Activities		The School has identified the following Risk of Harm	The School has the following Procedures in place to address risk identified in this assessment
Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils	Med	Harm from older pupils, unknown adults on the playground	Arrival and dismissal supervised by Teachers
Managing of challenging behaviour amongst pupils.	High	Injury to pupils and staff	Health & Safety Policy Code Of Behaviour
Sports Coaches	Med	Harm to pupils	A teacher will remain in attendance at all coaching sessions.
Students participating in work experience	Low	Harm by student	Work experience Policy Child Safeguarding Statement. Supervision by a member of school staff.
Recreation breaks for pupils	Med	Harm by pupil	Yard Supervision Policy SNA Duties and responsibilities Policy
Classroom teaching	Low	Harm by school personnel	Adequate adult supervision SNA Duties and Responsibilities policy Child Safety Safeguarding Statement in all classrooms No adult will be on their own with a child in a classroom with the door closed.
Outdoor teaching activities	Med	Harm by school personnel Harm by pupil	Adequate adult supervision at all times. A minimum of two adults will accompany children when outside the building.
Sporting Activities	Med	Harm by pupil	Adequate adult supervision at all times
Homework club	Low	Harm by pupil	A minimum of two adults will supervise after school activities. Contact details of the parents/guardians of the children attending will be made available to the adults supervising the session.
Breakfast club	Med	Harm by pupil Harm by unknown adult	Adequate adult supervision will be provided at breakfast club.

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			Children will not be permitted into the building until breakfast opening time.
Parents' Room	high	Harm by Pupil Harm by unknown adult Harm by school personnel Harm by known adult Harm by child other than a school pupil	Visitors Policy in place covering the use of the Parents' room. Signage in place notifying the parents of their responsibility.

List of School Activities		The School has identified the following Risk of Harm	The School has the following Procedures in place to address risk identified in this assessment
School outings	High	Harm by pupil Harm by unknown adult/child Harm by school personnel	Adequate adult supervision will be provided with strict adherence to 8:1 ratio for children under 8 years of age and 10:1 for those over 8 years of age
Annual Sports Day	High	Harm by pupil Harm by unknown adult/child Harm by school personnel	Health and safety statement Child safeguarding statement Adequate staff supervision Provision of designated areas for visitors
Fundraising events involving pupils	High	Harm by pupil Harm by unknown adult/child Harm by school personnel	Adequate adult supervision will be provided with strict adherence to 8:1 ratio for children under 8 years of age and 10:1 for those over 8 years of age
Use of off-site facilities for school activities	High	Harm by pupil Harm by unknown adult/child Harm by school personnel	Adequate adult supervision Child Safeguarding statement SPHE instruction prior to use of facility Anti-Bullying policy Code of Behaviour
Administration of Medicine	High	Harm by School personnel	Policy on the administration of medicine in place.
Administration of First Aid	High	Harm by school personnel	At least two members of staff will have First aid training. In the event of any child staying at lunch time due to a first aid/illness matter, no one child will stay in on their own.
Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst pupils	High	Harm by pupil	Anti-bullying policy Code of behaviour SPHE lessons
Use of external personnel to supplement curriculum	Med	Harm by unknown adult	Supervision by member of school staff.

List of School Activities		The School has identified the following Risk of Harm	The School has the following Procedures in place to address risk identified in this assessment
<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 	High	Bullying Isolation	Anti-Bullying Policy Code of Behaviour SPHE lessons
<p>Recruitment of school personnel including -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teachers • SNA's • Caretaker/Secretary/Cleaners • Sports coaches • External Tutors/Guest Speakers • Volunteers/Parents in school activities • Visitors/contractors present in school during school hours • Visitors/contractors present during after school activities 	High	Harm not recognised or properly or promptly reported	<p>Child Safeguarding Statement & DES procedures made available to all staff</p> <p>Staff to view Tusla training module & any other online training offered by PDST</p> <p>Vetting Procedures</p> <p>Policy on Parents / Volunteers</p> <p>Policy on Visiting Contractors</p>
Use of school premises by other organisation during school day	Med	Harm by unknown adult	<p>Separate access routes provided to these organisations to avoid use of school corridors.</p> <p>Pupils will not be outside the building, after registration/arrival, without adequate supervision by a member of school staff.</p>

List of School Activities		The School has identified the following Risk of Harm	The School has the following Procedures in place to address risk identified in this assessment
Use of Information and Communication Technology by pupils in school	High	Bullying	ICT policy Anti-Bullying Policy Code of Behaviour S.P.H.E. lessons dedicated to cybersafety
Application of sanctions under the school's Code of Behaviour including detention of pupils, confiscation of phones etc.	Med	Harm by school personnel	Anti-Bullying Policy Code of Behaviour S.P.H.E. lessons Procedures as per one-to-one teaching
Student teachers undertaking training placement in school	Low	Harm by student Harm to student	Anti-Bullying Policy Code of Behaviour Supervision by a member of school staff at all times other than when an inspector is in attendance
Use of video/photography/other media to record school events	High	Harm to student Harm by known/unknown adult	Policy and procedures in place Verbal reminders given to parents at school events Letter issued to all parents regarding consent All school personnel familiar with the consent status of the children for whom they are responsible
After school use of school premises by other organisations	Low	Harm to student Harm by unknown adult	Separate access routes provided to avoid use of school corridors by unknown individuals. Pupils will not be outside the building, after dismissal, without adequate supervision by a member of school staff.
The risk of exposure to covid19 through engagement in any school activity	Low	Harm to a student through exposure to the virus	All staff and children and visitors to the school will be fully informed on all safety and preventions procedures that have been put in place in our school to ensure the best possible prevention and control of the spread of Covid19

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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.

This risk assessment has been completed by the Board of Management effective from 9th March 2018. It was reviewed on 8th April 2019 and again on the 7th December 2020. It will be reviewed as part of the school’s annual review of its Child Safeguarding Statement.

Signed _____ Date ___13/10/21_____

Chairperson, Board of Management

Signed _____ Date ___13/10/21

Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management