



Presentation Boarding School, Thurles

Child Safeguarding Statement

Presentation Boarding School, Thurles is a Boarding School, providing boarding facilities for pupils (First Year to Leaving Certificate Year) attending **Presentation Secondary School, Thurles**.

In accordance with the requirements of the [Children First Act 2015](#), [Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children 2017](#), the [Addendum to Children First \(2019\)](#), the [Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools 2017](#), the [Child Protection and Safeguarding Procedures for Boarding Facilities associated with Recognised Schools 2023](#) and [Tusla Guidance on the preparation of Child Safeguarding Statements](#), the Board of Management of **Presentation Boarding School, Thurles** has agreed the Child Safeguarding Statement set out in this document.

The Board of Management of **Presentation Boarding School, Thurles** has adopted and will implement fully and without modification the Department's *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools 2017* and the *Child Protection and Safeguarding Procedures for Boarding Facilities associated with Recognised Schools 2023* as part of this overall Child Safeguarding Statement.

- 1 The Designated Liaison Person (DLP) is **Aisling Kiely** **085 8062947**
- 2 The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is **Marie Byrne** **085 8062947**
- 3 The Relevant Person is **Marie Collins**
(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)
- 4 The Board of Management of Presentation Boarding School recognises that child protection and welfare considerations permeate all aspects of school and boarding school life and must be reflected in all of the Boarding School's policies, procedures, practices and activities. In its policies, procedures, practices and activities, the board of management will adhere to the following principles of best practice in child protection and welfare:

The Board of Management 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 and care of their children; and
- fully respect confidentiality requirements in dealing with child protection matters.

The boarding facility will also adhere to the above principles in relation to any adult pupil with a special vulnerability.

5 The following procedures/measures are in place:

- In relation to any member of staff who is the subject of any investigation (howsoever described) in respect of any act, omission or circumstance in respect of a child attending the boarding facility, the board of management adheres to the relevant procedures set out in Chapter 7 of the *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017*, the relevant procedures set out in the *Child Protection and Safeguarding Procedures for Boarding Facilities associated with Recognised Schools 2023* and to the relevant agreed disciplinary procedures for boarding school staff which are published on the DE website.
- In relation to the selection or recruitment of staff and their suitability to work with children, the board of management adheres to the statutory vetting requirements of the [National Vetting Bureau \(Children and Vulnerable Persons\) Acts 2012 to 2016](#) and to the wider duty of care guidance set out in relevant Garda vetting and recruitment circulars published by the Department of Education and available on the DE website.
- In relation to the provision of information and, where necessary, instruction and training, to staff in respect of the identification of the occurrence of harm (as defined in the 2015 Act) the board of management -
 - Has provided each member of staff with a copy of the boarding facility's Child Safeguarding Statement
 - Ensures all new staff are provided with a copy of the boarding facility'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 boarding facility personnel are required to adhere to the procedures set out in the *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017* and the *Child Protection and Safeguarding Procedures for Boarding Facilities associated with Recognised Schools 2023* including, in the case of registered teachers and any boarding facility staff who are mandated persons, those in relation to mandated reporting under the Children First Act 2015.
- There is a procedure in place for maintaining a list of mandated persons. All registered teachers employed by the school/management authority 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 boarding facility or participating in boarding facility activities. A written assessment setting out the areas of risk identified and the boarding facility'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/boarding facility's website, the DE website or will be made available on request by the school/boarding facility.

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 boarding facility in question.

- 6 This statement has been published on the school/boarding facility's website and has been provided to all members of boarding facility personnel, the Parents' Association (if any) and the patron. It is readily accessible to parents and guardians on request. A copy of this Statement will be made available to Tusla and the Department if requested.
- 7 This Child Safeguarding Statement will be reviewed annually or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which this statement refers.

This Child Safeguarding Statement was adopted by the Board of Management on **9th May 2023**

This Child Safeguarding Statement was reviewed by the Board of Management on **9th May 2023**

Signed: Marie Collins
Chairperson, Board of Management

Signed: Margaret Skehan
Secretary, Board of Management

Date: 9th May 2023

Date: 9th May 2023

For information in respect of how the child safeguarding statement was developed or to request a copy of the statement, please contact the relevant person noted at the beginning of this child safeguarding statement

email: info@presboardingthurles.ie

Reviewed: May 2024

Reviewed: May 2025

Reviewed June 2026



Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment

Written Assessment of Risk of **Presentation Boarding School, Thurles.**

In accordance with section 11 of the Children First Act 2015 and with the requirements of Chapter 8 of the *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017* and the *Child Protection and Safeguarding Procedures for Boarding Facilities associated with Recognised Schools 2023*, the following is the Written Risk Assessment of **Presentation Boarding School Thurles.**

1. List of Boarding Facility activities

- Accommodation arrangements
- Management and monitoring at meal times
- Morning routine- wake – up call/Breakfast / Preparation for school day
- Recreation
- Travel to Day School
- Morning/Evening Study
- Use of Toilet / Shower/ Changing Areas in Boarding School
- Management and Administration of Medicine
- Administration of First Aid
- Recreation breaks for boarders.
- One-to-one meeting with a tutor
- One-to one meetings with Management / Staff
- One-to-one counselling or mentoring
- Extra-curricular Activities
- Boarding School outings
- Hosting Exchange students
- Use of off-site facilities for Boarding School activities
- Boarding School transport arrangements
- Care of children with special educational needs
- Management of challenging behaviour amongst boarders
- Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst students.
- Training of Boarding School personnel in child protection matters
- Use of external personnel to support sports and other extra-curricular activities
- Care of pupils with specific vulnerabilities/ needs such as:
 - Pupils from ethnic minorities/migrants
 - Lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender (LGBT) children
 - Pupils perceived to be LGBT
 - Pupils of minority religious faiths
 - Children in care
 - Children on CPNS
 - Children with medical needs

- Recruitment of Boarding School personnel including -
 - Managers/ Supervisors/ Night Staff /Caretaker/Secretary/Cleaners/Kitchen Staff/Security
 - Sports coaches
 - External Tutors/Guest Speakers
- Volunteers/Parents in school activities
- Visitors/contractors present in Boarding School during/after school day
- Participation by pupils in religious ceremonies/religious instruction
- Use of Information and Communication Technology by pupils in Boarding School
- Application of sanctions under the Boarding School's Code of Behaviour including detention of pupils, confiscation of phones etc.
- Students from the Boarding School participating in work experience elsewhere.
- Use of video/photography/other media to record school events
- Management of children and young people as they live away from home
- Induction of new boarders
- Children and young people going to accommodation other than their own home at weekends
- Management of mobile phones, photography and recording
- Evening activities and supervision at night
- Evacuation/fire drills outside of school hours
- Managing visits of parents, guardians or agents with boarders
- Escorting and/or transporting individual boarders

2. The Boarding School has identified the following risk of harm in respect of its activities

- Risk of harm not being recognised by Boarding School personnel.
- Risk of harm not being reported properly and promptly by Boarding School personnel.
- Risk of child being harmed in the Boarding School by a member of Boarding School personnel.
- Risk of child being harmed in the Boarding School by another child.
- Risk of child being harmed in the Boarding School by volunteer or visitor to the Boarding school
- Risk of child being harmed by a member of Boarding school personnel, a member of staff of another organisation or other person while child participating in out of Boarding school activities e.g. swimming lessons
- Risk of harm due to bullying of child
- Risk of harm due to racism
- Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children in Boarding School
- Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children while attending out of Boarding School activities
- Risk of harm due to inappropriate relationship/communications between child and another child or adult
- Risk of harm due to children inappropriately accessing/using computers, social media, phones and other devices while at Boarding School
- Risk of harm to children with SEN who have 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 situation
- Risk of harm caused by member of Boarding School personnel communicating with pupils in appropriate manner via social media, texting, digital device or other manner
- Risk of harm caused by member of Boarding School personnel accessing/circulating inappropriate material via social media, texting, digital device or other manner

3. The Boarding School has the following procedures in place to address the risks of harm identified in this assessment

- All Boarding School personnel are provided with a copy of the Boarding School's Child Safeguarding Statement.
- The Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017 and the Child Protection and Safeguarding Procedures for Boarding Facilities associated with Recognised Schools 2023 are made available to all Boarding school personnel.
- Boarding School Personnel are required to adhere to the Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017 and the Child Protection and Safeguarding Procedures for Boarding Facilities associated with Recognised Schools 2023 and all registered teaching staff are required to adhere to the Children First Act 2015 and its Addendum 2019.
- The Boarding School has an Anti-Bullying Policy which fully adheres to the requirements of the Department's Anti-Bullying Procedures for Post-Primary Schools.
- The Boarding School has a supervision policy to ensure appropriate supervision of students during meal times, study, recreation, bedtime and in respect of specific areas such as toilets, dorms, showers, grounds.
- The Boarding School has in place a policy and clear procedures in respect of Boarding School outings.
- The Boarding School has a Health and Safety policy.
- The Boarding School adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation and relevant DES circulars in relation to recruitment and Garda vetting
- The Boarding School has a Code of conduct for Boarding School personnel
- The Boarding School complies with the agreed disciplinary procedures for Boarding School Staff
- The Boarding School has an nursing plan in respect of students who require such care
- The Boarding School has in place a policy and procedures for the administration of medication to pupils
- The Boarding school –
- *Has provided each member of Boarding School staff with a copy of the Boarding School's Child Safeguarding Statement*
- *Ensures all new staff are provided with a copy of the Boarding School's Child Safeguarding Statement*
- *Encourages staff to avail of relevant training*
- *Encourages Board of Management members to avail of relevant training*
- *Maintains records of all staff and board member training*

- The Boarding School has in place a policy and procedures for the administration of First Aid
- The Boarding School has in place a code of behaviour for students
- The Boarding School has in place an Acceptable Use Policy, to include provision for online teaching and learning remotely, and has communicated this policy to parents
- The Boarding School has in place a mobile phone policy in respect of usage of mobile phones by pupils
- The Boarding School has in place a Critical Incident Management Plan
- The Boarding School has in place a policy and procedures for the use of external sports coaches
- The Boarding school has in place a policy and clear procedures for one-to-one teaching activities
- The Boarding School has in place a policy and procedures for one-to-one counselling
- The Boarding School has in place a policy and procedures for one-to-one meetings
- The Boarding School has in place a policy and procedures in respect of pupils of the Boarding school undertaking work experience in external organisations
- The Boarding School has in place a Data Protection Policy.

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 boarding facility 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 boarding facility has in place the procedures listed in this risk assessment to manage and reduce risk to the greatest possible extent.

The risk assessment and the procedures in place to manage and reduce risk to the greatest possible extent shall be reviewed as part of the school's annual review of its Child Safeguarding Statement. The statement shall also be reviewed as soon as possible after there has been a material change in any matter to which this statement refers.

This risk assessment has been completed by the Board of Management on **9th May 2023**. It shall be reviewed as part of the school's annual review of its Child Safeguarding Statement.

Signed : Marie Collins
Chairperson, Board of Management
Presentation Boarding School

Date: 9th May 2023

Signed : Margaret Skahan
Secretary, Board of Management
Presentation Boarding School

Date: 9th May 2023

Reviewed: May 2024

Reviewed: May 2025

Reviewed June 2026