

Child Safeguarding Statement

Francis Street CBS is a primary school providing primary education to pupils from Junior Infants to Sixth Class and two special classes.

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 Francis Street CBS 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 Conor Doyle _____
- 3 The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is Avril McClenahan. _____
- 4 The Relevant Person is Conor Doyle
(The relevant person is one who can provide information in respect of how the child safeguarding statement was developed and will be able to provide the statement on request. This person can also be the DLP)
- 5 The Board of Management recognises that child protection and welfare considerations permeate all aspects of school life and must be reflected in all of the school's policies, procedures, practices and activities. In its policies, procedures, practices and activities, the school will adhere to the following principles of best practice in child protection and welfare:

The school will:

- recognise that the protection and welfare of children is of paramount importance, regardless of all other considerations;
- fully comply with its statutory obligations under the Children First Act 2015 and other relevant legislation relating to the protection and welfare of children;
- fully 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](http://gov.ie) 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.

- 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 5/9/23


This Child Safeguarding Statement was reviewed by the Board of Management on _____ [most recent review date].



Signed:

Chairperson of Board of Management

Date: 5/9/23



Signed:

Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Date: 5/9/23

Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment

Written Assessment of Risk of Francis Street CBS

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 PostPrimary Schools (revised 2023)*, the following is the Written Risk Assessment of Francis Street CBS.

1. List of school activities	2. The school has identified the following risk of harm in respect of its activities –	3. The school has the following procedures in place to address the risks of harm identified in this assessment -
Training of school personnel in Child Protection matters	Harm not recognised or reported promptly	Child Safeguarding statement & DES procedures made available to all staff. DLP & DDLP to attend webinar on CP. BOM records all records of staff and board training <i>All staff</i> will complete the Tusla Training module this October to reinforce knowledge.
Recruitment of new staff	Harm not recognised or reported promptly	Child Safeguarding statement & DES procedures made available to all staff. DLP & DDLP to attend CP webinar Garda Vetting of all new staff. All staff to review Tusla training module. BOM records all records of staff and board training

One to one teaching	Harm to pupil, harm by school personnel	Always minimum two pupils in multi-sensory room <i>Teaching Policy</i> in place. Open door policy
Care of children with special needs, including intimate care needs	Harm to pupil	Identify children with intimate care needs Intimate Care Needs policy Parental consent required
Care of pupils with specific vulnerabilities such as - Pupils from ethnic minorities/migrants - Members of the traveller community - LGBT Children in care	Harm to pupils Bullying Non-acceptance within peer group Lack of understanding Isolation	Anti-Bullying policy Code of positive behaviour SPHE curriculum A Telling School
Use of ICT and technology by pupils	Inappropriate behaviour Harm to pupils	No mobile phones allowed in school. Teacher monitors the use of ICT. School to develop digital Learning plan
Toilet Areas	Inappropriate behaviour	Ideally children go to the toilet at yard time. Otherwise, children go one at a time to the toilet during teaching time. Teach the Stay Safe program
School Access	Harm to pupils Unknown people	An adult always manages the front door Sign in/out register in place Front door always locked after 09.10am Front door security lock and camera

Student use of mobile phones	Inappropriate behaviour Harm to pupils	No mobile phones allowed at school.
Administration of First Aid	Harm to pupils Lack of knowledge/skill	Certain staff members received First Aid training last year which included use of defibrillator, CPR and administer of Midazolam All staff aware of procedure re; head injuries Administer of Medicine policy
Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst pupils	Harm to pupils Inappropriate behaviour	Anti-Bullying policy Code of positive behaviour Holistic curriculum Telling School
Annual Sports day	Harm to pupils Inappropriate behaviour	Teacher and SNA/Resource teacher assigned to each class
Church Trips	Harm to pupils	Teacher and Staff remain with class Code of Positive Behaviour
Use of off-site facilities for school activities	Harm to pupils not recognised or reported properly	Teacher remains with class Garda vetting procedures in place
Daily Arrival and Dismissal of pupils	Harm to pupils Traffic on the street	Arrival & Dismissal procedures in place and communicated to families Health & Safety policy in place An adult always manages the front door Sign in/out register in place Any concern for child welfare at this time, refer to DLP

Outdoor teaching Activities	Outdoor teaching Activities	Ensure pupil ratio of 1-11 Bring extra support if needed. Code of positive behaviour Space and materials used deemed safe for class
School transport arrangements	Harm to pupils Harm not recognised or reported properly Bullying risk	Teachers and vetted parents only will travel Anti Bullying Policy

Sporting Activities/Matches	Harm to pupils Lack of proper supervision Visiting personnel from other schools not vetted	Ensure pupil ratio of 1-11 Bring extra support if needed. Encourage parental support Be alert to potential harm caused by other groups. Code of positive behavior
Play/Art Therapy/SCP	Harm to pupils	Therapist meets with parent prior to commencing the program with pupils. Parental consent is required.
Swimming lessons	Harm to pupils	Teacher remains with class Garda vetting procedures in place Qualified Coaches <i>Note; no swimming currently</i>
Sports Coaches	Harm to pupils	Teacher remains with class Garda vetting procedures in place

Educational Trips	Harm to pupils Could experience bullying	Code of positive behaviour Anti-Bullying policy <i>Teacher in charge of group</i>
Cycle training	Harm to pupils	Appropriate safety equipment Garda Vetting Teacher remains with class
Volunteers/Parents/Interns/Third Level Students on Placement/Work Experience Students	Harm to pupils	Garda vetting procedures Teacher/HSCL always present with class Parents that are consistently in the school must be Garda vetted. Child Safeguarding Statement in place
Use of video/photography/other media to record school events	Harm to pupils Lack of parental permission	Parental consent is required at the beginning of each year. List of children with/without consent available on aladdin. Teachers responsibility to maintain, address and be vigilant around.
Curricular provision in respect of SPHE, RSE and Stay Safe	Staff answering questions inappropriately	All classes cover SPHE, Stay Safe and RSE.

Managing of Challenging behaviour amongst pupils, including appropriate use of constraint	Harm to pupil and/or other pupils Harm when restraining	Health & Safety Policy Code of Behaviour Anti-bullying Policy ASD advisor from NCSE support with one day CPD
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		18 staff to attend CPI training
Recreation breaks for pupils	Harm to pupils, potential injury to pupils	Code of positive behaviour Anti-Bullying policy Teacher + 2 SNAs on yard

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 (revised 2023)*

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.

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. 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 (1) identify, as required under the Children First Act, 2015, any risks of harm that may exist in respect of the school’s activities, (2) identify and assess the

adequacy of the various procedures already in place to manage those risks of harm and (3) identify and put in place any such additional procedures as are considered necessary to manage any risk identified.

The Addendum to Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children 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.

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.

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 (revised 2023)*.