Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment

For:	**Synge St CBS**
At:	**Synge St, Dublin 8.**

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):

Clare Catterson

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

Lesley Plunkett

Name of Relevant Person

Clare Catterson

Relevant Person can be contacted on:

014783998	*principal@syngestreet.com*

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:

Fionnuala McGeever

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

School Activities	Risks Identified	Procedures / Measures to Mitigate Risk
1. Daily arrival and dismissal of students Break times for	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of students in school.	Supervision procedures ensure appropriate supervision in the morning, at breaks and at the end of the school day, including toilet areas.
2. Classroom teaching	Risk of harm in one-to-one teaching or counselling situations.	Code of Professional Conduct for Teachers applies; Guidance Policy in place; Visibility maintained (doors open / glass panels).
3. Prevention and dealing with bullying	Risk of harm by another pupil; Risk of bullying, racism, sexism or discrimination.	SPHE programme fully implemented; Junior Cycle Wellbeing Programme implemented; Anti-Bullying Policy compliant with Department procedures; Supervision procedures in place; Code of Behaviour enforced.
4. Sporting activities and school outings Including overnight stays and foreign	Risk due to inadequate supervision; Risk from external adults; Inappropriate communication; Online safety risks.	Adequate supervision ratios; Garda vetting completed; Code of Behaviour applies; Acceptable Use Policy applies.
5. Use of toilet, changing areas	Risk due to inadequate supervision or inappropriate behaviour.	Supervision policy includes these areas; Staff follow agreed procedures; Anti-Bullying Policy applies; Behaviour expectations clearly communicated.
6. Online teaching and learning	Risk from inappropriate online use; Access to harmful content; Inappropriate communication.	Acceptable Use Policy in place; Smartphone / tablet policy; Approved platforms only; Student supervision; Digital safety education through SPHE / Wellbeing; Internet filtering.
7. Care of students with SEN, including intimate care	Risk to vulnerable students; Risk during intimate care.	SEN Policy in place; Individual intimate care plans; Trained staff only; Garda vetting completed.
8. Administration of first aid and medication	Risk due to inappropriate contact; Risk of incorrect administration of medication.	First Aid procedures in place; Medication administration procedures followed; Only trained staff administer medication; Accurate records maintained.

9. Visitors and contractors on site	Risk of harm from visitors or contractors; Unsupervised access to pupils.	All visitors sign in; Visitor identification provided; Supervision required at all times; Garda vetting where appropriate.
10. External personnel supporting curriculum or sports	Risk of harm by external tutors or coaches; Inappropriate communication.	Garda vetting completed; External personnel supervised at all times; Code of Behaviour applies.
11. Training of school personnel in child protection matters	Harm not recognised or reported promptly.	Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment made available to all staff; DLP and DDLP attend Oide training; Child Protection Procedures available to staff; All staff complete required training and records are maintained.
12. Management of challenging behaviour and use of physical intervention	Risk of emotional or physical harm; Risk of inappropriate use of physical intervention; Risk of inadequate recording or follow-up.	Behaviour plans for identified pupils; Physical intervention used only as a last resort and in line with policy; Incidents recorded immediately; Parents informed; Regular review through SEN and Care Teams; Supervision during transitions.
13. SPHE and RSE curriculum delivery	Risk of inaccurate or insensitive content; Risk of disclosures during lessons; Risk of pupil distress.	Only approved resources used; Clear procedures for managing disclosures; Teacher CPD provided; Lessons aligned with national curriculum and Wellbeing Framework.
14. Application of sanctions under the Code of Behaviour	Risk of unfair or inconsistent sanctions; Risk during supervised detentions; Risk of isolation without oversight.	Sanctions applied in line with policy; Detentions supervised by staff; Removal from class only with appropriate oversight; Records kept for serious sanctions; Appeals process in place; Parents informed where appropriate.
15. Student use of personal digital devices and social media	Risk of cyberbullying; Image misuse or covert recording; Online grooming or exposure to harmful content.	Acceptable Use Policy enforced; Restricted phone use during school day (pouches); Digital citizenship education provided; Sanctions applied for breaches; Clear reporting procedures; Parental communication; Filtering on school networks.
16. Students on work experience placements	Risk of inadequate supervision off-site; Inappropriate contact with adults; Unsafe environments;	Vetting for high-risk placements; Student briefing before placement; Named workplace supervisor; School contact maintained; Immediate reporting procedures in

	Unclear reporting procedures.	place; Review after placement; SEN considerations included.
17. Student teachers and external trainees on placement	Risk of unsupervised one-to-one contact; Lack of clarity about reporting responsibilities; Professional boundary concerns.	Induction including safeguarding procedures; Supervision by qualified staff; No unsupervised access to pupils; Adherence to professional codes; Concerns reported to DLP; Monitoring by cooperating teachers.
18. Use of school premises by external organisations	Risk of unsupervised pupil access; Non-compliance with safeguarding requirements; Unclear responsibility.	Vetting requirements applied where relevant; Designated access routes; No shared use during curricular time; Monitoring by caretaker and school management.

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 19th of May 2026

Signed: *	Fionnuala McGeever.	**Date:** 19th May '26

Chairperson of the board of management

Signed: *	C Catterson	**Date:** 19/05/26

Principal/Secretary to the board of management

This Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment is expected to be reviewed again in May 2027.

Appendix - Location of copies of the Child Protection Procedures and Children First Guidance

Department of Education and Youth website www.gov.ie/childprotectionschools

Children First National Guidance 2017 Children First National Guidance 2017.pdf,