

Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment, 2025 - 2026

Written Assessment of Risk of Finglas Parochial National School

In accordance with section 11 of the Children First Act 2015 and with the requirements of Chapter 8 of the *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools (revised 2023)*, the following is the Written Risk Assessment of Finglas Parochial National School.

1. List of school activities

- Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils
- Recreation breaks for pupils
- Mainstream classroom teaching
- Autism classroom teaching
- Use of local community centre for Autism class teaching
- One-to-one teaching
- Outdoor teaching activities
- Sporting Activities
- School Outings
- Use of toilet areas in schools
- Annual Sports Day
- Fundraising events involving pupils
- Use of off-site facilities for school activities
- School transport arrangements
- Care of children with special educational needs, including intimate care where needed
- Care of any vulnerable students, including intimate care where needed
- Management of challenging behaviour amongst pupils
- Administration of medicine
- Administration of First Aid
- Curricular provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, and Stay Safe
- Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst pupils
- Training of school personnel in child protection matters
- Use of external personnel to supplement curriculum
- Use of external personnel to support sports and other extra-curricular activities
- Care of pupils with specific vulnerabilities such as
 - Pupils from ethnic minorities/migrants
 - Children with additional needs
 - Members of the Traveller community
 - Lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender (LGBT) pupils
 - Pupils perceived to be LGBT
 - Pupils of minority religious faiths
 - Pupils in care
- Recruitment of school personnel including -
 - Teachers/SNA's
 - Caretaker/Secretary/Cleaners
 - Sports coaches
 - External Tutors/Guest Speakers
 - Volunteers/Parents in school activities

- Visitors/contractors present in school during school hours
- Visitors/contractors present during after school activities
- Interns

- Use of Information and Communication Technology by pupils in school
- Application of sanctions under the school's Code of Behaviour including confiscation of phones etc.
- Participation by pupils in religious ceremonies/religious instruction external to the school
- Pupils participating in work experience in the school
- Student teachers undertaking training placement in school
- Use of video/photography/other media to record school events
- After school use of school premises by other organisations and parents
- After school use of school premises by teachers for GAA/Soccer
- Use of school premises by other organisation during school day
- School Assemblies
- Fire Drills

2. The school has identified the following risk of harm in respect of its activities -

Risks:

New school personnel: Pupil not being recognised by school personnel

Teacher absent- new sub not knowing procedures

Absconding from bus/taxi.

Preverbal/non verbal children: Misunderstanding related to communication difficulties and increased risk of neglect and harm

Risk of pupil/s witnessing aggressive behaviour of concern.

Toileting: risk of student being harmed in school by a member of school personnel and risk of non verbal/pre verbal student being harmed by member of school personnel

Curricular provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe: risk of student harm due to not being taught SPHE, RSE and Stay Safe curriculum by the teacher

Visitors/contractors present in school during school hours: risk of pupils being harmed in the school by visitors or contractors to the school.

Risk of harm where a student gains access to medicine.

Risk of harm of student not getting required medicine /First Aid

Pupil being harmed in the school by a member of school personnel

Pupil being harmed in the school by another pupil

Pupil being harmed in the school by volunteer or visitor to the school

Pupil being harmed by a member of school personnel, a member of staff of another organisation or other person while pupil participating in out of school activities e.g. school trip, swimming lessons

Harm due to bullying of pupil

Harm due to inadequate supervision of pupils in school

Harm due to inadequate supervision of pupils while attending out of school activities

Harm due to inappropriate relationship/communications between pupil and another pupil or adult

Harm due to pupils inappropriately accessing/using computers, social media, phones and other devices while at school

Risk of harm to pupils with SEN who have particular vulnerabilities

Risk of harm due to inadequate code of behaviour

Risk of harm in one-to-one teaching, counselling, coaching situation

Risk of harm caused by member of school personnel communicating with pupils in an in

appropriate manner via social media, texting, digital device or other manner

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

- All school personnel are provided with a copy of the school's *Child Safeguarding Statement*
- The *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools (revised)* are made available to all school personnel
- School Personnel are required to adhere to the *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools* and all registered teaching staff are required to adhere to the *Children First Act 2015* and its Addendum
- The school implements in full the Stay Safe Programme
- The school implements in full the SPHE curriculum
- The school has a Bí Cineálta anti-bullying policy which fully adheres to the requirements of the Department's *Bí Cineálta guidelines*
- The school ensures appropriate supervision of children during, assembly, dismissal and breaks and in respect of specific areas such as toilets, changing rooms etc.
- The school has clear procedures in respect of school outings
- The school has a health and safety policy in place.
- The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation and relevant DE circulars in relation to recruitment and Garda vetting
- The school has a code of conduct for school personnel (teaching and non-teaching staff)
- The school has an intimate care policy/plan in respect of students who require such care and staff adhere to this policy
- The school has in place a code of behaviour for pupils
- The school has an Acceptable Use Policy in place
- The school has in place a Critical Incident Management Plan
- The school has in place procedures for the use of external persons to supplement delivery of the curriculum
- The school has provided each member of school staff with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement
- The school ensures all new staff are provided with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement
- The school encourages staff to avail of relevant training
- The school encourages board of management members to avail of relevant training
- The school maintains records of all Child Protection reports made to Tusla and An Garda Síochána
- The school has in place a policy and procedures for the administration of medication to students.
- Medications are stored securely in the office.
- Parental consent sought for administration of medication and GP signature where required
- A risk assessment was carried out in the location of the new special classes
- Seven members of staff are First Aid trained as of November 2025
- The school has an intimate care policy/plan in respect of students who require such care and staff adhere to this policy
- A variety of communication tools to be used/introduced to pre verbal children as a means to communicate with those around them.
- Individualized Student Support plan implemented. Professional report recommendation implemented.
- The school complies with the agreed disciplinary procedures for teaching staff as set out by the Department of Education
- Close monitoring to ensure Stay safe, Walk Tall & RSE are being taught in the school

- Adequate staff supervision on playground.
- Staff aware of student potential for harmful behaviours to self & others, particularly in the special class setting.

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 (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.

Date Ratified: 13/11/25