



**Child Safeguarding
Statement & Risk
Assessment
for
St. Fergal's N.S.**

Roll No: 17297U

Principal: Kieran McCarthy

Chairperson: Karen O'Shea

Child Safeguarding Statement

St. Fergal's N.S. is a primary school providing primary education to pupils from Junior Infants to Sixth Class including 2 special classrooms for pupils with ASD.

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. Fergal'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 **Kieran McCarthy**
- 3 The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is **Aoife Everard**
- 4 The Relevant Person is **Kieran McCarthy**.
- 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.

- In this school the Board has appointed the above named DLP as the “relevant person” (as defined in the Children First Act 2015) to be the first point of contact in respect of the child safeguarding statement.
- All registered teachers employed by the school are mandated persons under the Children First Act 2015.
- In accordance with the Children First Act 2015 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 09/02/2026

Signed: *Karen O’Shea*
Chairperson of Board of Management

Signed: *Kieran McCarthy*
Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Date: 9/2/2026

Date: 9/02/2026

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Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment

Written Assessment of Risk of St. Fergal's National School

In accordance with section 11 of the Children First Act 2015 and with the requirement of Chapter 8 of the *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017*, the following is the Written Risk Assessment of St. Fergal's National School.

| 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 - |
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| <p>1. Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils</p> <p>2. Recreation breaks for pupils</p> <p>3. Classroom teaching</p> <p>4. One to one teaching</p> | <p>1. Risk of harm from other pupils or unknown adults (Risk level low)</p> <p>2. Risk of harm to students by visitors during recreation time (Risk level low)</p> <p>3. Risk of child being harmed by school personnel (Risk level low)</p> <p>4. Risk of harm to children with SEN who have particular vulnerabilities (Risk level high)</p> | <p>1. Arrival and dismissal supervised by school staff.</p> <p>2. The school has a Supervision and a Yard Duty policy to ensure appropriate supervision of children during assembly, dismissal and breaks.</p> <p>3. The school adheres to the requirement of the Garda vetting legislation and relevant DES circulars in relation to recruitment and Garda vetting.</p> <p>4. The school has a Special Education Teaching Policy.</p> |

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| <p>5. Recruitment of school personnel including</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teachers/SNAs • Caretaker /Secretary • Sports Coaches • External tutors /guest speakers • Volunteers/parents in school activities • Visitors /contractors present in school during school hours | <p>5.Risk of harm not being recognised and reported promptly and properly by school personnel(Risk level high)</p> | <p>5. The school-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has provided each member of the school staff with a copy of the school’s Child Safeguarding Statement and completes relevant training. • Ensures all new staff are provided with a copy of the school’s Child Safeguarding Statement • Encourages staff to avail of relevant training • Maintains records of all staff training. • The Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment Statement are displayed in a prominent position outside the main Office. • The class teacher remains in the classroom at all times in during any visits from guest speakers. |
| <p>6. Use of off-site facilities for school activities</p> | <p>6.Risk of child being harmed by a member of school personnel, a member of staff of another organisation or other person while child is participating in out of school activities.(Risk level high)</p> | <p>6.The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation .Parents /guardians are asked to be present 10 minutes before after school coaching is due to finish to ensure that any teacher is not left with any pupil on his/ her own. Two teachers are required to be present at all after school activities.</p> |
| <p>7. Care of children with special educational</p> | <p>7. Risk of harm to child while a child is receiving intimate care.(Risk level high)</p> | <p>7. The school has an Intimate Care Policy in respect of students who require such care.</p> |

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| <p>needs including intimate care where needed.</p> <p>8. Administration of Medication.</p> <p>9. Curricular provision in respect of SPHE, RSE and Stay Safe.</p> <p>10. Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst pupils.</p> <p>11. Use of external personnel to support sports and other extra – curricular activities (choir/trad band).</p> <p>12. Participation by pupils in religious ceremonies external to the school.</p> | <p>8. Risk of child being harmed by school personnel (Risk level high)</p> <p>9. Risk of harm as a result of non- teaching of SPHE, RSE and Stay Safe .(Risk level low)</p> <p>10. Risk of harm due to bullying of a child . (Risk level high)</p> <p>11. Risk of harm to pupils (Risk level high)</p> <p>12. Risk of child being harmed by a member of staff of another organisation and by</p> | <p>8. The school has in place a policy and procedures for the administration of medication to pupils.</p> <p>9. The school implements in full, the SPHE, Stay Safe and RSE Programme, and an annual Register of Compliance on completion of these programmes is collected by the Principal.</p> <p>10. The school has an Anti- Bullying Policy which fully adheres to the requirements of the Department’s <i>Anti- Bullying Procedures for Primary and Post –Primary Schools</i>.</p> <p>11. The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation. The class teacher will be present at all sport and extra curricular activities.</p> <p>12. The school adheres to its Supervision Policy and all personnel involved in the ceremonies are Garda Vetted.</p> |
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| <p>13. Use of Information and Communication Technology by school personnel.</p> | <p>inadequate supervision by school personnel during the practices and ceremonies (Risk level medium)</p> <p>13. Risk of harm caused by member of school personnel communicating with pupils in and inappropriate manner via social media, texting digital device or other manner. (Risk level high)</p> | <p>13. School personnel are not permitted to use their mobile phones throughout the school day. All photographs of children are taken using the school mobile phone.</p> |
| <p>14. Use of information and communication technology by pupils in school including mobile phones and iPad.</p> | <p>14. Risk of harm due to children inappropriately accessing /using computers, social media, phones and other devices while at school. (Risk level high)</p> | <p>14. The school has in place an ICT policy in respect of usage of ICT by pupils.</p> |
| <p>15. Student teachers undertaking training placement in the school.</p> | <p>15. Risk of child being harmed in the school by training college personnel. (Risk level medium)</p> | <p>15. All student teachers are provided with a copy of the school's <i>Child Safeguarding Statement</i>. All student teachers are Garda vetted through their respective training colleges. The class teacher remains in the classroom with the trainee teacher at all times.</p> |
| <p>16. Students participating in work experience in the school.</p> | <p>16. Risk of child being harmed in the school by a student on work experience. (Risk level high)</p> | <p>16. All students who undertake work experience are required to be Garda vetted before their work experience commences. The school has a policy in place for students which they are given prior to commencing work experience.</p> |

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| <p>17. Visitors present in the school during school hours.</p> | <p>17. Risk of child being harmed in the school by a visitor. (Risk level medium)</p> | <p>17. All visitors are required to use the buzzer at the front door in order to access the school building. There is adequate signage to alert any intending visitors to this fact. Where ever possible all work is to be carried out outside of school hours and on school holidays.</p> |
| <p>18. Students participating in swimming classes.</p> | <p>18. Harm by school and external personnel. (Risk level high)</p> | <p>18. Parents wishing to assist their own child with dressing may do so only in an individual changing room. All instructors are to be Garda vetted.</p> |
| <p>19. On-line teaching and learning</p> | <p>19. Risk of harm due to inappropriate use of online, remote teaching and learning communication platform (Risk level high)</p> | <p>19. The school has an acceptable use policy in place to include provision for online teaching and learning remotely.</p> |
| <p>20. Online teaching and learning remotely</p> | <p>20. Risk of harm due to inappropriate use of online remote teaching and learning communication platform such as an invited person accessing the lesson link, students being left unsupervised for long periods of time in break out rooms. (Risk level high)</p> | <p>20. 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.</p> |

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| 21. Erasmus+ Mobilities | 21. Risk of harm corresponding to Points 5, 6, 10, 11, 12, 14 & 18 outlined above | 21. The school's policies outlined at the points above will be followed on Erasmus+ mobilities including but not exclusive to Child Protection Policy and Procedures and our Bí Cinealta Policy. On Erasmus+ mobilities teacher/pupil ratio will not fall below 6:1. |
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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 09/02/2026. It shall be reviewed as part of the school's annual review of its Child Safeguarding Statement.

Signed: Karen O'Shea (official signed copy in office) Date: 9th February 2026
Chairperson, Board of Management

Signed: Kieran McCarthy (official signed copy in office) Date: 9th February 2026
Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

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*

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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.

*In schools where the ETB is the employer the responsibility for meeting the employer's requirements rests with the ETB concerned. In such cases, this question should be completed following consultation with the ETB.

Notification regarding the Board of Management’s review of the Child Safeguarding Statement

To: Bishop of Cloyne, Wm. Crean

The Management Authority of St. Fergal’s N.S., Killeagh wishes to inform you that:

- The Management Authority’s annual review of the school’s Child Safeguarding Statement was completed at the Management Authority meeting of 09/02/2026.
- This review was conducted in accordance with the “Checklist for Review of the Child Safeguarding Statement” published on the Department’s website www.gov.ie

Signed _____ Date: 9th February 2026

Karen O’Shea
Chairperson, Management Authority

Signed _____ Date: 9th February 2026

Kieran McCarthy
Secretary to the Management Authority

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Notification regarding the Board of Management’s review of the Child Safeguarding Statement

To: The School Community

The Management Authority of St. Fergal’s N.S., Killeagh wishes to inform you that:

- The Management Authority’s annual review of the school’s Child Safeguarding Statement was completed at the Management Authority meeting of 09/02/2026.
- This review was conducted in accordance with the “Checklist for Review of the Child Safeguarding Statement” published on the Department’s website www.gov.ie

Signed _____ Date: 9th February 2026

Karen O’Shea
Chairperson, Management Authority

Signed _____ Date: 9th February 2026

Kieran McCarthy
Secretary to the Management Authority

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Mandatory Template 2: Checklist for Review of the Child Safeguarding Statement

The [Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools \(revised 2023\)](#) require that the Board of Management must undertake a review of its Child Safeguarding Statement and that the following checklist shall be used for this purpose. **The review must be completed every 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 also 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 every two years.

The checklist is designed as an aid to conducting this review and is not intended as an exhaustive list of the issues to be considered. Individual Boards of Management shall include other items in the checklist that are of relevance to the school in question.

As part of the overall review process, Boards of Management should also assess relevant school policies, procedures, practices and activities vis a vis 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, the Addendum to Children First (2019) and the *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools (revised 2023)*.

| | Yes/No |
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| 1. Has the Board formally adopted a Child Safeguarding Statement in accordance with the <i>Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools (revised 2023)</i> ? | Y |
| 2. Is the Board satisfied that the Child Safeguarding Statement is displayed in a prominent place near the main entrance to the school? | Y |
| 3. As part of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement, has the Board formally adopted, without modification, the <i>Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools (revised 2023)</i> ? | Y |
| 4. Does the school's Child Safeguarding Statement include 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) | Y |
| 5. Has the Board reviewed and updated where necessary the written assessment of risk as part of this overall review? | Y |
| 6. Has the Risk Assessment taken account of the risk of harm relevant to online teaching and learning remotely? | Y |
| 7. Has the DLP attended available child protection training? | Y |
| 8. Has the Deputy DLP attended available child protection training? | Y |
| 9. Have any members of the Board attended child protection training? | Y |
| 10. Has the school appointed a DLP and a Deputy DLP? | Y |
| 11. Are the relevant contact details (Tusla and An Garda Síochána) to hand? | Y |

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| 12. Has the Board arrangements in place to communicate the school's Child Safeguarding Statement to new school personnel? | Y |
| 13. Is the Board satisfied that all school personnel have been made aware of their responsibilities under the <i>Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools (revised 2023)</i> and the Children First Act 2015? | Y |
| 14. Has the Board received a Principal's Child Protection Oversight Report (CPOR) at each Board meeting held since the last review was undertaken? | Y |
| 15. Since the Board's last review, did each CPOR contain all of the information required under each of the 4 headings set out in sections 9.5 to 9.8 inclusive of the procedures? | Y |
| 16. Since the Board's last review, has the Board been provided with and reviewed all records relevant to the CPOR? | Y |
| 17. Is the Board satisfied that the records provided are anonymised and redacted as necessary to ensure that the identities of children and any other parties, including school personnel, to whom the concern or report relates are not disclosed? | Y |
| 18. Since the Board's last review, have the minutes of each Board meeting appropriately recorded the records provided to the Board as part of CPOR? | Y |
| 19. Have the minutes of each Board meeting appropriately recorded the CPOR? | Y |
| 20. Is the Board satisfied that the child protection procedures in relation to the making of reports to Tusla/An Garda Síochána were appropriately followed in each case reviewed? | Y |
| 21. Is the Board satisfied that, since the last review, all appropriate actions are being or have been taken in respect of any member of school personnel against whom an allegation of abuse or neglect has been made?* | Y |
| 22. Where applicable, were unique identifiers used to record child protection matters in the Board minutes? | Y |
| 23. Is the Board satisfied that all records relating to child protection are appropriately filed and stored securely? | Y |
| 24. Has the Board been notified by any parent in relation to that parent not receiving the standard notification required under section 5.6 of the <i>Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools (revised 2023)</i> ? | Y |
| 25. In relation to any cases identified at question 20 above, has the Board ensured that any notifications required under section 5.6 of the <i>Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools (revised 2023)</i> were subsequently issued by the DLP? | Y |
| 26. Has the Board ensured that the Parents' Association (if any), has been provided with the school's Child Safeguarding Statement? | Y |
| 27. Has the Board ensured that the patron has been provided with the school's Child Safeguarding Statement? | Y |
| 28. Has the Board ensured that the school's Child Safeguarding Statement is available to parents on request? | Y |
| 29. Has the Board ensured that the Stay Safe programme is implemented in full in the school? (applies to primary schools) | Y |
| 30. Has the Board ensured that the Wellbeing Programme for Junior Cycle students is implemented in full in the school? (applies to post-primary schools) | N/A |
| 31. Has the Board ensured that the SPHE curriculum is implemented in full in the school? | Y |

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| 32. Is the Board satisfied that the statutory requirements for Garda Vetting have been met in respect of all school personnel (employees and volunteers)? * | Y |
| 33. Is the Board satisfied that the Department's requirements in relation to the provision of a child protection related statutory declaration and associated form of undertaking have been met in respect of persons appointed to teaching and non-teaching positions?* | Y |
| 34. Is the Board satisfied that, from a child protection perspective, thorough recruitment and selection procedures are applied by the school in relation to all school personnel (employees and volunteers)?* | Y |
| 35. Has the Board considered and addressed any complaints or suggestions for improvements regarding the school's Child Safeguarding Statement? | Y |
| 36. Has the Board sought the feedback of parents in relation to the school's compliance with the requirements of the child safeguarding requirements of the <i>Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools (revised 2023)</i> ? | Y |
| 37. Has the Board sought the feedback of pupils in relation to the school's child safeguarding arrangements? | Y |
| 38. Is the Board satisfied that the ' <i>Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools Post-Primary Schools (revised 2023)</i> ' are being fully and adequately implemented by the school? | Y |
| 39. Has the Board identified any aspects of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement and/or its implementation that require further improvement? | N |
| 40. Has the Board put in place an action plan containing appropriate timelines to address those aspects of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement and/or its implementation that have been identified as requiring further improvement? | N/A |
| 41. Has the Board ensured that any areas for improvement that were identified in any previous review of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement have been adequately addressed? | Y |

*In schools where the ETB is the employer, the responsibility for meeting the employer's requirements rests with the ETB concerned. In such cases, this question should be completed following consultation with the ETB.

Signed: Karen O'Shea (signed copy in office)

Date: 9th February 2026

Chairperson, Board of Management

Signed: Kieran McCarthy (signed copy in office)

Date: 9th February 2026

Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

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Note: Where a school is undertaking its first review, references in this checklist to the “last review” shall be taken to refer to the date on which the Child Safeguarding Statement was first put in place.