CSS1

Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment

For:	**St. John's School**	
At:	**Temple Street, Sligo**	

This school is a: (tick appropriate) ☐primary ☐post-primary ☐ special school

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) and 2025, Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025 and Child Safeguarding: A Guide for Policy, Procedure and Practice, 2nd ed. (Tusla, 2024), the board of management has adopted the Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment set out in this document.

The board of management has adopted and will implement fully and without modification the department's Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025 as part of this overall Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment.

Name of the Designated Liaison Person (DLP):

Bernard Mulhern

Name of the Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP/DDLP):

Ger Hartnett

In the absence of the DLP, the Deputy DLP shall assume responsibilities of the DLP

Name of Relevant Person

Bernard Mulhern

(In schools this person is the DLP)

Relevant Person can be contacted on:

0719162537	*stjohnssligo@outlook.com*

Under the Children First Act 2015 Relevant Person means a person who is appointed by a provider of a relevant service to be the first point of contact in respect of the Child Safeguarding Statement. This person is nominated by the board of management to manage and provide oversight of child protection concerns/allegations of child abuse.

Name of Chairperson of the board of management, or in an ETB school the Chief Executive or their delegate:

Fr. Chris Garrett

In the event that both DLP and DDLP are absent and unavailable, and where there is no staff member formally acting in their role, the chairperson of the board of management, or in an ETB school the chief executive or their delegate, assumes the role of DLP.

The board of management recognises that child protection and safeguarding permeate all aspects of school life and must be reflected in all of the school's policies, procedures, practices and activities. In all of these, 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 happening to children and protect members of school personnel from the necessity to take unnecessary risks that may leave themselves open to accusations of child abuse.

☒Develop a practice of openness with parents and encourage parental involvement in the education of their children.

☒Fully respect confidentiality requirements as set out in the Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025 in dealing with child protection matters.

☒Adhere to the above principles in relation to any vulnerable adult.

Procedures and Measures in Place

Our Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment has been developed in line with requirements under the Children First Act 2015, the *Children First: National Guidance 2017*, and *Child Safeguarding: A Guide for Policy, Procedure and Practice, 2nd ed. (Tusla, 2024)*, and the *Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025.* In addition to the procedures listed in our risk assessment, the following procedures support our intention to safeguard children while they are availing of our service:

> Procedure for the Management of Allegations of Abuse or Misconduct against School Personnel Relating to a Child Availing of Our Service

~ Where any member of school personnel is the subject of any investigation in respect of any act, omission or circumstance in relation to a child attending the school, the school is required to adhere to the relevant procedures set out in Chapter 7 of *the Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025* and to the relevant agreed disciplinary procedures for school staff which are published on the gov.ie website.

> Procedure for the Safe Recruitment and Selection of School Personnel to Work With Children

~ The school is required to adhere to the requirements of the Vetting Act. The selection or recruitment of staff and their suitability to work with children, requires the school to adhere 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 Youth and available on the gov.ie website and as outlined in Chapter 10 of the procedures.

~ A written protocol is in place authorising immediate action for cases which require an employee to be immediately absented from school for child safeguarding reasons.

> Procedure for Provision of and Access to Child Safeguarding Training and Information, Including the Identification of the Occurrence of Harm

~ The school provides information and training to members of school personnel in relation to the identification of the occurrence of harm (as defined in the 2015 Act) as follows:

~ The school has provided each member of school personnel, including any new members of school personnel, (employees and volunteers, board of management members, student teachers and those on work experience) with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment.

~ The school ensures that members of school personnel have availed of relevant training and completed child protection training.

~ The school encourages board of management members to avail of any relevant training and complete child protection training.

~ The board of management ensures that records of all staff and board member child protection training are maintained.

> Procedure for the Reporting of Child Protection or Welfare Concerns to Tusla

~ All members of school personnel are required to adhere to the procedures set out in the *Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025*, in relation to reporting of child protection concerns to Tusla. Mandated reporting applies to all registered teachers and any other mandated person who may be employed by the school, for example a chaplain or nurse. A full list of those people who are mandated persons is set out in Appendix 1 procedures.

> Procedure for Maintaining a List of the Persons (if any) in the Relevant Service Who Are Mandated Persons

~ There is a procedure in place to maintain a list of mandated persons. Schools may on occasion employ additional staff who are mandated by virtue of their profession. This list will include all registered teachers and identify additional employees that are not registered teachers.

> Procedure for Appointing a Relevant Person (In schools this person is the DLP)

~ There is a procedure in place for appointing a relevant person.

The various procedures referred to in this Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment can be accessed via the school's website, the gov.ie website or will be made available on request by the school.

In accordance with the Children First Act 2015, the Addendum to Children First 2019 and 2025, and the *Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025,* the board of management 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.

Note: The procedures and measures in place outlined above, are not intended as exhaustive list. Individual boards of management shall also include in this section such other procedures and measures that are of relevance to the school.

This statement has been published on the school's website or will be made available on request by the school. It has been provided to all members of school personnel, the parents' association (if any), the patron and parents. A copy of this statement and risk assessment will be made available to Tusla and the department if requested.

This Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment will be reviewed annually or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which this statement refers.

Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
1.	(1) Training of school personnel in Child Protection	(1) In cases of child protection issues all staff have been fully trained and informed in order to address Child Protection issues	(1) • Child safeguarding statement & DES procedures made available to all staff on the Aladdin system. • Copies of the Child Protection Procedures will be made available from the office. • All staff attended the Túsla training module and have received accreditation for same. • Bernard Mulhern has attended two presentations given by IPPN, David Ruddy & Maria Doyle. • Bom retains all records of staff and Board training. • Deputy Principal Ger Hartnett (DDPL) attended training in Sligo Education Centre in September and October 2025 • Further staff training took place on 2nd March and 25th May 2026 • Staff meeting on October 15th 2026 reiterated the importance of teaching The Stay safe and Bí Cineálta programmes.
2.	(2) One to One teaching	(2) Harm by school personnel	(2) Glass panels have been installed in all classroom doors. • Teachers repeatedly reminded not to obscure panels with posters etc • Teachers are observable at all times through the glass panels.
3.	(3) Care of Children with Special Needs, including intimate care needs	(3) Harm by school personnel	(3) SPHE Policy/Stay safe Policy taught to all pupils. Pupils with SEN encouraged to use the toilet on their own.

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
			• Two adults to assist where an accident occurs. • A record of such events will be maintained by the school.
4.	(4) Movement Breaks	(4) Harm by school personnel or pupils	(4) Open view of personnel. Staff take 2 pupils together for movement breaks.
5.	(5) Assisting with toileting accidents	(5) Inappropriate behaviour / Harm by school personnel	(5) • School will keep a change of clothes for such events • Child is handed a change of clothes by secretary / SNA. • If a child is unable to care for him/herself, If parents are unavailable two adults (Secretary & SNA) will assist the child. A record of such events will be maintained by the school and a copy forwarded to the relevant parents. • Refer to Intimate Care & Toileting Policy.
6.	(6) Curricular Provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe	(6) Non-teaching of SPHE/Stay safe/proper procedures	(6) • School implements SPHE, RSE& Stay Safe in full. Open discussions at staff meetings about the importance of implementing the programmes and if staff are having any difficulties to go to Ms. Doddy or Ms. Rattigan. The school facilitates staff training when available. **At a staff meeting on October 15th 2026 Ms Doddy reiterated the importance of teaching The Stay Safe programme, unsafe touches, secrets and telling every year. She also**

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
			emphasised the importance of staff referring to the new 2025 Child Protection Guidelines. Literature available in the office.
7.	(7) Management of Challenging Behaviour amongst pupils	(7) Pupils with Social & Behavioural disorders / Harm to self and others	(7) • Health & Safety Policy • Code of Behaviour • Removal of pupil presenting with challenging behavioural • In the event of the pupil refusing to leave, teacher will remove others who are in danger. • Contact parent to remove child if still a danger to himself or others. • Seek advice from relevant agencies such as HSE and Molloway House. • Making other pupils aware of the above and explaining in an age appropriate way, with consent of parents. • Physical restraint may be necessary and training in same for staff would be advisable.
8.	(8) External Coaches – including extra-curricular activities coaches/teachers	(8) Harm by personnel	(8) • Garda Vetting Procedures in place. Evidence required
9.	(9) LGBT/Pupils perceived to be LGBT	(9) Bullying	(9) • Anti-Bullying (Bí Cineálta) certs presented weekly • Reminder that our school ethos is of respect, celebrating diversity and promoting wellbeing. Refer to our Code of Behaviour Policy.

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
10.	(10) Daily Arrival & Dismissal of Pupils	(10) Harm from other pupils, unknown adults on school grounds.	(10) • Arrival and dismissal of pupils supervised by teachers along the corridors as pupils exit and enter the school building. • Teachers to collect their respective classes from their line on the yard. • Member of staff to monitor pupils at the roundabout as they leave. • B. Mulhern to supervise arrival/departure of children at the school gate each day. • Parents are notified that they are responsible for their children outside of these times • School staff supervise pupils from 9:10 to 9:20 daily. Supervision Policy
11.	(11) Students participating in work experience	(11) Harm by student	(11) • Students engaging in work experience will be required to have Garda Vetting and will be supervised by a teacher at all times and will not be left alone with pupils. • Child Safeguarding Statement
12.	(12) Recreation Break for Pupils	(12) Bullying / Harm by student	(12) • The school has a supervision policy for break and recreation. (Please refer to) • Code of Behaviour • Anti-Bullying Policy (Bí Cineálta) Teachers and SNAS vigilant on supervision duty, no hidden spaces on yard. All play spaces are visible. One pupil to use the toilet at any one time.

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
13.	(13) Classroom Teaching	(13) Harm to pupils by school personnel	(13) • Code of Professional Conduct – Teaching Council. Glass panels in classroom doors, not obscured by posters.
14.	(14) Watching Films, YouTube & Netflix during school hours	(14) Inappropriate Material	(14) • All material must be age appropriate • All material where there is no age rating present must be vetted by the teacher prior to viewing. • Needs of individual children will be considered and alternate activities will be provided in such circumstances.
15.	(15) Outdoor Teaching Activities	(15) Harm to Students	(15) • Correct supervision ratio • Supervision Policy • All outdoor venues should be vetted for suitability prior to any outing. • Principal must be informed of any such outing. Pupils supervised by class teacher while external personnel are instructing.
16.	(16) Sporting Activities	(16) Harm to Students	(16) • Correct Supervision ratio • Supervision policy • Safety precautions must be adhered to – helmets, gloves, shin guards etc • Health & Safety Policy
17.	(17) Swimming Lessons	(17) Swimming Lessons	(17) • Coaches have Garda vetting • Supervision Policy • Teachers always stay with pupils at all times. Swimming Policy • Teachers enter changing rooms to supervise only as necessary. • Staff do not assist with drying/dressing with the exception of children with special needs who are

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
			assisted by an SNA, in view of the accompanying teacher. • No child to be alone with a staff member or coach at any time.
18.	(18) School Outings / Tours	(18) Harm to pupils by other adults or school personnel.	(18) • Health & Safety • Stay Safe Policy • Adequate supervision provided by school staff • All venues should be vetted for suitability prior to any outing. • Venues chosen after careful consideration of safety and educational value.
19.	(19) Use of toilet areas in school	(19) Harm to pupil	(19) • There are three sets of male/female toilets • (A) Junior boys'/girls' toilets located down the junior end of the school. • (B) Senior boys'/girls' toilets located near the hall. • (C) Teachers male/female toilets located either side of the staffroom. • In the new build gender neutral toilets are located in the classrooms for the children. Multiple Teachers' gender toilets are located on the corridors • At no point are members of the public allowed to use pupil toilets. Members of the public /parents are permitted to use teachers' toilets if necessary • Teachers have class rules whereby only 1 pupil uses the toilet at any time.
20.	(20) Use of off-site facilities for school activities – field trips, Hawkswell, library, trips down town etc	(20) Harm to pupils by other adults or school personnel.	(20) • Health & Safety • Stay Safe Policy • Adequate supervision provided by school staff

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
21	(21) Administration of Medicine Administration of First Aid	(21) Harm to pupils by school personnel	(21) • Administration of Medicine Policy
22	(22) Curricular provision in respect to RSE, SPHE & Stay Safeguarding	(22) Harm to Pupils if programme not delivered	(22) • SPHE, RSE & Stay Safe policies in place. Importance of same emphasised by management and post holders. Record in CM and observe.
23	(23) Prevention & dealing with bullying amongst pupils	(23) Harm not recognised or reported	(23) • The school has an Anti-Bullying Policy/ Bí Cineálta Policy in place. Bí Cineálta certs distributed. Stay safe programme taught in all classes.
24	(24) Use of external personnel to supplement curriculum – visiting coaches / Junior Achievement, Abbott Volunteers, Music Generation etc	(24) Harm to pupils	(24) • Class teacher is always present during presentations / workshops by external personnel. • Garda vetting required where support or input is ongoing.
25	(25) Care of pupils with specific vulnerabilities Needs such as - • Pupils from 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 (Child Protection Notification System)	(25) Harm to pupils - Bullying - At risk of harm in the home -Risk of racism	(25) • SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe, Anti-Bullying Policy/Bí Cineálta Home School Liason officer Declan Gallagher works with staff and parents. School holds an International day to celebrate the many nationalities in the school- approx 38.
26	(26) Recruitment of school personnel including - •	(26) Harm to pupils – Bullying	(26) • Child safeguarding Statement & DES procedures

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
	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		made available to all staff. • Staff viewed Tusla training module and completed online training offered by PDST. • Vetting Procedures • Signing in book to be completed on admission and leaving. • Security button in place at entrance, key pad, CCTV. Stay safe-Say No, Get away, Tell.
27	(27) Use of Information & Communication Technology by pupils in School	(27) Bullying - Harm to pupils	(27) • ICT policy • Internet Policy • Anti-Bullying Policy (Bí Cineálta) • Code of Behaviour . Supervision by teachers. Restricted content.
28	(28) Students participating in work experience in the school	(28) Harm to pupils	(28) • Students must be vetted and produce evidence of same. Class teacher in attendance at all times.
29	(29) Student teachers undertaking a training placement in the school	(29) Harm to pupils	(29) • Students must be vetted and produce evidence of same
30	(30) Use of video / photography /other media to record school events and pupils during activities	(30) Harm to pupils-risk of AI manipulation	(30) • The school seeks consent from parents at enrolment to have photos/videos included on our social media/website etc • Teachers are made aware of any children at the start of the year who are not allowed to have their picture taken for social media/website purposes. • Children will never be identified using their name in a photo. **Posting of children's images on SM is under review, was discussed**

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
			at a Staff meeting on 15th October 2026
31	(31) After school use of school premises by other organisations.	(31) Access to the school buildings - Harm to public	(31) • Where a child has significant medical or behavioural needs a parent will be required to be present. • Only access to the hall will be permitted. The office and adjoining door to the school will remain locked during the activities. • Community Games activities take place outside of school hours and are overseen by volunteers, who have been Garda vetted.
32	(32) School transport-buses and taxis transport pupils from special classes to and from school	(32)Risk of harm to pupils by personnel	(32) Parents have supplied booster seats/car seats where necessary. Pupils to be strapped in by SNA or class teacher, bus driver does not do this.

Additional pages may be added as required

Examples of Activities, Risks and Procedures

The examples listed in this document are provided to assist schools in undertaking their risk assessment under the Children First Act, 2015. Schools should note that this list of examples is not intended to be exhaustive, and that the inclusion of an example of a policy or procedure on these lists does not make it mandatory. It is the responsibility of each school to ensure, as far as possible, that any other risks and procedures that are relevant to its own particular circumstances are identified and specified in the written risk assessment and that adequate procedures are in place to address all risks identified.

It is acknowledged that schools already have in place a range of policies, practices and procedures to mitigate the risk of harm to children while they are participating in the activities of the school and that some school activities will carry low or minimal risks of harm compared to others. In the context of the risk assessment that must be undertaken by schools, the Children First Act, 2015 refers to risk as 'any potential for harm'.

Therefore, it is important that, as part of its risk assessment process, each school lists and reviews all of its various activities (which shall include identifying those that may carry low risk of harm as well as those that carry higher risks of harm). Doing so will help the school to:

- Identify, as required under the Children First Act, 2015, any risks of harm that may exist in respect of the school's activities.
- Identify and assess the adequacy of the various procedures already in place to manage those risks of harm.
- Identify and put in place any such additional procedures as are considered necessary to manage any risk identified.

Online Safety

The *Addendum to Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children 2017* published in January 2019 clarifies that organisations providing relevant services to children should consider the specific issue of online safety when carrying out their risk assessment and preparing their Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment.

The Guidance on Continuity of Schooling for primary and post-primary schools (April 2020) advises of the importance of teachers maintaining the safe and ethical use of the internet during distance learning and assisting parents and guardians to be aware of their role also. Schools should ensure that their Acceptable Use Policy (AUP) informs and guides remote or distance learning activity.

Risk in the context of this Child Safeguarding Statement and 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 the Children First Act 2015: 'harm' means, in relation to a child— (a) assault, ill-treatment or neglect of the child in a manner that seriously affects or is likely to seriously affect the child's health, development or welfare, or (b) sexual abuse of the child, whether caused by a single act, omission or circumstance or a series or combination of acts, omissions or circumstances, or otherwise.

Examples of School Activities which schools may draw from, as appropriate

1. Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils
2. Recreation breaks for pupils
3. Classroom teaching
4. One-to-one teaching
5. One-to-one learning support
6. One-to-one counselling
7. Outdoor teaching activities
8. Online teaching and learning remotely
9. Sporting activities
10. School outings
11. School trips involving overnight stay
12. School trips involving foreign travel
13. Use of toilet/changing/shower areas in schools
14. Provision of residential facilities for boarders
15. Annual Sports Day
16. Fundraising events involving pupils
17. Use of off-site facilities for school activities
18. School transport arrangements including use of bus escorts
19. Care of children with special educational needs, including intimate care where needed
20. Care of any vulnerable adult students, including intimate care where needed
21. Management of challenging behaviour amongst pupils, including appropriate use of restraint where required
22. Management of provision of food and drink
23. Administration of medicine
24. Administration of First Aid
25. Curricular provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe
26. Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst pupils
27. Training of school personnel in child protection matters
28. Use of external personnel to supplement curriculum
29. Use of external personnel to support sports and other extra-curricular activities
30. Care of pupils with specific vulnerabilities/needs
31. Pupils from ethnic minorities/migrants
32. Members of the Traveller community

33. Lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender (LGBT) children
34. Pupils perceived to be LGBT
35. Pupils of minority religious faiths
36. Children in care
37. Children on Tusla's Child Protection Notification System (CPNS)
38. Children with medical needs
39. Recruitment of school personnel including teachers/SNAs, caretakers/secretaries/cleaners and sport coaches
40. External Tutors/Guest Speakers
41. Volunteers/Parents in school activities
42. Visitors/contractors present in school during school hours
43. Visitors/contractors present during after-school activities
44. Participation by pupils in religious ceremonies/religious instruction external to the school
45. Use of Information and Communication Technology by pupils in school, including social media
46. Application of sanctions under the school's Code of Behaviour including detention of pupils, confiscation of phones etc.
47. Students participating in work experience in the school
48. Students from the school participating in work experience elsewhere
49. Student teachers undertaking training placement in school
50. Use of video/photography/other media to record school events
51. After-school use of school premises by other organisations
52. Use of school premises by other organisations during school day
53. Breakfast club
54. Homework club/evening study
55. Children attending boarding schools or living away from home

Examples of Risks of Harm

1. Risk of harm not being recognised by school personnel
2. Risk of harm not being reported properly and promptly by members of school personnel
3. Risk of harm where members of school personnel have not received appropriate training
4. Risk of child being harmed in the school by a member of school personnel
5. Risk of child being harmed in the school by another child
6. Risk of child being harmed in the school by a volunteer or visitor to the school

7. Risk of child being harmed by a member of school personnel, a member of staff of another organisation or other person while a child is participating in out-of-school activities, e.g. school trip, swimming lessons
8. Risk of harm due to inappropriate use of online remote teaching and learning communication platform, such as an uninvited person accessing the lesson link, students being left unsupervised for long periods of time in breakout rooms
9. Risk of harm due to bullying of a child
10. Risk of harm due to racism
11. Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children in school
12. Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children while attending out-of-school activities
13. Risk of harm due to inappropriate relationship/communications between a child and another child or adult
14. Risk of harm due to children inappropriately accessing/using computers, social media, phones and other devices while at school
15. Risk of harm to children with special educational needs who have particular vulnerabilities, including medical vulnerabilities
16. Risk of harm to child while a child is receiving intimate care
17. Risk of harm due to inadequate code of behaviour
18. Risk of harm in one-to-one teaching, counselling, coaching situations
19. Risk of harm caused by a member of school personnel communicating with pupils in an inappropriate manner via social media, texting, digital device, or other manner
20. Risk of harm caused by a member of school personnel accessing/circulating inappropriate material via social media, texting, digital device or other manner
21. Risks where children are living away from home or attending boarding facilities

These are examples of policies and procedures that may be used to address Risks of Harm

1. All school personnel are provided with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment
2. The Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025 are made available to all school personnel
3. School personnel are required to adhere to the Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025 and all registered teaching staff are required to adhere to the Children First Act 2015 as well as supporting the continued implementation of the best practice guidance set out in Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children 2017 and its addenda, including the Addendum to Children First 2019 and 2025
4. A written protocol is in place authorising immediate action for cases which require an employee to be immediately absented from school for child safeguarding reasons
5. The school implements in full the Stay Safe Programme
6. The school implements in full the Social, Personal, and Health Education (SPHE) curriculum

7. The school implements in full the Wellbeing Programme at Junior Cycle
8. School authorities have a code of behaviour and an anti-bullying policy in place in accordance with the department's 'Bí Cineálta' procedures to prevent and address bullying in schools and as outlined in Circular 55/2024
9. The school has complied with the Understanding Behaviours of Concern and Responding to Crisis Situations developed by the Department of Education and Youth to address uncertainty for staff on how to respond when facing crisis situations where there are concerns regarding physical safety
10. The school undertakes anti-racism awareness initiatives
11. The school has a yard/playground supervision policy to ensure appropriate supervision of children during assembly, dismissal and breaks and in respect of specific areas such as toilets, changing rooms etc.
12. The school has in place a policy and clear procedures in respect of school outings
13. The school has a health and safety policy
14. The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation
15. The school adheres to the relevant Department of Education and Youth circulars in respect of recruitment
16. The school has a code of conduct for school personnel (teaching and non-teaching staff)
17. The school complies with the agreed disciplinary procedures for teaching staff
18. The school has a special educational needs policy
19. The school has an intimate care policy/plan in respect of students who require such care
20. The school has in place a policy and procedures for the administration of medication to pupils
21. The school has provided each member of school staff with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment
22. The school ensures all new personnel are provided with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment
23. The school encourages personnel to avail of relevant training
24. The school encourages board of management members to avail of relevant training
25. The school maintains records of all personnel and board member training
26. The school has in place a policy and procedures for the administration of First Aid
27. The school has in place a code of behaviour for pupils
28. The school has an Acceptable Use Policy in place, to include provision for online teaching and learning remotely, and has communicated this policy to parents
29. The school has in place a policy governing the use of smartphones and tablet devices in the school by pupils as per Circular 38/2018 and the national guidelines
30. The school has in place a Critical Incident Management Plan
31. The school has in place a Home School Liaison policy and related procedures

32. The school has in place a policy and procedures for the use of external persons to supplement delivery of the curriculum
33. The school has in place a policy and procedures for the use of external sports coaches
34. The school has in place a policy and clear procedures for one-to-one teaching activities
35. The school has in place a policy and procedures for one-to-one counselling
36. The school has in place a policy and procedures in respect of student teacher placements
37. The school has in place a policy and procedures in respect of pupils undertaking work experience in the school
38. The school has in place a policy and procedures in respect of pupils of the school undertaking work experience in external organisations
39. The school has in place a policy in relation to assisting members of school personnel in respect of disclosures of retrospective abuse
40. The school has considered the questions in Appendix 1 of the Child Protection and Safeguarding Procedures for Boarding Facilities Associated with Recognised Schools 2023 and implemented the necessary risk mitigation measures

In accordance with Section 11 of the Children First Act 2015 and with the requirements of Chapter 9 of the Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025, the following is the written Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment.

In undertaking this Child Safeguarding Statement and 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 Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment was reviewed by the board of management on 20/10/2026 *(most recent review date)*

Signed:*	Fr Chris Garrett	**Date:** 20/10/2026

Chairperson of the board of management

Signed:*	Bernard Fulhern	**Date:** 20/10/26

Principal/Secretary to the board of management

This Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment is expected to be reviewed again on 20/10/27 *(expected review date)*

* *Document to be printed and signed with original signatures*

Appendix - Location of copies of the Child Protection Procedures and Children First Guidance

This may be in the form of specifying the online location for the procedures (Department of Education and Youth website www.gov.ie/childprotectionschools and/or the school website), providing a link to the Children First National Guidance 2017 Children First National Guidance 2017.pdf, and stating the number and location of hard copies of these procedures available in the school.

Copies are located in the following rooms:

- Ms. Doddy's classroom – New school building
- Mr. Hartnett's classroom (Rm 16 main school building) - DDLP
- Mr. Mulhern's Office (main school building) - DLP

https://www.stjohnssligo.com/child-safeguarding---risk-assessment-statement.html