



Child Safeguarding Statement & Risk Assessment

This statement was reviewed, discussed and ratified by the Board of Management in St Canice's GNS during a meeting on 5th September 2022.

St Canice's GNS 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 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 Canice's GNS 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 **Dearbhla White (Principal)**
- 3 The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is **Susan O Connor (Deputy Principal)**
- 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.
- 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 DES 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 DES and available on the DES 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 Principal 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 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, 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 attached as an appendix to this statement.
- During the course of the coming year the various procedures referred to in this Statement can be accessed via the school's website, the DES website or will be made available on request by the school.

6 This statement will be published on the school's website and will be provided to all members of school personnel, the Parents' Association and the patron. It is readily accessible to parents and guardians on request. A copy of this Statement is being 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 5th September 2022.

Child Safeguarding 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 Canice's GNS

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	All school personnel require training in the new Child Safeguarding Statement & DES procedures Harm if not recognised or reported promptly	Child Safeguarding Statement & DES procedures made available to all staff All school personnel will be given or have access to a booklet containing • Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post primary Schools 2017 • Children First • Circular 0081 / 2017 (Publication of new "Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools 2017") DLP & DDLP to attend PDST face to face training (March 2018) All Staff will view Túsla 2 hour training module <u>Child Protection Procedures for all School Personnel & any other online training offered by PDST</u> DLP and DDLP will view <u>Risk Assessment and the development of Child Safeguarding Statement</u> All BOM members will view Túsla 2 hour training module <u>Child Protection Procedures for all School Personnel</u> BOM records all records of staff and board training

One to one teaching / One to one counselling / play therapy	High	Risk of harm in one-to-one teaching or counselling	A policy will be devised regarding "One to One Teaching / One to One Counselling / Play Therapy" A list of items for consideration will be developed by the Board of Management to ensure this procedure is successfully implemented.
Sensory Room	High	Risk of harm in one-to-one situation	Supervision and adult accompaniment has been discussed and it is agreed that it will be 2 children and one adult or two adults and one child.
Care of Children with special needs, including intimate care needs and "An accident" occurring.	High	Risk of harm to child while receiving intimate care	Policy on intimate care and procedure to be followed in the event of a child having "an accident"
Toilet areas	High	Inappropriate behaviour	Usage and supervision policy
Curricular Provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay safe.	Med	Non-teaching of same	Implementation in full of SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe policies, with parents appropriately informed of same Regular review of policy with teacher feedback on a regular basis
Daily arrival and departure of pupils	Med	Unknown adults accompanying children and arriving onto the school site	Arrival and departure supervised by principals, teachers and SNAs
Managing of challenging behaviour amongst pupils, including appropriate use of restraint	High	Injury to pupils and staff	Restraint Policy Health & Safety Policy Code Of Behaviour
Sports Coaches / Use of external personnel to supplement curriculum	Med	Harm to pupils	Policy & Procedures in place - Garda vetting proof - Class teacher remains present in the Hall or yard at all times
Students participating in work experience	Med	Harm by student	Work experience Policy No student work alone with children at any time
Small break and lunchtime for pupils	High	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children in school / Risk of harm due to bullying	Ensure the children are always adequately supervised by adults
		Risk of child being harmed in the school by another child / Risk of harm due to	Health & Safety Policy and Statement

Classroom teaching	Low	bullying of child / Risk of harm not being recognised by school personnel / Risk of harm not being reported properly and promptly by school personnel / Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children in school	Anti – Bullying Policy Code of Behaviour Child Safeguarding Statement & DES procedures made available to all staff All school personnel will be given or have access to a booklet containing • Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post primary Schools 2017 • Children First • Circular 0081 / 2017(Publication of new “Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools 2017”) All Staff will view Túsla 2 hour training module <u>Child Protection Procedures for all School Personnel</u> & any other online training offered by PDST
Swimming	High	Risk of harm to child while a child is receiving intimate care / being changed into and out of swimming attire Risk of child being harmed by a member of school personnel, a staff member of another organisation or other persons while child participating in out of school activities Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children in school	A policy will be devised for • Swimming addressing the appropriate supervision of the children in the changing rooms of the pool and the adults that attend swimming to help – female and male • In this a decision will be reached regarding Garda vetting of volunteers • Health and Safety - including the adequate supervision of children on their way to, in and on the way back to school from the pool Child Protection Policy will be obtained from the pool that the school attends.
Parents Association	High	Risk of harm due to inappropriate relationship/communications between child and another child or adult Risk of harm in one-to-one situation	Garda vetting of all members of the Parents Association No member of the Parents Association will be working on a one to one basis with any child

School outings	Med	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children while attending out of school activities Risk of child being harmed by a member of school personnel, a member of staff of another organisation or other person while child participating in out of school activities e.g. school trip, swimming lessons Risk of harm due to children inappropriately accessing/using phones and other devices while on the school tour Risk of harm due to inappropriate relationship/communications between child and another child or adult Risk of harm caused by member of school personnel accessing/circulating inappropriate material via social media, texting, digital device or other manner Risk of harm to child while a child is receiving intimate care Risk of harm due to bullying of child	A policy will be devised regarding • School Outings including issues surrounding • Supervision • Appropriate supervision when the children are going to toilets and if they need to change their clothes • Photo and video taking will only be done by school staff on a school camera • Only adults will bring their phones the tour • No parents accompanying the tours will be alone with any child or children at any time This policy will also be linked to the • Code of Behaviour • Anti – Bullying Policy • Mobile Phone Policy
Outdoor teaching activities		Risk of harm not being recognised by school personnel Risk of harm not being reported properly and promptly by school personnel Risk of child being harmed in the school by a member of school personnel	Health & Safety Policy and Statement • Outdoor teaching Activities and school outing procedures Anti – Bullying Policy Code of Behaviour

		Risk of child being harmed in the school by another child Risk of harm due to bullying of child Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children in school Risk of harm due to inappropriate relationship/communications between child and another child or adult Risk of harm in one-to-one teaching	Child Safeguarding Statement & DES procedures made available to all staff All school personnel will be given or have access to a booklet containing • Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post primary Schools 2017 • Children First • Circular 0081 / 2017. All school staff will view Túsla 2 hour training module <u>Child Protection Procedures for all School Personnel</u> & any other online training offered by PDST
Sporting Activities	High	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children while attending out of school activities Risk of harm to child while a child is changing Risk of child being harmed by a member of school personnel, a member of staff of another organisation or other person while child participating in out of school activities Risk of harm due to children inappropriately accessing/using, phones and other devices	A policy will be devised regarding the attendance at and participation in Sporting Activities. This policy will address areas such as • Transport of children (ie) where children are to sit in the car • Supervision ratio • Supervision while children are changing their clothes • Photographs being taken • Garda Vetting will be discussed • No pictures will be allowed on private social media accounts
Administration of Medicine Administration of First Aid	High	Risk of harm not being recognised by school personnel Risk of child being harmed in the school by a member of school personnel Risk of harm in one-to-one situation	Child Safeguarding Statement & DES procedures made available to all staff All school personnel will be given or have access to a booklet containing • Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post primary Schools 2017 • Children First

		Risk of harm of a child taking too much of any one medication	• Circular 0081 / 2017 (Publication of new "Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools 2017") All Staff will view Túsla 2 hour training module <u>Child Protection Procedures for all School Personnel</u> & any other online training offered by PDST Policies will be reviewed regarding • The Administration of Medicine and First Aid Anti-Bullying Policy Ant Cyber Bullying Policy created AUP created and signed by all school community Code of Behaviour (under review) • Incorporating positive strategies from the Incredible Years programme • Friendship Fortnight • Compliments Fortnight Anti – Bullying Policy Code of Behaviour • Ensure use of appropriate language is referenced Child Safeguarding Statement & DES procedures made available to all staff All school personnel will be given or have access to a booklet containing • Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post primary Schools 2017 • Children First • Circular 0081 / 2017. All Staff will view Túsla 2 hour training module <u>Child Protection Procedures for all School Personnel</u> & any other online training offered by PDST
Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst pupils		Risk of harm not being recognised by school personnel Risk of harm due to bullying of a child	
Care of pupils with specific vulnerabilities/needs such as	MED	Risk of harm not being recognised by school personnel Risk of harm not being reported properly and promptly by school personnel Risk of harm due to inappropriate relationship/communications between child and another child or adult Risk of harm due to bullying of child Risk of harm to children with SEN who have particular vulnerabilities Risk of harm to child while a child is receiving intimate care	• Pupils from ethnic minorities/migrants • Members of the Traveller community • Lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender (LGBT) children • LGBT pupils • Pupils of minority religious faiths • Children in care • Children on CPNS (Child Protection Notification System)

			Our already child safe guarded procedures put together as a policy / plan regarding The Intimate Care of Children LGBT awareness discussion Child Safeguarding Statement & DES procedures made available to all staff Staff will view Tusla training module & any other online training offered by PDST Vetting Procedures followed appropriately Monitoring of visitors to school
Recruitment of school personnel including -	Med	Harm not recognised or properly or promptly reported to the principal on receiving a reference from a previous employer or the agency that the person is employed by.	Before contractors begin in the school - Garda vetting will be reviewed and applied for, if necessary - Expectations surrounding the contractors involvement, behaviour and contact with children discussed and explained - Timing and positioning of contractors while working on the school site Child protection policy of the organisation involved to be provided to the Board of Management
Visiting Contractors	High	Risk of harm not being reported properly and promptly to school principal Risk of harm due to inappropriate relationship/communications between child and another child or adult	Risk of harm not being reported properly and promptly to school principal Risk of harm due to inappropriate relationship/communications between child and another child or adult
Use of school premises by other organisations	High		
Use of Information and Communication Technology by pupils in school	High	Bullying Inappropriate content	The policies below will all address how the ICT will be appropriately used by pupils in the school - ICT policy - AUP - Anti-Bullying Policy - Code of Behaviour

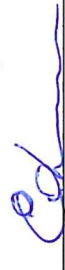
			Mobile Phone Policy
Students participating in work experience in the school / Student teachers undertaking training placement in school	Med	Risk of harm due to inappropriate relationship and or behaviours / communications between child and another adult. Risk of harm caused by member of school personnel accessing/circulating inappropriate material via social media, texting, digital device or other manner Risk of harm due to a child being on their own in a room with an adult	A Code of Behaviour policy will be devised for students on - Work Experience - Teaching Practice - Evidence of Garda Vetting will be required for any person over the age of 16 The policies that will be linked to and will address this are - ICT Policy - AUP Ms White remains at her desk at all times when a child or children are present on her office. The office door remains open at all times. The child or children remain at the circular table in Ms White's office.
Use of video/photography/other media to record school events	High		
Children staying in from yard in Ms White's Office	High		

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.

The Board of Management is committed to ensuring all staff will be supported to attend mandatory and statutory training, or training and development opportunities that support the implementation of the Child Safeguarding Procedures and associated risks.

This risk assessment has been completed by the Board of Management in September 2022. It will be reviewed as part of the school's annual review of its Child Safeguarding Statement.

Signed  Chairperson, Board of Management

Signed  Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Date 5th September 2022

