



**An Roinn Oideachais
agus Óige**
Department of Education
and Youth

Child Protection Safeguarding Booklet



Child Protection Safeguarding Booklet

The board of management should refer to Chapter 9 of the procedures when developing and reviewing the school's Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment.

The templates in this booklet are provided to support schools in keeping children safe by ensuring that essential steps are taken and necessary information is recorded.

The templates are available to download from www.gov.ie/childprotectionschools. Please check this website regularly to ensure that you are using the most up to date versions available.

Templates

The following templates must be used

- CSS 1** Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment
- CSS 2** Review of the Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment
- CSS 3** Notification Regarding the board of management's Review of the Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment

Schools must provide a student-friendly version of the child safeguarding statement so that children know what to do or who to speak to if they have a concern. Please refer to chapter 9 for details of what needs to be included. The templates below can be used and edited to suit the school context.

- CSS 4(a)** Student-Friendly Child Safeguarding Statement – Primary
- CSS 4(b)** Student-Friendly Child Safeguarding Statement – Post-Primary

Additional Supports

The supports listed below are designed to assist schools in the essential actions of developing a Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment, conducting their annual review, and retaining details of training. The material within these supports can be used and/or edited as required to suit the individual needs of the school.

- CSS 5** Student Review of the Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment
- CSS 6** Staff Review of the Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment
- CSS 7** Parent/Carer Review of the Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment
- CSS 8** Record of Child Protection Training

Adopting the School's Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment

When adopting the Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment, the board of management may use this list as a support in ensuring that all the necessary steps have been taken.

- ☒ Our school has used the templates provided on www.gov.ie/childprotectionschools to develop its Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment and its student-friendly version. These are now displayed in a prominent position near the main entrance of the school.
- ☒ Our school has consulted with school personnel, parents/carers and our children and young people when reviewing our Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment and its student-friendly version. We have retained a record of these consultations.
- ☒ Our school has informed the patron, school personnel, our parents' association, and our parents/carers that the review has been undertaken using the notification template provided by the department.
- ☒ Our school has published the Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment and notification of its review on our website or will be made available on request by the school.

CSS1

Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment

For:	St Peter's College	(School Name)
At:	Station Road, Dunboyne, Co. Meath	(School Address)

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):

Deirdre Maye

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

Leonora Acton

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

Name of Relevant Person

Deirdre Maye

(In schools this person is the DLP)

Relevant Person can be contacted on:

(01)8252552

Dmaye.spc@lmetb.ie

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:

Fiona Kindlon Director of Schools deputising for Martin O'Brien CE LMETB

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.	Daily arrival and dismissal of students	Risk of student being harmed by another student	Students can only come on site from 08:30 when there is supervision and must leave the premises promptly at the end of school
2.	Breaktimes for students	Risk of student being harmed by another student	School wide supervision during all breaktimes including monitoring of toilets. All staff regularly made aware of arrangements.
3.	Classroom teaching	Risk of harm by another student /teacher /non-school personnel (contract staff and members of public)	Code of Behaviour. Adequate supervision at all times. Teachers are appropriately qualified and fully aware of school procedures. Child Safeguarding statement.
4.	Online teaching and learning remotely	Risk of harm by student/teacher/non-school personnel (contract staff and members of public)	Acceptable Use Policy, Code of Behaviour, Consistent monitoring of security settings
5.	One-to-one teaching / learning support	Risk of harm by school personnel	One to One Policy for Counselling and Teaching
6.	One-to-one counselling	Risk of harm by school personnel	One to One Policy for Counselling and Teaching
7.	Outdoor teaching activities	Risk of harm by student/teacher/non-school personnel (contract staff and members of public)	Code of Behaviour. Adequate supervision at all times. Teachers are appropriately qualified and fully aware of school

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
			procedures. Child Safeguarding statement
8.	Sporting Activities	Risk of harm by student/teacher/non-school personnel (contract staff and members of public)	Extracurricular and Field Trips Policy, Code of Behaviour, Adequate supervision at all times. Teachers are appropriately qualified and fully aware of school procedures. Child Safeguarding statement
9.	School outings	Risk of harm by student/teacher/non-school personnel (contract staff and members of public)	Extracurricular and Field Trips Policy, Code of Behaviour, Adequate supervision at all times. Teachers are appropriately qualified and fully aware of school procedures. Child Safeguarding statement
10.	School trips involving overnight stay	Risk of harm by student/teacher/non-school personnel (contract staff and members of public)	Extracurricular and Field Trips Policy, Code of Behaviour, Adequate supervision at all times. Teachers are appropriately qualified and fully aware of school procedures. Child Safeguarding statement
11.	School trips involving foreign travel	Risk of harm by student/teacher/non-school personnel (contract staff and members of public)	Extracurricular and Field Trips Policy, Code of Behaviour, Adequate supervision at all times. Teachers are appropriately qualified and fully aware of school procedures. Child Safeguarding statement

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
12.	Use of toilet/changing/shower areas in schools	Risk of harm by student/teacher /non-school personnel (contract staff and members of public)	Code of Behaviour, Adequate supervision at all times. Teachers are appropriately qualified and fully aware of school procedures. Child Safeguarding statement. Students wear PE uniform to school and do not take showers on site.
13.	Annual Sports Day	Risk of harm by student/teacher	Code of Behaviour, Adequate supervision at all times. Teachers are appropriately qualified and fully aware of school procedures. Child Safeguarding statement.
14.	Fundraising events involving students	Risk of harm by student//non-school personnel (contract staff and members of public)	Code of Behaviour, Adequate supervision at all times.
15.	Use of off-site facilities for school activities	Risk of harm by student/teacher/non-school personnel (contract staff and members of public)	Risk Assessments, Extra-curricular and Field Trips Policy, Adequate Supervision
16.	School transport arrangements including use of bus escorts	Risk of harm by student/escort	Garda Vetting of all Staff, Code of Behaviour
17.	Care of children with special educational needs, including intimate care where needed	Risk of harm by school personnel	LMETB Intimate Care Policy

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
18.	Management of challenging behaviour amongst students, including appropriate use of restraint where required	Risk of harm by students/school personnel	Code of Behaviour, RELATE Training, NCSE Training
19.	Management of provision of food and drink	Risk of harm by non-school personnel (contract staff and members of public)	LMETB Garda Vetting of all ancillary service staff, Code of Behaviour
20.	Administration of Medicine	Risk of harm to self	Administration of Medicines Policy
21.	Administration of First Aid	Risk of harm by staff/students	First Aid Policy, Health and Safety Policy, First Aid Training provided
22.	Curricular provision in respect of SPHE and RSE.	Risk of harm by non teaching of these subjects	SPHE and RSE implemented across all years. Staff training provided. RSE Policy
23.	Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst students	Risk of harm by students/staff	Bí Cineálta Policy, Code of Behaviour, Themed Weeks, Child Safeguarding Statement
24.	Training of school personnel in child protection matters	Harm not recognised or reported promptly	Child Safeguarding Statement & Child Protection Procedures made available to all staff who sign to acknowledge receipt. DLP& DDLP and whole staff attended OIDE face to face training All Staff complete Túsla eLearning module and submit certificates

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
			BOM oversight of all staff and board training Annual Review of Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment and provide training to all staff regularly.
25.	Use of external personnel to supplement curriculum	Risk of harm by non-school personnel (contract staff and members of public)	All external speakers are approved by the Board of Management and are supervised by teachers when on site
26.	Use of external personnel to support sports and other extra-curricular activities	Risk of harm by non-school personnel (contract staff and members of public)	Any external personnel who will be regularly working with students must be LMETB Garda Vetted
27.	Care of pupils with specific vulnerabilities/ needs such as - 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 - Children on CPNS	Harm by students/teachers/ non-school personnel (contract staff and members of public)	Code of Behaviour, SEN Policy, Bí Cineálta Policy, Child Safeguarding Statement & school procedures made available to all staff
28.	Children with medical needs	Risk of harm by student	Medical Register, First Aid Policy, Health and Safety Policy, Administration of Medicines Policy, Student Support Team

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
29.	Recruitment of school personnel including - - Teachers/SNAs - Caretaker/Secretary/Cleaners - Sports coaches - External Tutors/Guest Speakers - Volunteers/Parents in school activities	Harm not recognised/properly or promptly reported	All school personnel are Garda vetted before commencement, LMETB Volunteer Work Experience Policy, external speakers approved by the BOM, Child Safeguarding Statement & DES procedures made available to all staff
30.	Visitors/contractors present in school during school hours	Harm by non school personnel	All visitors/contractors must sign in at main office and are supervised on the corridors. Regular contracted staff – cleaners and canteen must be LMETB vetted.
31.	Visitors/contractors present during after school activities	Harm by non school personnel	All visitors/contractors must sign in at main office and are supervised on the corridors
32.	Use of Information and Communication Technology by pupils in school including social media	Harm by self or by student	Adequate supervision, Acceptable Use Policy, Code of Behaviour, Bí Cineálta Policy, No
33.	Application of sanctions under the school's Code of Behaviour including detention of pupils and confiscation of phones.	Risk of harm by staff	Code of Behaviour, Acceptable Use Policy, Compass Parent/School communication
34.	Student teachers undertaking training placement in school	Risk of harm by student teacher if not fully briefed on school systems	Student Teachers Garda Vetted through colleges, Volunteering Work Experience Policy, Induction process

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
35.	Use of video/photography/other media to record school events	Risk of harm by another student	Acceptable Use Policy, Code of Behaviour, Parental sign off in homework journal
36.	Supervised study	Risk of harm by student/staff	Code of Behaviour, Child Safeguarding Statement & DES procedures made available to all staff

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

- Risk of harm not being recognised by school personnel
- Risk of harm not being reported properly and promptly by members of school personnel
- Risk of harm where members of school personnel have not received appropriate training
- Risk of child being harmed in the school by a member of school personnel
- Risk of child being harmed in the school by another child
- Risk of child being harmed in the school by a volunteer or visitor to the school

- 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
- 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
- Risk of harm due to bullying of a child
- Risk of harm due to racism
- Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children in school
- Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children while attending out-of-school activities
- Risk of harm due to inappropriate relationship/communications between a child and another child or adult
- Risk of harm due to children inappropriately accessing/using computers, social media, phones and other devices while at school
- Risk of harm to children with special educational needs who have particular vulnerabilities, including medical vulnerabilities
- Risk of harm to child while a child is receiving intimate care
- Risk of harm due to inadequate code of behaviour
- Risk of harm in one-to-one teaching, counselling, coaching situations
- 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
- Risk of harm caused by a member of school personnel accessing/circulating inappropriate material via social media, texting, digital device or other manner
- 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

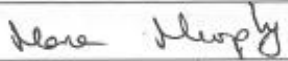
Child Protection Statement and Risk Assessment

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 15th June 2026 (*most recent review date*)

Signed:*		Date: 15 th June 2026
Chairperson of the board of management		
Signed:*		Date: 15 th June 2026
Principal/Secretary to the board of management		

This Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment is expected to be reviewed again on 21th June 2027 (*expected review date*)

* Document to be printed and signed with original signatures

Appendix 1 - 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.

Soft copies of the Child Protection Procedure and Children First Guidance are available via the links below and in the Staff Meetings Team

www.gov.ie/childprotectionschools
[Children First National Guidance 2017.pdf](#),

Hard copies of the Child Protection Procedures and Children First Guidance are available in the Staff Room, Work Room and at the main office.

Appendix 2 – Protocol authorising immediate action

Schools Under the Patronage of an ETB In the context of these procedures, where circumstances warrant it, as an essential precautionary measure in order to protect the children in the school, the school principal, having consulted with the employer ETB in relation to the given circumstances, will be authorised to direct an employee to immediately absent himself or herself from the school without loss of pay until the matter has been considered by the employer. It is very important to note that this action under the protocol is intended to be precautionary and not disciplinary.

The action under this protocol is an interim measure pending the employer's further consideration of the matter. The employee will be invited to a meeting with the principal, the purpose of which is to inform the employee of the allegation and the action being taken. The employee may be accompanied by an appropriate person of their choice and will be so advised. In any event, the employee will also be advised of the matter, in writing. The principal shall make a record of the meeting which shall be retained on the relevant case file.

CSS 2

Review of the Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment

The Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025 require that the board of management must undertake a review of its Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment. The following template must be used for this purpose. The review must be completed every calendar year or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which the Child Safeguarding Statement refers. Undertaking an annual review will ensure that a school

also meets its statutory obligation under section 11(8) of the Children First Act 2015, to review its Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment every two years.

As part of the overall review process, boards of management should also assess relevant school policies, procedures, practices and activities and their adherence to the principles of best practice in child protection and welfare as set out in the school's Child Safeguarding Statement, the Children First Act 2015 and Children First National Guidance 2017, the Addendum to Children First (2019) and 2025, Children First National Guidance 2017, the Addendum to Children First (2019) and (2025), and the Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025.

Designated Liaison Person

Name:	Deirdre Maye
Date Appointed:	4 th September 2018

Relevant Person

(In schools this is the DLP)

Name:	Deirdre Maye
Contact details:	01 8252552 dmaye.spc@lmetb.ie
Date Appointed:	4 th September 2018

Deputy Designated Liaison Person

Name:	Leonora Acton
Date Appointed:	23 rd January 2019

Contact details for Tusla

Contact Name

Duty Social Worker

Address

Tusla – Meath Dedicated Contact Point
Meath Enterprise Centre
Trim Road
Navan
Co. Meath
C15 FV1C

Contact Number

046 303 8560

Contact details for An Garda Síochána

Contact Name

Ashbourne Garda Station

Address

Frederick Street,
Killegland,
Ashbourne,
Co. Meath

Contact Number

01 8010600

Checklist for review of the Child Safeguarding Statement

1. When did the board first formally adopt a Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment in accordance with the Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025? For most schools this will be March 2018, as outlined in Section 9.9 of the procedures.

Date first Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment adopted by the school:

5th March 2018

- 2(a) Where is the Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment displayed in the school? For example, in a prominent place near the main entrance to the school.

At main reception

- (b) Is there a student-friendly version, with a photograph of the Designated Liaison Person, displayed beside the Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment?

☒ Yes

- (c) Other than displaying in a prominent place near the main entrance to the school, how have students been made aware of the student-friendly version?

☒ Displayed at all student entrances

☐ On school website

☐ School journal

☒ Other: (please state)

On notice boards

3. Has the board used the most recent Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment Template and formally adopted, without modification, the Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025?

☒ Yes

What is the date of the previous review of the Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment?

Date: 8th September 2025

4. Has the Board included a written assessment of risk as required under the Children First Act 2015? (This includes considering the specific issue of online safety as required by the Addendum to Children First (2019)?)

☒ Yes

5. Is there a written protocol in place authorising immediate action for cases which require an employee to be immediately absented from school for child safeguarding reasons in line with Appendix C of the Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025?

☒ Yes

6. Has the Board reviewed and updated the written assessment of risk as part of this overall review (for example, to include shower facilities, changing rooms, swimming, online engagements to facilitate learning). Boards should refer to the Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment Template for examples.

☒ Yes

Date of this review: 15th June 2026

7. How has the Board ensured that the Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment is provided to the patron, the parents' association and all parents of children in the school? Give dates of emails/letters/texts/links provided.

Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment following BOM meeting 15th June 2026

- Email to Director of Schools 19th June 2026
- Email to Parents Association 19th June 2026
- Compass Notice to entire school community 19th June 2026

8. How has the Board sought the feedback of parents, students and school personnel (teaching and non-teaching) on the Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment?

Has the school engaged with each of the above through, for example, a meeting or survey. The support documents CSS 5, CSS 6 and CSS 7 can be used to support this engagement. Details of how feedback was sought should be outlined below.

(a) Parents

Compass Alert and Email to Parent 4th June 2026
Parents Association meeting 9th June 2026

(b) Students

Meeting with Student Council 7th May 2026
Posters around school campus from August 2026
Ceannairí make presentation at first annual assembly from August 2026

(c) School Personnel

Whole School Training 10th December 2025
Staff Meeting 12th May 2026
Presentation at Start Up meeting Sept 2026

9. Outline any aspects of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment and/or its implementation that require further improvement, including any complaints or suggestions for improvements, which the Board has identified:

None

10. Outline details of how areas for improvement have been adequately addressed including whether an action plan with appropriate timelines has been put in place:

None

11. Has the template for Notification regarding the board of management's review of the Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment been used to inform the school community and relevant parties that they have fulfilled their statutory obligation to annually review the school's Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment?

☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A

Training

12. Give details of when the DLP and DDLP most recently attended child protection training for DLP/DDLPs:

DLP: Deirdre Maye	Date: 24 th September 2025
DDLP: Leonora Acton	Date: 24 th September 2025

13. Give details of child protection training attended by any members of the Board and dates attended:

Oide Whole School Child Protection Training 10th Dec 2025

James Forrest & Samantha Woolhead

ETBI Child Protection Training Webinar 15th April 2026

Olivia Barrett, Caroline O'Reilly, Niall Kelly

14. How has the Board ensured that all school personnel (including new school personnel, temporary staff and substitutes) have been made aware of their responsibilities under the Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025 and the Children First Act 2015? For example, completing e-learning or other training, use of department's supports for school personnel when reviewing the Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment, induction/mentoring system for new personnel, or other measures. How are records of the training completed maintained by the school?

All new members of staff must complete the TUSLA ELearning Course

At induction for all new staff.

Register of certificates for TUSLA ELearning Course

Child Protection Oversight Report (CPOR)

15. Has the Board received a Principal's Child Protection Oversight Report (CPOR) at every ordinary meeting of the Board held since the last review of the Child Safeguarding Statement was undertaken which contains all the information required under each of the four headings set out in Section 12.3 of the Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025?

☒ Yes ☐ No

16. Since the Board's last review of the Child Safeguarding Statement, if there have been cases presented for oversight as part of the CPOR, has the Board been provided with and reviewed all records relevant to the CPOR?

☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A

17. Have these cases been anonymised and redacted as necessary?

☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A

18. Since the Board's last review Child Safeguarding Statement, if there have been cases presented for oversight as part of the CPOR, do the minutes of the board meeting:

(a) specify the anonymised documents provided to the board as part of the CPOR

☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A

(b) use unique codes to record child protection matters?

☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A

19. The board has undertaken the review of the Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment and has issued/published notification confirming same.

☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A

Reporting

20. Where are all records relating to child protection filed and stored in a secure manner? For example, stored securely in the principal's office in such a manner as only the DLP and DDLP and the CE of LMETB or delegate when acting as DLP will have access to these records.

In a locked filing cabinet in Principals office

21. How does the Board ensure that child protection procedures in relation to reporting to Tusla/An Garda Síochána are followed in full? The Board should indicate that the DLP follows the procedures outlined in the Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025 for reporting of all child protection concerns.

The Board requests the Principal to confirm that all procedures outlined in the Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025 for reporting of all child protection concerns are followed.

Curriculum

22. The Board should outline the steps it has taken to ensure that the SPHE, RSE, and Wellbeing curriculum is appropriately planned for and delivered to the children and young people in the school.

The Principal confirms with the Board during the review of the Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment that SPHE, RSE and Wellbeing Curriculum is appropriately timetabled and delivered to the students in the school.

The RSE Policy was reviewed on 20th April 2026.

For primary schools, it should confirm that:

- Aspects of all three strands (SPHE, RSE, Wellbeing) are covered each year.
- The Stay Safe programme is taught in its entirety in one year – at least once during infants, 1st/2nd class, 3rd/4th class, and 5th/6th class. Schools will be informed if, in the future, the Department approves an alternative or replacement to the Stay Safe Programme.
- The school plan outlines provision for RSE across each of the different class levels/stages.
- The date of the most recent policy review or curricular implementation is noted.

For post-primary schools, it should confirm that:

- The Wellbeing Programme for Junior Cycle is being implemented.
- RSE and SPHE are being appropriately delivered.
- The date of the most recent policy review or curricular implementation is noted.

Vetting and Recruitment

The board should be satisfied that procedures to ensure that all statutory requirements in relation to vetting, statutory declarations and forms of undertaking are met. The board should refer to the school's recruitment procedures about how references of all school personnel are checked and how vetting outcomes are managed before appointment or work in the school is undertaken. Schools under the aegis of Education and Training Boards (ETB) should outline how they adhere to ETB recruitment processes.

If joint agreements are used for the visiting coaches or for school placement students, this should be included. If the school is part of teacher sharing arrangements (see section 10.2 of the procedures), the vetting oversight actions taken should be included.

23. The Board should indicate how it is satisfied that:

- (a) the statutory requirements for Garda Vetting are met.

No person can commence employment in St Peter's College without a confirmation email from the vetting section of LMETB.

No teacher can commence employment without showing their Teaching Council Vetting Disclosure.

This includes contract staff who are on site when students are on site.

- (b) the department's requirements in relation to the provision of a child protection related statutory declaration and associated form of undertaking are met.

These documents are collected by LMETB head office in advance of commencement.

- (c) thorough recruitment and selection procedures are applied by the school in relation to all school personnel (employees and volunteers).

All teachers must have an in date teaching council registration number.

Statement by the Board

The Board should make an overall statement as to its satisfaction that the Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment and child protection procedures are being fully and adequately implemented by the school.

St Peter's College Board of Management is satisfied that the Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment and Child Protection Procedures are being fully and adequately implemented by the school.

Signed:*		Date: 15 th June 2028
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Chairperson of the board of management

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

Notification Regarding the Board of Management's Review of the Child

Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment

This template must be used by the board of management to inform the school community and relevant parties that they have fulfilled their statutory obligation to annually review the school's Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment.

To: Students, Parents/Guardians and School Staff (Teachers, SNAs, Administration and Maintenance) and LMETB and the Bishop of Meath

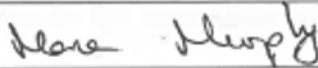
The board of management of:

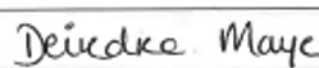
St Peter's College, Dunboyne, Co. Meath

wishes to inform you that:

- (a) The board of management's annual review of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement was completed at the Board meeting of 15th June 2026 (date).

- (b) This review was conducted in accordance with the board of management's review of the Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment published on www.gov.ie/childprotectionschools.

Signed:*		Date: 15 th June 2026
<i>Chairperson of the board of management</i>		

Signed:*		Date: 15 th June 2026
<i>Principal/Secretary to the board of management</i>		

* Document to be printed and signed with original signatures



Child Safeguarding in our school



Child safeguarding is what we do in our school to keep children and young people safe from harm.

We think about how to keep everyone safe and we write down how we will do that.

This is called our Child Safeguarding Statement. We check this every year. When we do this we will ask you what you think about safeguarding in our school. It is important that you feel safe at school and in your life outside of school too.

If someone says or does something to hurt you or makes you feel uncomfortable, you can tell an adult that you trust.



Who to go to:

Any trusted adult For example, your Ceannaire or Tutor, a teacher, SNA, the Principal or Deputy

What we will do:

-  Listen and understand
-  Guide or look for help

Ms.Maye

DMaye.SPC@lmetb.ie



Every school has a person in charge of child safeguarding. This person is called the Designated Liaison Person or DLP. The DLP for our school is Ms.Maye





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If someone says or does something to hurt you or makes you feel uncomfortable, you can tell an adult that you trust.

Who to go to:

☒ **Any trusted adult**

For example, your Year Head or Tutor, a teacher, SNA, the Principal or Deputy

What we will do:

- ☒ Listen and understand
- ☒ Guide or look for help

Every school has a person in charge of child safeguarding. This person is called the **Designated Liaison Person or DLP**. The DLP for our school is



Insert **name** and **photo** of the Designated Liaison Person. Display this poster, with the child safeguarding statement, at an **appropriate height** for students to view. It is open to schools to print on plain white or coloured paper, on either an A3 or A4 sized page and to translate to the home languages of the students.

