

# *St. Patrick's N.S.*

Bruree, Co.Limerick.

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Principal: Ger Kelleher



## Child Safeguarding Statement

### 2025/2026

St. Patrick's 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 (revised 2023) and Tusla Guidance on the preparation of Child Safeguarding Statements, the Board of Management of St. Patrick's N.S. 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 **Ger Kelleher**.
3. The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is **Margaret Irwin**.
4. The Relevant Person is **Ger Kelleher**. (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. This person can also be the DLP)
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 cooperate with the relevant statutory authorities in relation to child protection and welfare matters;
- adopt safe practices to minimise the possibility of harm or accidents happening to children and protect workers from the necessity to take unnecessary risks that may leave themselves open to accusations of abuse or neglect;
- develop a practice of openness with parents and encourage parental involvement in the education of their children; and
- fully respect confidentiality requirements in dealing with child protection matters.

The school will also adhere to the above principles in relation to any adult pupil with a special vulnerability.

6. The following procedures/measures are in place:

- In relation to any member of staff who is the subject of any investigation (howsoever described) in respect of any act, omission or circumstance in respect of a child attending the school, the school adheres to the relevant procedures set out in Chapter 7 of the Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools (revised 2023) and to the relevant agreed disciplinary procedures for school staff which are published on the [gov.ie](http://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](http://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](http://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 07/10/2025  
This Child Safeguarding Statement was reviewed by the Board of Management on 07/10/2025.

Chairperson of the Board of Management:

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Date:

School Principal

\_\_\_\_\_

Date:

## St. Patrick's N.S Risk Assessment

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 St. Patrick's N.S. Bruree, Co. Limerick*

1. List of school activities	2. The school has identified the following risk of harm in respect of its activities	3. The school has the following procedures in place to address the risks of harm identified in this assessment -
1. Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils	Risk of child being harmed while on school grounds	Supervision Policy. Arrival and Dismissal supervised by Teachers/School Staff. Agreed procedures in place for morning supervision.
2. Recreation break for pupils	Risk of child being harmed while in the school yard	Access points to the school closed. Adequate supervision by members of school personnel (SNAs and teaching staff) Supervision Policy
3. Classroom teaching	Risk of child being harmed in the school by member of school personnel or by another child.	Glass panel in all classroom doors. Supervision of pupil interactions by staff. Garda vetting of all staff Code of Professional Conduct
4. One-to-one teaching	Risk of child being harmed in the school by member of school personnel	Glass panel in all support room doors. Garda vetting of all staff. SEN Policy
5. Outdoor teaching activities	Risk of child being harmed while on the school grounds	Access points to the school closed. Adequate supervision by members of school personnel
6. Sporting activities	Risk of child being harmed in the school/on the school grounds by a member of school personnel or by another child. Risk of harm due to bullying of	Garda vetting of all staff. Supervision of pupil by staff.

	child	
7. School tours/outings	Risk of child being harmed by member of school personnel, by another child or by personnel associated with school tour location	Garda vetting of all St. Patrick's NS staff. Supervision of pupil interactions by staff. Supervision of pupil activities involving external personnel. School Tour Policy. Agreed procedures in advance of trip
8. Sports day	Risk of child being harmed in the school by volunteer or visitor to the school	Supervision of pupil activities involving external personnel. Sports day planned in advance. Possible hazards identified
9. School transport arrangements – bus for school tours	Risk of child being harmed by school transport providers	Supervision of pupils by school personnel. School Tour/Outings Policy
10. Toileting Areas	Risk of child being harmed in the school by another child Risk of child being harmed in the school by a member of school personnel	Supervision policy. Agreed procedures in place for use of toilets. Regular reminders for children regarding correct use of toilet facilities
11. Care of children with S.E.N. incl. intimate care needs	Risk of harm to children with SEN who have particular vulnerabilities Risk of harm to child while a child is receiving intimate care	Garda vetting of all staff. Implementation of school SEN policy and Intimate Care Policy outlining procedures to be followed.
12. Administration of medication	Risk of child being harmed in the school by a member of school personnel	Garda vetting of all staff. Implementation of administration of medication policy outlining procedures to be followed
13. Administration of first-aid	Risk of child being harmed in the school or on school grounds by a member of school personnel	Garda vetting of all staff. Administration of first-aid to take place in a designated area in front of the staff room. School Accident/Injury Policy
14. Curricular provision in respect of SPHE – RSE, Stay Safe	Risk of child being harmed in the school by a member of school personnel	Garda vetting of all staff. Implementation of SPHE policy outlining age-appropriate

		curriculum to be followed
15. Prevention and dealing with bullying among pupils	Risk of child being harmed in the school by another child	Code of behaviour. Anti-bullying policy. Supervision. Stay safe/SPHE programmes
16. Management of challenging behaviour among pupils	Risk of child being harmed in the school by a member of school personnel or by another child	Implementation of Code of Behaviour and Physical Intervention policies. Supervision of pupil interactions. Garda vetting of all staff.
17. Care of pupils with specific vulnerabilities/needs such as: pupils from ethnic minorities/migrants, member of the Traveller community, LGBT children, pupils perceived to be LGBT, non-binary children, pupils of minority religious faiths, children in care	Risk of child being harmed in the school by a member of school personnel or by another child. Risk of harm due to bullying of a child. Risk of racism	Garda vetting of all staff. Supervision of pupil interactions. Implementation of anti-bullying policy and associated initiatives – friendship/anti-bullying week, whole school assemblies. Code of Behaviour
18. Recruitment of school personnel	Risk of child being harmed in the school by a member of school personnel	Garda vetting of all staff. Yearly review of Child Protection Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment. Child Protection documents to hand in all rooms in the school
19. Use of ICT by pupils in the school	Risk of harm caused by pupil accessing inappropriate material via ICT devices	Pupils supervised by members of school personnel when using ICT and teachers encouraged to use child safe browsers. Mobile phone and devices policy. AUP Policy Code of Behaviour. Internet filtering in place. Internet Safety Course takes place for pupils, parents and teachers at regular intervals
20. Application of sanctions under the school's Code of Behaviour including detention of pupils	Risk of child being harmed in the school by school personnel	Garda vetting of all staff. Implementation of Code of Behaviour policy outlining appropriate procedures and sanctions – All staff made aware of the policy

<p>21. Transition year students participating in work experience in the school</p>	<p>Risk of child being harmed in the school by volunteer or visitor to the school</p>	<p>Garda vetting of students participating in work experience. Member of school personnel always present (i.e. TY student never left alone with child(ren)).</p>
<p>22. Student teachers undertaking training placement in the school</p>	<p>Risk of child being harmed in the school by volunteer or visitor to the school</p>	<p>Students present evidence of Garda Vetting to the school prior to undertaking training placement.</p>
<p>23. Trainee Special Needs Assistants undertaking placement in the school</p>	<p>Risk of child being harmed in the school by volunteer or visitor to the school</p>	<p>Garda vetting of trainee Special Needs Assistants.</p>
<p>24. After school use of premises by after-school care provider Stepping Stones between 2pm and 3pm</p>	<p>Risk of child being harmed by Stepping Stones personnel.</p>	<p>Childcare provided in the classroom with a glass panel in the door. Stepping Stones to provide written assurance of Garda vetting of staff.</p>
<p>25. Use of off-site facilities for school activities</p>	<p>Risk of child being harmed by others using the facility</p>	<p>Supervision of pupils at all times of members of school personnel</p>
<p>26. Involvement of personnel to supplement the curriculum (regular basis) during the school day – e.g. Music teacher, sports coaches etc.</p>	<p>Risk of child being harmed in the school by volunteer or visitor to the school</p>	<p>Garda vetting of external personnel used to supplement the curriculum. Members of school personnel always present for the duration of activity.</p>
<p>27. Involvement of personnel to supplement the curriculum (one-off visit) e.g. Outside Coach, Coding, Science Exhibition, History Talk</p>	<p>Risk of child being harmed in the school by volunteer or visitor to the school</p>	<p>School personnel always present for the duration of the activity to supervise the interactions of such personnel with the pupils.</p>
<p>28. Changing of pupils' clothes (because of a toileting accident/fall in the yard etc.)</p>	<p>Risk of child being harmed in the school by a member of school personnel</p>	<p>Garda vetting of all staff. Pupil to change him/herself alone. Procedure if pupil requires assistance: 2 adults should always be present if children's clothes are being changed (ref. Intimate Care Policy). Parents are informed by the class teacher at the end of day.</p>
<p>29. Parents/family volunteers in the school</p>	<p>Risk of child being harmed in the school by volunteer or visitor to the school</p>	<p>Garda vetting of family volunteers if on an on-going basis.</p>

30. BOM and PTA members attending meetings/visiting the school	Risk of child being harmed in the school by volunteer or visitor to the school	BOM and PA meetings are held outside school hours when children are not present. When visiting the school during school hours they are accompanied by a member of school personnel.
31. Prospective parents visiting the school	Risk of child being harmed in the school by volunteer or visitor to the school	When visiting the school during school hours they are accompanied by a member of school personnel.
32. School concerts (Christmas, Seachtain na Gaeilge, end-of-year etc.)	Risk of child being harmed in the school by volunteer or visitor to the school	Pupils supervised at all times by member of school personnel
33. Online teaching/remote learning	Risk of child being harmed online by member of school personnel, by another child, by a household member of another child or by anyone who accesses the online learning platform.	Garda vetting of all school personnel. Procedures for online learning set out in the school's Remote Learning Plan. Ref: Acceptable Use Policy

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

Chairperson of the Board of Management:



Date: 7/X/25

School Principal



Date: 7/10/25