

St. John the Baptist Boys' National School

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Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment

Child Safeguarding Statement

St John the Baptist BNS is a primary school providing primary/post-primary education to pupils from Second Class 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 St John the Baptist BNS is a 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 Nicholas
- 3 The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is: Sara Barry

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 (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 28th June, 2023.

This Child Safeguarding Statement was reviewed by the Board of Management on 28th June, 2023.

Signed: [Signature]

Chairperson of Board of Management

Signed: [Signature]

Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Date: 28/6/23

Date: 28/6/23

CHILD SAFEGUARDING RISK ASSESSMENT
WRITTEN ASSESSMENT OF RISK – ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST BOYS NATIONAL 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.

LIST OF SCHOOL ACTIVITIES	IDENTIFIED RISKS	PROCEDURES TO ADDRESS RISK
<u>Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Risk of harm to child by other child, school personnel or other parent. Risk is increased as supervision is less structured than during the school day. ● Potential contact between parents/guardians with children other than their own ● Potential for non-authorized persons to collect children ● Possibility child might leave school premises unaccompanied ● Risk of inadequate supervision is increased 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Child Safeguarding Statement ● Supervision Policy ● School Visitors' Policy ● School Registration Form – identification of parents/guardians and those permitted to collect children ● Security Code required for access to school ● Children line up outside the school and are brought into the school by their class teacher (unless raining)
<u>Recreation breaks for pupils</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Risk of harm to child by other child, school personnel or other parent. Risk is increased as supervision is less structured than in the classroom. ● Possibility child may leave school premises unaccompanied. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Child Safeguarding Statement ● Supervision Policy ● Locked Gate ● Code required for access to school

LIST OF SCHOOL ACTIVITIES	IDENTIFIED RISKS	PROCEDURES TO ADDRESS RISK
<p><u>Classroom teaching</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Risk child would be harmed in the school by a member of school personnel or by another child ● Risk something inappropriate being said or shown to children in class setting. ● Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children in school i.e. children being left unaccompanied ● Risk of inappropriate relationship/communication between child and teacher. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Child Safeguarding Statement ● Garda Vetting of Teachers ● Supervision Policy
<p><u>One-to-one teaching</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Risk child would be harmed or groomed by teacher in one to one teaching setting. ● Risk of inappropriate relationship/communication between child and teacher. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Child Safeguarding Statement <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – one to one teaching minimised; if it is undertaken – door to class left open ● Following recruitment procedures including Garda vetting and reference checking ● Classroom doors to be left open

<u>Online teaching</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● No Risk identified currently as no online teaching being conducted	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● None needed currently
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LIST OF SCHOOL ACTIVITIES	IDENTIFIED RISKS	PROCEDURES TO ADDRESS RISK
<u>Outdoor teaching activities</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Risk of harm to child by other child or school personnel. Risk is increased as supervision is less structured than in the class room. ● Possibility child may leave school premises unaccompanied. ● Risk of inadequate supervision 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Child Safeguarding Statement ● Garda Vetting of Teachers ● Supervision Policy
<u>Sporting Activities in school</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Risk of harm to child by other child or school personnel. Risk is increased as supervision is less structured than in the class room. ● Possibility child may leave school premises unaccompanied. ● Risk of inadequate supervision 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Child Safeguarding Statement ● Garda Vetting of sports coaches

LIST OF SCHOOL ACTIVITIES	IDENTIFIED RISKS	PROCEDURES TO ADDRESS RISK
<p><u>School outings/Using external school facilities for school outings</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Risk of harm to child by other child or school personnel. Risk is increased as supervision is less structured than in the class room. ● Risk of inadequate supervision ● Potential exposure to other adults/children which increases the risk of harm/abuse/grooming ● Heightened risk where activity is swimming or another activity which requires changing clothes and there is no way of securing the premises to exclude adults/children unrelated to the school. This is especially the case where children require assistance getting changed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Child Safeguarding Statement ● Supervision policy ● Arrangements to be made where possible for exclusive use of the premises particularly changing facilities
<p><u>Use of toilet facilities in school</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Risk of harm to child by other child or school personnel. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Child Safeguarding Statement ● Single person toilets ● Separate toilets for adults/children

<u>Use of the Sensory Room in school</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Risk of inadequate supervision● Risk child would be harmed or groomed by teacher in one to one teaching setting.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Child Safeguarding Statement● Door to remain open if one-to-one.
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LIST OF SCHOOL ACTIVITIES	IDENTIFIED RISKS	PROCEDURES TO ADDRESS RISK
<p><u>Annual Sports Day</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Risk of harm to child by other child, school personnel, parent, volunteer or other visitor to the school. Risk is increased as supervision is less structured than in the class room. ● Risk of inadequate supervision Potential exposure to other adults/children which increases the risk of harm/abuse/grooming 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Child Safeguarding Statement ● Supervision Policy ● School Visitors Policy
<p><u>Fundraising events involving adults</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Risk of harm to child by other child, school personnel, parent, volunteer or other visitor to the school. Risk is increased as supervision is less structured than in the class room. ● Risk of inadequate supervision ● Potential exposure to other adults/children which increases the risk of harm/abuse/grooming 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Child Safeguarding Statement

LIST OF SCHOOL ACTIVITIES	IDENTIFIED RISKS	PROCEDURES TO ADDRESS RISK
<u>School transport arrangements</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Risk of harm to child by other child, school personnel, parent or volunteer. ● Risk of inadequate supervision ● Potential exposure to other adults who are not school staff 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Child Safeguarding Statement ● Supervision Policy ● Garda Vetting of parents and volunteers where appropriate
<u>Care of children with special educational needs</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Risk to children with SEN who have particular vulnerabilities ● Currently no children requiring imitate care 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Child Safeguarding Statement ● Garda Vetting of staff
<u>Management of challenging behaviour amongst pupils</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Risk of being harmed in the school by another child and risk behaviour may turn into a child protection issue if not monitored and dealt with appropriately by school staff. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Child Safeguarding Statement ● Code of Behaviour ● Anti-Bullying Policy and related interventions
<u>Administration of Medicine/First Aid</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Risk of danger to child due to administration of incorrect dosage – not a child protection issue unless carried out with a degree of intent. 	Child Safeguarding Statement Administration of Medicine Policy

<p><u>Curricular provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Risk of harm to child by through inappropriate communication of these curricular areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Child Safeguarding Statement ● RSE Policy ● Parental information and consent
<p>LIST OF SCHOOL ACTIVITIES</p>	<p>IDENTIFIED RISKS</p>	<p>PROCEDURES TO ADDRESS RISK</p>
<p><u>Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst pupils</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Risk of harm to child by other child if bullying not monitored or dealt with appropriately and the matter escalates 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Child Safeguarding Statement ● Code of Behaviour and Anti-bullying policy and related interventions
<p><u>Use of external personnel to supplement curriculum/extra-curricular activities</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Risk of harm to child by external provider of service 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Child Safeguarding Statement ● Garda Vetting of all personnel who provide service supplementing curriculum ● Supervision policy ● Class teacher to remain in classroom – where activity is to supplement curriculum. School visitors policy also applies and the need to reference check ● Procedure in relation to making premises available to third parties for the provision of extra – curricular activities (i)

		<p>confirmation Garda vetting is obtained for each person involved in providing the service; (ii) confirmation the operator has a Child Safeguarding Statement in place</p>
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LIST OF SCHOOL ACTIVITIES	IDENTIFIED RISKS	PROCEDURES TO ADDRESS RISK
<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 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Risk of harassment based harm to child by other child or school personnel • Risk of inadequate supervision • For children on CPNS, risk of school staff not noticing/reporting harm when it occurs or not being familiar or trained in Child Safeguarding Procedures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child Safeguarding Statement • Code of Behaviour Anti-bullying policy incorporating anti-harassment statement and related interventions • Catholic Ethos, RE Curriculum which teaches tolerance and inclusion, promotion of inclusivity on school wide basis • Compliance with equality laws

- Children in care - Children on CPNS		<ul style="list-style-type: none">● On-going education of children● On-going staff training
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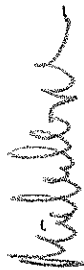
LIST OF SCHOOL ACTIVITIES	IDENTIFIED RISKS	PROCEDURES TO ADDRESS RISK
<p><u>Recruitment/engagement of school personnel and contractors including -</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <u>Teachers/SNA's</u> - <u>Caretaker/Secretary/Cleaners</u> - <u>Sports coaches</u> - <u>External Tutors/Guest Speakers</u> - <u>Volunteers/Parents in school activities</u> - <u>Visitors/contractors present in school during school hours</u> - <u>Visitors/contractors present during after school activities</u> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Risk of harm to child by new appointee, contractor, coach, visitor/guest speaker, volunteer 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Child Safeguarding Statement ● Garda Vetting of personnel ● Reference checking of new appointees and volunteers/parents where appropriate ● Compliance with recruitment procedures in Governance Manual for Primary Schools 2015 – 2019 ● Supervision Policy ● School Visitors' Policy ● Induction documents given to all new staff appointees, as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Child Safeguarding Statement; (ii) Code of Behaviour; (iii) Supervision Policy; (iv) School Visitors' Policy ● Procedure in place regarding use of school premises by third party operators for the provision of extracurricular activities

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Encourages staff/BoM members to avail of relevant training ● Maintains records of all staff and board member training
<p>LIST OF SCHOOL ACTIVITIES</p>	<p>IDENTIFIED RISKS</p>	<p>PROCEDURES TO ADDRESS RISK</p>
<p><u>Participation by pupils in religious ceremonies/religious instruction external to the school</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Risk of harm to child by other child, school personnel, parent, provider of religious instruction. Risk is increased as supervision is less structured than in the class room. ● Risk of inadequate supervision 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Child Safeguarding Statement ● Supervision Policy
<p><u>Use of Information and Communication Technology by pupils in school</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Risk of harm due to children inappropriately accessing/using computers, social media, phones and other devices while at school member of school personnel communicating with pupils in appropriate manner via social media, texting, digital device or other manner 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Child Safeguarding Statement ● Acceptable use policy ● Mobile phone policy

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Risk of harm caused by member of school personnel accessing/circulating inappropriate material via social media, texting, digital device or other manner.	
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LIST OF SCHOOL ACTIVITIES	IDENTIFIED RISKS	PROCEDURES TO ADDRESS RISK
<p><u>Application of sanctions under the school's Code of Behaviour including detention of pupils, confiscation of phones etc.</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Risk of harm to child by school personnel. Risk is increased where detention is one on one. ● Risk of inadequate supervision 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Child Safeguarding Statement ● Code of Behaviour ● Supervision Policy
<p><u>Students/Student Teachers participating in work experience in the school</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Risk of harm to child by student or student teachers. ● Risk of harm by child to another child due to inexperience of student/student teacher. ● Risk of inadequate supervision ● Risk of harm not being recognised by student/student teachers or not being reported properly and promptly by them 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Child Safeguarding Statement ● Garda Vetting of students/student teachers ● Supervision policy – student/student teacher not to be left unaccompanied in class room – class teacher to be there at all times ● Induction pack to be given to students/student teachers including Child Safeguarding Statement
<p><u>Use of video/photography/other media to record school events</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Risk of member of school personnel communicating with pupils in appropriate manner via with video social media, text using their own 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Child Safeguarding Statement ● Data Protection Policy ● Consent of parents/guardians

This risk assessment has been completed by the Manager on 28th June, 2023. It shall be reviewed as part of the school's annual review of its Child Safeguarding Statement.

Signed 
Manager
Date 5/7/23


Signed
Principal

	<p>videos/photographs to groom; Risk of videos/photographs being circulated inappropriately</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Specific resolution to be used on photographs to impede copying
LIST OF SCHOOL ACTIVITIES	IDENTIFIED RISKS	PROCEDURES TO ADDRESS RISK
<u>Reporting of child protection concerns</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Risk of harm not being recognised by school personnel Risk harm not reported properly and promptly by school personnel 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Child Safeguarding Statement Encouraging staff to attend child safeguarding training

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 manager 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.