



## Child Safeguarding Statement & Risk Assessment

*This statement was reviewed, discussed and ratified by the Board of Management in St Canice's GNS during a meeting on 15th September 2025.*

St Canice's GNS is a primary school providing primary education to children from Junior Infants to Sixth Class.

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 Canice's GNS 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 **Dearbhla White (Principal)**
3. The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (DDL) is **Susan O Connor (Deputy Principal)**
4. The Relevant Person is **Dearbhla White, Principal**

(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. In a school setting the relevant person shall be the designated liaison person.)

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 pupil with a special vulnerability.

The following procedures 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.
- 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.

This statement has been published on the school's website and has been provided to all members of school personnel, the Parents' Association 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.


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 15<sup>th</sup> September 2025.

This Child Safeguarding Statement was reviewed by the Board of Management on 15<sup>th</sup> September 2025.

Signed:   
Chairperson of Board of Management

Signed:

  
Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Date: 15<sup>th</sup> September 2025

Date: 15<sup>th</sup> September 2025

## Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment

In accordance with section 11 of the Children First Act 2015 and with the requirement of Chapter 8, Section 8.8 of the *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools, revised 2023*, the following is the Written Risk Assessment of St Canice's GNS

List of School Activities	Risk Level	The School has identified the following Risk of Harm	The School has the following Procedures in place to address risk identified in this assessment
Upskilling of all school personnel in Child Protection matters	High	Harm if correct procedures not followed.	<p>All school personnel require annual reviewing of the new Child Safeguarding Policy and Statement &amp; a reminder as to their statutory requirements pertaining to same.</p> <p>DLP &amp; DDLP attend Oide training when required</p> <p>All Staff are reminded annually as to their requirements and also advised if concerned to speak with the DLP or DDLP, whichever is available at the time.</p> <p>As the BOM term begins all new BOM members will be required to view Túsla 2 hour training module <u>Child Protection Procedures for all School Personnel</u> and further training will be available for the Board, if available within the first year of the new Board's term.</p>
One to one teaching / One to one counselling / play therapy	High	Risk of harm in one-to-one teaching or counselling	<p>Doors containing glass have been installed in each room where this occurs.</p> <p>Any further considerations will be brought to the attention of the Board of Management as necessary.</p>
Sensory Room	High	Risk of harm in one-to-one situation	Supervision and adult accompaniment has been discussed and it is agreed that it will be 2 children and one adult or two adults and one child.
Care of Children with special needs, including intimate care needs and "An accident" occurring.	High	Risk of harm to child while receiving intimate care	<p>If a child needs assistance it will be given on a ratio of 2 adults to one child.</p> <p>An adult will never be on their own with a child in these circumstances.</p>
Toilet areas	High	Inappropriate behaviour	<p>Children go to the toilet with members of their class.</p> <p>Adults supervise at the main door of the toilets or by standing at the sinks. This is to monitor general behaviours of the children.</p>

Curricular Provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay safe.	Med	Non-teaching of same and inappropriate messaging	<p>Implementation in full of SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe each year, with parents appropriately informed of same. Ensure the correct content is confirmed with parents and meetings arranged with parents if concerns arise regarding content. Initially meetings occur between the class teacher and the concerned parent.</p> <p>Regular review of subject plans with teacher feedback requested.</p> <p>Confirmation of mandatory content taught annually.</p> <p>Cuntas Miosuils submitted each month.</p>
Daily arrival and departure of pupils	Med	Unknown adults accompanying children and arriving onto the school site	Arrival and departure supervised by principal, teachers and SNAs
Adults arriving to school where high levels of risk is perceived	High	Parents of certain children arriving into the school building	<p>No child is to open the front door to any adult</p> <p>No adult is to open the door to any adult without prior knowledge as to who the adult is. If concerns arise and are serious enough the Gardai are phoned and an alert is sent to all staff via Aladdin.</p>
Managing of challenging behaviour amongst pupils, including appropriate use of restraint	High	Injury to pupils and staff	<p>All parents are informed that a child will only be restrained if they are a danger to themselves or to others.</p> <p>If a child is a danger to themselves or others and is in a class setting, the class is cleared by the class teacher while the child is being supported by other adults.</p> <p>No adult will be on their own if needing to restrain a child.</p>
Sports Coaches / Use of external personnel to supplement curriculum	Med	Harm to pupils	<p>Proof of Garda vetting provided</p> <p>Class teacher remains present in the Hall or yard or classroom at all times when an external person is working with their class.</p>
Students participating in work experience	Med	Harm by student	No student will work alone with a child at any time.
Small break and lunchtime for pupils	High	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children in school / Risk of harm due to bullying	Ensure the children are always adequately supervised by adults. The level of supervision can and will increase if issues become apparent.
		Risk of child being harmed in the school by another child / Risk of harm due to bullying of	<p>Health &amp; Safety Policy and Statement - reviewed annually.</p> <p>Bi Cinealta Policy adopting</p>

Classroom teaching	Low	child / Risk of harm not being recognised by school personnel / Risk of harm not being reported properly and promptly by school personnel / Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children in school	Code of Behaviour – being designed through engagement with many organisations due to the nature of children’s behaviour – National Council for Special Education, Restorative Practice Training, National Educational Psychological Service  Child Safeguarding Policy and Statement available to all staff and reviewed annually.  All school personnel will upskill in the area of Child Protection when necessary.
Swimming	High	Risk of harm to child while a child is receiving intimate care / being changed into and out of swimming attire.  Risk of child being harmed by a member of school personnel, a staff member of another organisation or other persons while child participating in out of school activities.  Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children in school	A policy is devised addressing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the appropriate supervision of the children in the changing rooms of the pool and the adults that attend swimming to help – female and male.</li> <li>• No parents that assist with supervision each week of the swimming lessons will be on their own with any child at any time.</li> <li>• Health and Safety - including the adequate supervision of children on their way to, in and on the way back to school from the pool</li> </ul> Child Protection Policy will be obtained from the pool that the school attends.
Parents Association	High	Risk of harm due to inappropriate relationship/communications between child and another child or adult  Risk of harm in one-to-one situation	No member of the Parents Association will be working on a one to one basis with any child
School outings	Med	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children while attending out of school activities  Risk of child being harmed by a member of school personnel, a member of staff of another organisation or other person while child participating in out of school activities e.g. school trip, swimming lessons	Parents accompanying children on school tours will sign a form detailing issues re supervision: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supervision – 1 adult to 10 children with that ratio change depending on the setting.</li> <li>• Appropriate supervision when the children are going to toilets and if they need to change their clothes</li> <li>• Photo and video taking will only be done by school staff on a school device</li> <li>• Only adults will bring their phones on the tour</li> <li>• No parents accompanying the tours will be alone with any child or children at any time.</li> </ul>

		<p>Risk of harm due to children inappropriately accessing/using phones and other devices while on the school tour</p> <p>Risk of harm due to inappropriate relationship/communications between child and another child or adult</p> <p>Risk of harm caused by member of school personnel accessing/circulating inappropriate material via social media, texting, digital device or other manner</p> <p>Risk of harm to child while a child is receiving intimate care</p> <p>Risk of harm due to bullying of child</p>	
Sporting Activities	High	<p>Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children while attending out of school activities</p> <p>Risk of harm to child while a child is changing</p> <p>Risk of child being harmed by a member of school personnel, a member of staff of another organisation or other person while child participating in out of school activities</p> <p>Risk of harm due to children inappropriately accessing/using, phones and other devices</p>	<p>A policy will be devised regarding the attendance at and participation in Sporting Activities. This policy will address areas such as</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Transport of children (ie) where children are to sit in the car or does the school provide a bus for each sporting activity.</li> <li>• What is the supervision ratio and also the ratio of female staff attending especially if children are changing their clothes.</li> <li>• If photographs are to be taken, who is to take them</li> <li>• All staff are Garda Vetted.</li> </ul>
Administration of Medicine Administration of First Aid	High	<p>Risk of harm not being recognised by school personnel</p> <p>Risk of child being harmed in the school by a member of school personnel</p> <p>Risk of harm in one-to-one situation</p> <p>Risk of harm of a child taking too much of any one medication.</p>	<p>Policies will be reviewed regularly pertaining to the Administration of Medicine and First Aid while keeping in mind strict protocols are in place for children with very specific medical needs.</p>

<p>Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst pupils</p>		<p>Risk of harm not being recognised by school personnel</p> <p>Risk of harm due to bullying of a child</p>	<p>Bi Cinealta Policy will be reviewed on an annual basis.</p> <p>Code of Behaviour (under review)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Incorporating positive strategies from the Incredible Years programme</li> <li>• Friendship Fortnight</li> <li>• Compliments Fortnight</li> <li>• Restorative Practice</li> </ul>
<p>Care of pupils with specific vulnerabilities/ needs such as</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pupils from ethnic minorities/migrants</li> <li>• Members of the Traveller community</li> <li>• Lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender (LGBT) children</li> <li>• LGBT pupils</li> <li>• Pupils of minority religious faiths</li> <li>• Children in care</li> <li>• Children on CPNS (Child Protection Notification System)</li> </ul>	<p>MED</p>	<p>Risk of harm not being recognised by school personnel</p> <p>Risk of harm not being reported properly and promptly by school personnel</p> <p>Risk of harm due to inappropriate relationship/communications between child and another child or adult</p> <p>Risk of harm due to bullying of child</p> <p>Risk of harm to children with SEN who have particular vulnerabilities</p> <p>Risk of harm to child while a child is receiving intimate care</p>	<p>Bi Cinealta Policy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure use of appropriate language is referenced</li> </ul> <p>Code of Behaviour</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure use of appropriate language is referenced</li> </ul> <p>Intimate Care of Children with specific needs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If a child has specific needs in this area, they will not be on their own with any adult when being cared for.</li> </ul> <p>LGBT awareness discussion in SPHE</p>
<p>Recruitment of school personnel including -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Teachers</li> <li>• SNA's</li> <li>• Caretaker/Secretary/Cleaners</li> <li>• Sports coaches</li> <li>• External Tutors/Guest Speakers</li> </ul>	<p>Med</p>	<p>Harm not recognised or properly or promptly reported to the principal on receiving a reference from a previous employer or the agency that the person is employed by.</p>	<p>Vetting Procedures followed appropriately</p> <p>Monitoring of visitors to school</p>
<p>Visiting Contractors</p>	<p>High</p>	<p>Risk of harm not being reported properly and promptly to school principal</p>	<p>Before contractors begin in the school</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Garda vetting will be reviewed and applied for, if necessary</li> <li>• Expectations surrounding the contractors involvement, behaviour and contact with children discussed and explained</li> </ul>

		Risk of harm due to inappropriate relationship/communications between child and another child or adult	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Timing and positioning of contractors while working on the school site</li> </ul>
Use of school premises by other organisations	High	Risk of harm not being reported properly and promptly to school principal Risk of harm due to inappropriate relationship/communications between child and another child or adult	When signing the annual agreement the organisation involved must certify that they have a Child Protection policy in place.
Use of Information and Communication Technology by pupils in school	High	Bullying Inappropriate content	The policies below will all address how the IT will be appropriately used by pupils in the school <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The E- Learning Plan – under review (2025 2026)</li> <li>Bi Cineálta Policy 2025 2026</li> <li>Code of Behaviour – launching Winter 2025</li> <li>Mobile Phone Policy – children from 3<sup>rd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> Class give their phones to their teachers on arrival at school each morning. If it happens that inappropriate use occurs, the phone is taken from the child, their parents / guardians contacted and the phone is not returned until the child’s parent/s or guardians comes to the school. Advice from Tusla and or the Gardai will be sought if deemed necessary.</li> </ul>
Students participating in work experience in the school / Student teachers undertaking teacher placement in school	Med	Risk of harm due to inappropriate relationship and or behaviours / communications between child and another adult.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work Experience</li> </ul> No student on work experience will be working on their own with any child <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Teacher Placement</li> </ul> Garda vetting is provided by student teachers undergoing placement in the school.
Use of video/photography/other media to record school events	High	Risk of harm caused by member of school personnel accessing/circulating inappropriate material via social media, texting, digital device or other manner	School personnel will record events – photos and or videos and will unload them onto the school’s Microsoft Sharepoint or and the school website. Once this is completed all pictures and or videos will be deleted from the devices used.
Children staying in from yard in the Principal’s Office	High	Risk of harm due to a child being on their own in a room with an adult	The office door remains open at all times.  The child or children remain at the circular table in Ms White’s office.

**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, p. 26 of the *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post- Primary Schools (revised 2023)*

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.

The Board of Management is committed to ensuring all staff will be supported to attend mandatory and statutory training, or training and development opportunities that support the implementation of the Child Safeguarding Procedures and associated risks.

This risk assessment has been completed by the Board of Management in September 2025. It will be reviewed as part of the school's annual review of its Child Safeguarding Statement.

Signed 

Chairperson, Board of Management

**Date: 15<sup>th</sup> September 2025**

Signed 

Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management