



ST. FINTAN'S HIGH SCHOOL

**CHILD SAFEGUARDING STATEMENT
AND RISK ASSESSMENT**

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Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment

For:	St. Fintan's High School	<i>(School Name)</i>
At:	Dublin Road, Sutton, Dublin 13	<i>(School Address)</i>

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):

Kathy Mullen

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

Enda Duffy

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

Name of Relevant Person

Kathy Mullen

(In schools this person is the DLP)

Relevant Person can be contacted on:

01 8324632

principal@stfintanshs.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:

Pat Reilly

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.
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- **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.

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.

Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment

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.

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
1.	Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision; risk of harm not being recognised or reported	Supervision policy in place; Child Safeguarding Statement shared with all staff; staff trained in reporting procedures; yard and dismissal supervision rotas established
2.	Recreation breaks for pupils	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision; risk of harm due to bullying or racism	Yard supervision policy; Bi Cinealta Policy; staff on duty at all times; awareness initiatives on respect and inclusion
3.	Classroom teaching	Risk of harm from another child; risk of harm due to inappropriate behaviour or inadequate code of behaviour	Code of behaviour implemented; staff trained in child protection; SPHE programme delivered
4.	One-to-one teaching	Risk of harm in one-to-one situations; inappropriate communication or relationship	Policy and procedures for one-to-one teaching in place; visibility required, open-door policy where possible
5.	One-to-one learning support	Risk of harm in one-to one settings; inappropriate communication	One-to-one policy in place; sessions timetabled and visible; adherence to Child Protection Procedures for Schools
6.	One-to one counselling	Risk of harm due to one-to-one settings; inappropriate relationship	Policy and procedures for counselling; Garda-vetted personnel; sessions in visible, safe spaces; supervision of external counsellors
7.	Outdoor teaching activities	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision;	Risk assessment completed in advance; adequate supervision rations;

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
		injury or inappropriate contact	adherence to health and safety policy
8.	One-to-one oral preparation and Mock exams	Risk of harm due to one-to-one settings; inappropriate relationship	One-to-one policy in place; sessions timetabled and visible; adherence to Child Protection Procedures for Schools
9.	Unplanned one-to-one supervision scenarios	Risk of harm due to one-to-one settings; inappropriate relationship	Garda-vetted personnel; sessions in visible, safe spaces; Adherence to Child Protection Procedures for Schools
10.	After-school study and extra classes	Risk of harm from another child; risk of harm due to inappropriate behaviour or inadequate code of behaviour	Code of behaviour implemented; staff trained in child protection; classes strictly timetabled, situated and supervised
11.	School musical/drama productions (rehearsals and performances)	Risk of harm during out-of-hours activities; inadequate supervision; inappropriate contact; inappropriate behaviour or inadequate code of behaviour	Code of behaviour implemented; Adherence to Child Protection Procedures for Schools; One-to-One Policy guidance applies; parental consent given to take part
12.	Online teaching and learning remotely	Risk of harm due to inappropriate use of online platforms or communication	Acceptable Use Policy in place; Remote Learning Policy; no unsupervised breakout rooms
13.	Sporting activities	Risk of harm from another child or coach; risk of injury; inadequate supervision	Policy for use of external coaches; supervision policy; adherence to Child Protection Procedures; Code of Behaviour
14.	School outings	Risk of harm during off-site activities; inadequate supervision; inappropriate contact	School outing procedures in place; supervision ratios maintained; risk assessments completed

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
15.	School trips	Risk of harm from other children or adults; inadequate supervision;	Compliance with Circular Letter M20/04; Tour template completed; Garda vetting for staff; parental consent
16.	Use of toilet/changing/shower areas in school	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision; inappropriate contact	Supervision procedures in place; staff not alone with children; clear access protocols
17.	Fundraising events involving pupils	Risk of harm due to contact with unknown adults or inadequate supervision	All fundraising supervised by school staff; parental consent obtained
18.	Use of offsite facilities for school activities	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision; harm by external personnel	Risk assessment and supervision plan; only vetted personnel used
19.	School transport arrangements including use of bus escorts	Risk of harm due to inappropriate contact or supervision on transport	Adequate supervision by teachers on hired buses and on the school bus; seating arrangements monitored
20.	Management of challenging behaviour amongst pupils, including appropriate use of restraint where required	Risk of harm due to inappropriate restraint; physical injury	Understanding Behaviours of Concern guidance implemented; staff trained; records kept of incidents

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
21.	Management of provision of food and drink	Risk of harm due to neglect or allergic reaction	Health and Safety Policy; Administration of Medicines Policy; supervision during meal times
22.	Administration of First Aid	Risk of harm due to inappropriate contact or lack of training	Staff trained; parental contact where required; records maintained
23.	Curricular provision in respect of SPHE, RSE	Risk of harm due to inadequate delivery of safeguarding curriculum	Full implementation of SPHE and Wellbeing programmes; teacher training; parental engagement
24.	Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst pupils	Risk of harm due to bullying or racism	Bí Cineálta Policy (Bí Cineálta procedures); SPHE lessons; student voice initiatives
25.	Training of school personnel in child protection matters	Risk of harm not recognised or reported properly	Mandatory training for all staff; annual review; training records maintained
26.	Use of external personnel to support sports and other extracurricular activities	Risk of harm by external coach; inadequate supervision	External coach policy; vetting and supervision required; adherence to school code of behaviour
27.	Care of pupils with specific vulnerabilities/needs	Risk of harm to vulnerable pupils; bullying or neglect	AEN Policy and Bí Cineálta policy in place; student-specific support plans; staff awareness training; Year Head and Tutor support

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
28.	Intimate care support for pupils with specific vulnerabilities/needs	Physical vulnerability during personal care tasks (toileting, changing, washing); potential for inappropriate touching or boundary violations; dignity and privacy compromised if care is not screened or delivered by trained staff	Personal Care Plans developed and reviewed in consultation with parents/guardians and relevant professionals (SEN team, healthcare staff) Intimate care delivered only by staff who have received specific training by the parents/guardians or relevant professionals, adherence to Child Protection procedures; privacy ensured (appropriate facilities, screens, closed doors)
29.	Pupils from ethnic minorities/migrants	Risk of harm due to racism or exclusion	Bí Cineálta Policy; Anti-racism awareness initiatives; SPHE lessons on diversity
30.	Members of the Traveller community	Risk of harm due to discrimination or exclusion	Bí Cineálta Policy; staff awareness; Culture, Diversity and Inclusion initiatives
31.	Gay, Bisexual or transgender (LGBT) students	Risk of harm due to bullying or discrimination	Bí Cineálta Policy; Culture, Diversity and Inclusion initiatives; SPHE lessons
32.	Students perceived to be LGBT	Risk of harm due to bullying or exclusion	Bí Cineálta Policy; Culture, Diversity and Inclusion initiatives; SPHE lessons
33.	Pupils of minority religious faiths	Risk of harm due to exclusion or discrimination	Bí Cineálta Policy; opt-out provisions; inclusive ethos promoted; Culture, Diversity and Inclusion initiatives
34.	Children in care	Risk of harm due to vulnerability or lack of advocacy	Liaison with social workers; care plans in place; Year Head liaison

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
35.	Children on Tusla's Child Protection Notification System (CPNS)	Risk of harm due to delayed or poor communication with Tusla	Close liaison with Tusla; DLP ensures ongoing communication and monitoring.
36.	Children with medical needs	Risk of harm due to neglect of medical condition or incorrect treatment	Administration of Medicines Policy, Year Head oversight and care plan
37.	Recruitment of school personnel including teachers/SNAs, caretakers/secretaries/cleaners and sports coaches	Risk of harm from unvetted personnel	Adherence to Garda vetting legislation; Department recruitment procedures followed
38.	Visitors/contractors present in school during school hours	Risk of harm from unvetted adults on premises	Sign-in system; supervision by staff; contractors restricted from pupil contact
39.	Visitors/contractors present during afterschool activities	Risk of harm from unsupervised or unvetted adults	Restricted access policy; supervision procedures in place; vetting required where relevant
40.	Use of ICT by pupils. Including social media	Risk of harm due to inappropriate online activity; cyberbullying	Acceptable Use Policy; Social Media Policy, 1:1 Device (Chromebooks) Policy GoGuardian, online safety education; supervision of ICT use; parental engagement
41.	Application of sanctions under the Code of Behaviour including detention, confiscation etc.	Risk of harm due to inappropriate discipline or supervision	Code of Behaviour followed; staff training in positive behaviour management; supervision during sanctions
42.	Students participating in work experience in the school	Risk of harm to or by students during placement	Supervision plan; Garda vetting where required
43.	Students from the school participating in work experience elsewhere	Risk of harm by external personnel during placement	Garda vetting; liaison with placement supervisors; school insurance in place

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
44.	Student teachers undertaking training placement in school	Risk of harm due to unvetted or unsupervised placement	Vetting required; supervision by staff mentor
45.	Use of video/photography/other media to record school events	Risk of harm due to inappropriate use of images	Parental consent; media use guidelines; data protection compliance
46.	Staff communication with students through ICT or Social Media Platforms	Risk of harm due to inappropriate online activity and digital communication with pupils	Acceptable Use Policy; Social Media Policy, 1:1 Device (Chromebooks) Policy GoGuardian, Child Protection training; Google Classroom platform for all communication with students; emphasis every year about never communicating with students via Whatsapp or private messaging of any kind
47.	Open Night/school events where public attend	Risk of harm from unsupervised and unvetted adults; inadequate supervision; inappropriate contact; inappropriate behaviour or inadequate code of behaviour	Code of behaviour implemented; adherence to Child Protection Procedures for Schools; strict supervision Open Night team of teachers
48.	As well as the policies and procedures listed above, the school also has the following procedures and policies in place: • Pastoral Care support for all students. • Suspension and Expulsion Policy. • Social Media Policy. • 1:1 Device Policy (Chromebooks) • Mobile Phone Policy in respect of usage of mobile phones by pupils • Critical Incident Management Plan. • Remote Learning Plan • All school personnel are provided with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment		

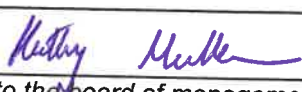
	• The Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025 are made available to all school personnel • School personnel are required to adhere to the Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025 and all registered teaching staff are required to adhere to the Children First Act 2015 as well as supporting the 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 • The school implements in full the Social, Personal, and Health Education (SPHE) curriculum • The school implements in full the Wellbeing Programme at Junior Cycle • The school has a Safety Statement in place which is circulated to all staff • The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation • The school has an additional educational needs policy • The school has in place a policy and procedures for the administration of medication to pupils • Every year a group of teachers and secretaries is trained in First Aid and this training is repeated • The school has provided each member of school staff with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment • The school ensures all new personnel are provided with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment • The school encourages personnel to avail of relevant training • The school encourages board of management members to avail of relevant training • The school has in place a code of behaviour for pupils • 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 • 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 • The school has in place a Critical Incident Management Plan
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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 _____ (most recent review date)

Signed:*		Date: 21/9/26
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Chairperson of the board of management

Signed:*		Date: 21/9/26
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Principal/Secretary to the board of management

This Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment is expected to be reviewed again on 21/9/27 (expected review date)

* Document to be printed and signed with original signatures