

Child Safeguarding Statement

Robertson National School, Stranorlar is a primary school providing primary education to pupils 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 Robertson N.S. Stranorlar 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 Brian Bovaird
- 3 The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is Cheryl Macbeth
- 4 The Relevant Person is Brian Bovaird
(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.)
- 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.
- 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 13/11/2023.

This Child Safeguarding Statement was reviewed by the Board of Management on 13/11/2023 & 12/11/2024 & 07/10/2025

Signed: Joy de Jong
Joy de Jong Chairperson of Board of Management

Signed: B. Bovaird
Brian Bovaird, Principal & Secretary to the Board of Management

Date: 7th October 2025

Date: 07/10/2025

Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment

Written Assessment of Risk of Robertson NS, Stranorlar

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 PostPrimary Schools (revised 2023)*, the following is the Written Risk Assessment of Robertson NS, Stranorlar.

1. List of School Activities	Risk Level	2. The School has identified the following Risk of Harm	3. The School has the following Procedures in place to address identified risks
Training of school personnel in Child Protection matters	High	Harm not recognised or reported promptly	Child Safeguarding Statement & DES procedures made available to all staff DLP& DDLP to attend PDST face to face training All Staff to view Túsla training module & any other online training offered by PDST/Oide BOM records all records of staff and board training
One to one teaching	Med	Harm by school personnel	School has policy in place for one to one teaching Open doors Table between teacher and pupil Glass in window
Care of Children with special needs, including intimate care needs	High	Harm by school personnel	Policy on intimate care
Toileting	High	Inappropriate behaviour	Usage and supervision policy
Curricular Provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay safe.	Med	Non-teaching of same	School implements SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe in full
Interaction with LGBT Children/Pupils perceived to be LGBT	Low	Bullying	Anti-Bullying Policy Code of Behaviour

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 identified risks
Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils	Med	Harm from older pupils, unknown adults on the playground	Arrival and dismissal supervised by Teachers
Managing of challenging behaviour amongst pupils, including appropriate use of restraint	High	Injury to pupils and staff	Restraint Policy Health & Safety Policy Code Of Behaviour
Sports Coaching	Med	Harm to pupils	Policy & Procedures in place Code of Behaviour Health & Safety statement Child Safeguarding Statement
Interaction with students participating in work experience	Low	Harm by student	Work experience Policy Child Safeguarding Statement
Recreation breaks for pupils	High	Bullying, injury and inappropriate behaviour	Anti-Bullying Policy Code of Behaviour Health & Safety statement Child Safeguarding Statement
Classroom teaching	Low	Harm by school personnel	Glass in doors Code of behaviour
Outdoor teaching activities	Med	Bullying, injury and inappropriate behaviour	Anti-Bullying Policy Code of Behaviour Health & Safety statement SPHE policy e.g. Road safety
Sporting Activities	Med	Bullying, injury and inappropriate behaviour	Anti-Bullying Policy Code of Behaviour Health & Safety statement
School outings	High	Bullying, injury and inappropriate behaviour	Supervision policy Anti-Bullying Policy Code of Behaviour Health & Safety statement

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 identified risks
Annual Sports Day	High	Inappropriate behaviour Bullying Injury	Supervision policy Anti-Bullying Policy Code of Behaviour
Fundraising events involving pupils	High	Inappropriate behaviour Bullying Injury Use of video	Supervision policy Anti-Bullying Policy Code of Behaviour
Use of off-site facilities for school activities	High	Inappropriate behaviour Bullying Injury	Supervision policy Anti-Bullying Policy Code of Behaviour
School transport arrangements including use of bus escorts	High	Inappropriate behaviour Bullying Injury	Supervision policy Anti-Bullying Policy Code of Behaviour Health & Safety statement
Administration of Medicine	Low	Allergic reaction	Parental request in writing is obtained to administer medication
Administration of First Aid	Med	Harm by school personnel	Policy on intimate care
Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst pupils	High	Harm by other pupils	SPHE (Stay Safe Programme) Anti-Bullying Policy Code of Behaviour
Use of external personnel to supplement curriculum	Med	Harm by personnel providing service	Supervision policy Vetting of external personnel Policy on volunteers Child Safeguarding Statement

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 identified risks
<p>Care of pupils with specific vulnerabilities/ needs such as</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pupils from ethnic minorities/migrants • Members of the Traveller community • Lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender (LGBT) children • Pupils perceived to be LGBT • Pupils of minority religious faiths • Children in care • Children on CPNS 	High	<p>Harm not recognised or properly or promptly reported Bullying Inappropriate behaviour</p>	<p>Supervision policy Anti-Bullying Policy Code of Behaviour Health & Safety statement Child Safeguarding Statement</p>
<p>Students participating in work experience in the school</p>	Med	Harm by school personnel	<p>Policy on students on work experience Supervision policy Health & Safety Statement</p>
<p>Use of Information and Communication Technology by pupils in school</p>	High	Bullying	<p>ICT policy Anti-Bullying Policy Code of Behaviour</p>
<p>Recruitment of school personnel including -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 	High	<p>Harm not recognised or properly or promptly reported</p>	<p>Child Safeguarding Statement & DES procedures made available to all staff</p> <p>Staff to view Tusla training module & any other online training offered by PDST</p> <p>Vetting Procedures</p> <p>Policy of Parents / Volunteers</p> <p>Policy on Visiting Contractors</p>

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 identified risks
Application of sanctions under the school's Code of Behaviour including detention of pupils, confiscation of phones etc.	Med	Harm by school personnel	Supervision policy Anti-Bullying Policy Code of Behaviour Health & Safety statement Child Safeguarding Statement
Student teachers undertaking training placement in school	Low	Harm by student	Work experience policy
Use of video/photography/other media to record school events	High	Inappropriate use of	Policy on Video/photography Child Safeguarding Statement
After schools	High	Harm not recognised or properly or promptly reported Bullying Inappropriate behaviour	Child Safeguarding Statement from R9 Coaching Insurance policy for R9 Coaching

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.

Robertson NS, Stranorlar, Child Safeguarding Statement & Risk Assessment updated and agreed 13 Nov 2023 and 12 Nov 2024 & 07/10/2025

Appendix1:

Acronyms:

- DLP: Designated Liaison Person
- DDLP: Deputy Designated Liaison Person
- PDST: Professional Development Service for Teachers
- BOM: Board of Management
- SPHE: Social Personal & Health Education
- RSE: Relationships and Sexuality Education
- LGBT: Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender
- CPNS: Child Protection
- SNA's: Special Needs Assistants
- ICT: Information Communication Technology