



Child Safeguarding Statement

St. Seachnall'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. Seachnall'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 Ciara Whelan
- 3 The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is Áine O' Hara
- 4 The Relevant Person is Ciara Whelan.
(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. In a school setting the relevant person shall be the designated liaison person.)
- 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 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.

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 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 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.

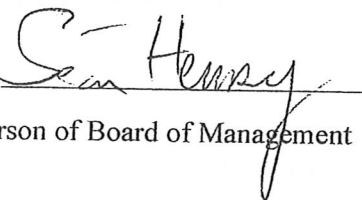
- In accordance with the Children First Act 2015 and the Addendum to Children First (2019), the Board has carried out an assessment of any potential for harm to a child while attending the school or participating in school activities. A written assessment setting out the areas of risk identified and 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 website or will be made available on request by the school.

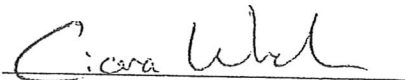
Note: The above is not intended as an exhaustive list. Individual Boards of Management shall also include in this section such other procedures/measures that are of relevance to the school in question.

- 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 19th September 2023.

This Child Safeguarding Statement was reviewed by the Board of Management on 19th September 2023

Signed: 
Chairperson of Board of Management

Signed: 
Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Date: 19/9/23

Date: 19/9/23



Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment

Written Assessment of Risk of St. Seachnall's N.S.

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 (revised 2023)*, the following is the Written Risk Assessment of [name of school].

List of School Activities	The school has identified the following Risk of Harm	The school has the following Procedures in place to address risk identified in this assessment
Training of school personnel in Child Protection matters	Harm not recognised or reported promptly	<p>The <i>Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools (revised 2023)</i> are made available to all school personnel.</p> <p>School Personnel are required to adhere to the <i>Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools (revised 2023)</i> and all registered teaching staff are required to adhere to the <i>Children First Act 2015</i> and its Addendum (2019)</p> <p>DLP& DDLP to attend PDST face to face training. All Staff to view Tusla training module & any other online training offered by PDST.</p> <p>BOM records all records of staff and board training.</p>

One to one teaching Sensory Room Learning Support Rooms	Harm by school personnel	Glass in window. Timetables in place. SNAs attend with children when possible.
Care of Children with special needs, including intimate care needs	Harm by school personnel Risk of harm to children with SEN who have particular vulnerabilities. Risk of harm to a child while a child is receiving intimate care.	All SNAs are Garda Vetted. Intimate Care Policy in place.
Toilet areas	Inappropriate behaviour	Policy on Protocols and Procedures Only one child should be permitted to leave the room at a time. In toilets in the new building, boys and girls should not be permitted to use the toilets at the same time. Pupils wishing to go to the toilet during break times will ask the on-duty teacher in the hi-vis vest for permission.
Curricular Provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay safe.	Non-teaching of same	School implements SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe in full.
Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils. School Teaching Hours: 9.20 -3.00	Harm from older pupils, unknown adults on the playground Although we have a security camera and bell, there is a risk at the front porch that another child	Parents are informed that they are responsible for their children until the school start time of 9:20. At home time all classes from Junior Infants – Second Class are supervised at the door to ensure they are collected by parent, guardian, childminder. Teachers must be informed in writing by parent/guardian if a child in

	may open the door and allow a visitor to enter.	<p>First/Second Class is allowed to walk home on their own.</p> <p>The school records pupils arriving late or leaving early on Aladdin. All children arriving late or leaving early leave through the main reception entrance, which has a security camera.</p> <p>All doors and gates are locked at 9.30, 2.15 and 3.15.</p> <p>Parents are not permitted to walk their child to classrooms.</p>
Managing of challenging behaviour amongst pupils, including appropriate use of restraint	Injury to pupils and staff	<p>Health & Safety Policy</p> <p>Code Of Behaviour</p> <p>School Contract for all students</p>
Sports Coaches	Harm to pupils	All Sports Coaches must be Garda Vetted.
<p>Recreation breaks for pupils.</p> <p>10:40 – 10:55</p> <p>11:05 – 11:20</p> <p>12:40 – 1:05</p> <p>1:15 – 1:40</p> <p>Indoor breaks during wet days.</p>	Harm by student or staff.	<p>The school has very well-supervised recreational periods. On a wet day, teachers on duty are assigned to supervise specific areas.</p> <p>All teachers are provided with a copy of yard duty rota.</p> <p>The school has secured gates.</p> <p>Children who are danger to other children are monitored individually by teachers. In some cases, an SNA is requested for the child.</p> <p>Policy on Protocols and Procedures.</p>

		<p>Four teachers will be on duty per break. There should always be one teacher on each area of the yard.</p> <p>Teachers on duty should (i) be on the yard as soon as pupils are on it (ii) ensure the whole yard is patrolled at all times and (iii) engage in active supervision, i.e., monitor pupils at all times.</p> <p>The Rota is in the staffroom on the staff notice board.</p>
Classroom teaching	Harm to pupils.	<p>All school personal are provided with a copy of the school's <i>Child Safeguarding Statement</i>.</p> <p>All teachers are Garda Vetted with the Teaching Council and work under the Code of Professional Standards as stated by the Teaching Council.</p> <p>The school complies with the agreed disciplinary procedures for teaching staff.</p> <p>The school encourages staff and BOM to avail of all relevant training.</p> <p>The school maintains records of all staff (files) and BOM member training (mins of BOM meeting).</p>
Outdoor teaching activities (P.E., Maths, History, Geography Trails, Gardening, Buddies, Golden Time)	<p>Harm to pupils</p> <p>Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children while attending out of outdoor teaching activities.</p>	<p>Children are in a confined area for outdoor teaching activities and are always supervised by the class teacher.</p> <p>If space is not confined, extra supervision is requested via the principal. In this case, SNA.s or Special Education Teachers (SET) may accompany teachers.</p>

Sporting Activities (G.A.A. training, rounders, athletics, swimming, basketball)	Harm to pupils Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children while attending out of school activities.	All teams are trained by teachers in our school. External coaches are Garda Vetted and always accompanied by a teacher.
Local School outings (Visits to the library, church, Pastoral Centre, park)	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children while attending out of school activities.	Children are supervised by class teacher and extra supervision is provided when necessary.
School Tours	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children while attending out of school activities.	School Tour Policy The Pupil-Teacher ratio on school tours is min 1:10
Use of off-site facilities for school activities (e.g., library, Dunshaughlin G.A.A. grounds, Pastoral Centre)	Harm to pupils	Children are always supervised by teachers.
School transport arrangements for school sporting events.	Harm to pupils	All teams travel by bus and are supervised by teachers.
Administration of Medicine Administration of First Aid	Harm to pupils.	Health and Safety Policy First Aid Policy Protocols and Procedures Policy Policy on Administration of Medication <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parents must request permission from BOM for medication to be administered. • Post holder has responsibility for First Aid products.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff are encouraged to participate in First Aid training when available. • First Aid room is available to pupils during recreation time and a qualified First Aid member of staff is available to assist.
Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst pupils.	Staff and children	Anti Bullying policy Health and Safety Policy
Use of external personnel to supplement curriculum. (Guest speakers, local community guard, demonstrations, drama groups, TY students on work experience, student teachers on Teaching practice, GAA coaching, drama teacher, SNAs on placement, substitute teachers, parent helpers)	Harm to pupils.	Class teachers are requested to stay with the class at all times during the lesson. Garda Vetting is in place. Health and Safety policy Child Protection Statement Visitor badges.
Care of pupils with specific vulnerabilities/needs such as <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pupils from ethnic minorities/migrants • Members of the Traveller community • Lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender (LGBT) children • Pupils perceived to be LGBT. • Pupils of minority religious faiths • Children in care 	Bullying	The school has an Anti-Bulling Policy. Code of Behaviour Policy Children are constantly reminded of our school rule as assembly, 'Respect yourself and others too'. St. Seachnall's NS is a Restorative Practice school.
Recruitment of school personnel including - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teachers • SNAs • Cleaners 	Harm not recognised or properly or promptly reported	<i>Child Safeguarding Statement</i> & DES procedures made available to all staff.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Caretaker/Secretary • 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. 		<p>Staff to view Tusla training module & any other online Training offered by PDST.</p> <p>Vetting Procedures</p> <p>Sign in book for all visitors.</p> <p>Health and Safety Policy (Policy on Control of Contractors)</p>
Use of Information and Communication Technology by pupils in school	Bullying	<p>Acceptable Use Policy</p> <p>Anti-Bullying Policy</p> <p>Code of Behaviour</p>
Application of sanctions under the school's Code of Behaviour including detention of pupils, confiscation of phones etc.	Harm to pupils	<p>Mobile Phone Policy in place.</p> <p>Code of Behaviour Policy in place.</p>
Students participating in work experience in the school.	Harm to pupils	<p>TY Policy in place.</p> <p>Students are under supervision by teachers at all times.</p> <p>All TY students must be 16 and have Garda Vetting in place.</p>
Student teachers undertaking training placement in school.	Harm to pupils	<p>Garda Vetting</p> <p>School policies are provided to all student teachers.</p> <p>Class teacher remains in the classroom at all times except in some cases when the inspector arrives.</p>
Use of video/photography/other media to record school events.	<p>Risk of harm caused by member of school personnel communicating with pupils in appropriate manner via social media, texting, digital device or other manner.</p> <p>Risk of harm caused by member of school personnel</p>	<p>AUP Policy in place.</p> <p>The school does not allow children to bring mobile phones or smart devices to school.</p>

	accessing/circulating inappropriate material via social media, texting, digital device or other manner.	
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Important Note: It should be noted that risk in the context of this risk assessment is the risk of “harm” as defined in the Children First Act 2015 and not general health and safety risk. The definition of harm is set out in Chapter 4 of the *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017*

In undertaking this risk assessment, the board of management has endeavoured to identify as far as possible the risks of harm that are relevant to this school and to ensure that adequate procedures are in place to manage all risks identified. While it is not possible to foresee and remove all risk of harm, the school has in place the procedures listed in this risk assessment to manage and reduce risk to the greatest possible extent.

This risk assessment has been completed by the Board of Management on 19th September 2023. It will be reviewed as part of the school’s annual review of its Child Safeguarding Statement.

Signed Sam Henry Date 19/9/23
Chairperson, Board of Management

Signed Ciara Walsh Date 19/9/23
Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management