CSS1

Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment

For:	**St. Mary's National School**	*(School Name)*
At:	**Dunleckney Road, Bagenalstown, Co. Carlow, R21 XF96**	*(School Address)*

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):

Emer Magee

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

Elaine Smyth

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

Name of Relevant Person

Emer Magee

(In schools this person is the DLP)

Relevant Person can be contacted on:

0599721021 *emagee@stmarysnsbagenalstown.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:

Amy Kidd

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

List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/ Measures in Place to Mitigate Risk
Training of school personnel in Child Protection matters (27)	Harm not recognised or reported promptly	• Child Safeguarding Statement is provided to all staff & DES procedures made available to all staff. • The school has a range of policies and procedures in place to support the area of Child Protection. • DLP& DDLP completed Designated Liaison Person Training. DLP on 26/09/2025, DDLP on 22/09/2025 • All staff completed Children First Online Training Module in September 2024, if hadn't been completed in the previous 6 months. Staff will complete this training every three years. • BOM maintains a record of staff and board training. • All staff completed staff training in "Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025" during a full school closure on 20/10/25.
One to one teaching, one-to-one learning support, one-to-one counselling (4,5,6)	Harm by school personnel	• School has policy in place for one-to-one teaching. • Window in each door where one-to- one teaching takes place. • Ref: Special Education Policy
Care of children with special needs, including intimate care needs Risk of harm to children with SEN who have particular vulnerabilities	Risk of harm to a child while a child is receiving intimate care	• 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.* • Ref: Policy on intimate care

Children with medical needs (19, 30, 38)		
Use of toilet areas in the school (13)	Inappropriate behaviour	Toilet areas in each classroom Ref: Supervision policy
Curricular Provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay safe. (25)	Non-teaching of same	School implements SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe in full Ref: Whole School Plan - Wellbeing
LGBT Children/Pupils perceived to be LGBT (33,34)	Bullying	Ref: Bí Cineálta Policy Ref: Code of Behaviour
Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils (1)	Harm from older pupils, unknown adults on the school grounds	Ref: Arrival and dismissal policy in place
Managing of challenging behaviour amongst pupils, including appropriate use of restraint (21)	Injury to pupils and staff	Ref: Health & Safety Policy Ref: Code Of Behaviour Ref: Understanding Behaviours of Concern and Responding to Crisis Situations & Relate Documents
Sports Coaches & Sporting Activities (9)	Harm to pupils	Procedures in place. All external coaches are Garda Vetted and are always accompanied by a teacher. Ref: Visitors to the School Ref: Whole School Plan for Physical Education (Wellbeing)
Students participating in work experience in the school (47)	Risk of child being harmed by volunteer or visitor to school	Procedures in place Students aged 16 – 18 are Garda Vetted. Ref: Visitors to the School Ref: Child Safeguarding Statement
Student teachers undertaking training placement in the school (49)	Risk of child being harmed by volunteer or visitor to school	Procedures in place. All Student teachers provide Garda Vetting when applying for placement. Ref: Visitors to the School Child Safeguarding Statement
Recreation breaks for pupils (2)	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision Risk of child being harmed in the school by another child	Supervision policy and procedures in place Ref: Supervision Policy Ref: Code of Behaviour Ref: Bí Cineálta Policy
Classroom teaching (3) Outdoor Teaching Activities (7)	Risk of harm by a member of school personnel	School personnel are required to adhere to the *Child protection procedures in Schools 2025* and all registered teaching staff are required to adhere to the *Children First Act 2015*. All teaching staff, permanent and

		substitute, are vetted by the teaching council. Proof of registration is required. All SNAs and other staff members, permanent and substitute, are Garda Vetted.
School outings (10) Participation by pupils in religious ceremonies/ religious instruction external to the school (44)	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children while attending out of school activities	Procedures in place Ref: School Tours Policy Ref: Supervision Policy School personnel are required to adhere to the *Child protection procedures in Schools 2025* and all registered teaching staff are required to adhere to the *Children First Act 2015*.
Annual Sports Day (15)	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision Risk of child being harmed by another child, volunteer or visitor to the school	Procedures are in place Ref: Supervision Policy Ref: Code of Behaviour Ref: Bí Cineálta Policy Ref: – Visitors to the School Garda Vetting required for Sports Day Volunteers.
Fundraising events involving pupils (16) - afterschool	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision Risk of child being harmed by another child, volunteer or visitor to the school	Procedures are in place Examples: Annual Craft Fair, Summer Fete etc. Ref: Supervision Policy Ref: Code of Behaviour Ref: Bí Cineálta Policy Ref: – Visitors to the School Communication from school to parents to remind parents that they are responsible for the supervision of their children.
Use of off-site facilities for school activities (17)	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision Risk of child being harmed by another child, volunteer or visitor to the school	Procedures are in place Examples: Sports Day in McGrath Park Ref: Supervision Policy Ref: Code of Behaviour Ref: Bí Cineálta Policy Ref: – Visitors to the School
School transport arrangements including use of bus escorts (18)	Risk of child being harmed on the bus by another child or a bus escort (if applicable)	School personnel are required to adhere to the *Child protection procedures in Schools 2025* and all registered teaching staff are required to adhere to the *Children First Act 2015*. Bus Escorts attended training with all staff on 20/10/2025. School through the DLP communicates with the bus companies and the bus inspector.

		Bus Escorts are fully compliant with Garda Vetting requirements.
Administration of Medicine (23) Administration of First Aid (24)	Risk of harm to child	Procedures are in place and First Aid training is provided by the Board of Management Ref: Administration of medicines policy Ref: Health and Safety Statement
Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst pupils, including online threats (26)	Risk of child being harmed by another child, in person or online	Procedures are in place Ref: Supervision Policy Ref: Code of Behaviour Ref: Bí Cineálta Policy Ref: AUP policy
Use of external personnel to supplement curriculum (28) Use of external personnel to support sports and other extra-curricular activities (29)	Risk of child being harmed in the school by external personnel supporting a curricular area.	Procedures in place Ref: – Visitors to the School Health & Safety Policy Child Safeguarding Statement.
Care of pupils with specific vulnerabilities/ needs such as • Pupils from ethnic minorities/migrants (31) • Members of the Traveller community (32) • Pupils of minority religious faiths (35) • Children in care (36) • Children on CPNS (37)	Risk of harm to children with specific vulnerabilities Risk of child being harmed in the school by a member of school personnel, by another child or volunteer/visitor to the school. Risk of harm due to bullying of child.	School personnel are required to adhere to the *Child protection procedures in Schools 2025* and all registered teaching staff are required to adhere to the *Children First Act 2015*. Procedures are in place Ref: Supervision Policy Ref: Code of Behaviour Ref: Bí Cineálta Policy Ref: – Visitors to the School
Recruitment of school personnel including - • Teachers • SNA's • Caretaker/Secretary/Cleaners • Sports coaches (39)	Harm not recognised or properly/ promptly reported Vetting Procedures not followed	Child Safeguarding Statement given to all staff & DES procedures made available to all staff All new permanent and non-casual substitute staff required to present Children First Training certificate dated within 6 months upon employment Staff to engage with Tusla training modules & any other online or face to face training offered by PDST

• External Tutors/Guest Speakers (40) • Volunteers/Parents in school activities (41) • Visitors/contractors present in school during school hours (42) • Visitors/contractors present during after school activities (43)		Vetting Procedure adhered to during recruitment process. Ref: – Visitors to the School
Use of Information and Communication Technology by pupils in school (45)	Risk of harm caused by pupils accessing / communicating inappropriate material. Risk of harm caused by a member of school personnel communicating with pupils via ICT Risk of harm caused by member of school personnel accessing/circulating inappropriate material via ICT	Policies and procedures are in place. School Broadband is provided by Oide and the filtering is at an appropriate level. Ref: ICT Acceptable Usage Policy Ref: Bí Cineálta Policy Ref: Code of Behaviour Ref: Mobile Phone Policy Circular re: Use of Smartphones by Pupils in School
Application of sanctions under the school's Code of Behaviour including detention for part of break time (46)	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision	Policies and procedures are in place Ref: Code of Behaviour Ref: Supervision policy Ref: Understanding Behaviours of Concern and Responding to Crisis Situations
Use of online teaching and learning remotely (8)	Risk of harm of students accessing inappropriate content on different webpages if unsupervised at home or at school when using chromebooks/ipads	Ref: Code of Behaviour Ref: Supervision policy Ref: AUP policy
Use of video/photography/other media to record school events (50)	Risk of harm caused by member of school personnel/ visitors accessing and	Procedures are in place for pupils and personnel Ref: ICT Acceptable Usage Policy Ref: Bí Cineálta Policy

	circulating media records of school events. Risk of harm caused by the use of Instagram by the school	Ref: Code of Behaviour Ref: Mobile Phone Policy Ref: Website policy Ref: – Visitors to the School All parents consent or do not consent to images of their child(ren) being used on Instagram/ school website each year. The school Instagram page is private and images can only be viewed by those following the page. Followers are accepted/ declined by the Principal.
Management of provision of food and drink (22)	Risk of harm from external personnel	Ref: Healthy Eating Policy Hot Lunches are provided by Fresh Today and the same employee gives out the lunches each day. Fresh Today Operators are Garda Vetted by the school.
During & After-school use of school premises by other organisations (51 & 52)	Risk of child being harmed by a member of staff of another organisation while the child is participating in after school activity.	External Organisations provide the school with a copy of their insurance and each external person is Garda Vetted by the school.

Additional pages may be added as required

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.

Examples of School Activities which schools may draw from, as appropriate

1. Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils
2. Recreation breaks for pupils
3. Classroom teaching
4. One-to-one teaching
5. One-to-one learning support
6. One-to-one counselling
7. Outdoor teaching activities
8. Online teaching and learning remotely
9. Sporting activities
10. School outings
11. School trips involving overnight stay
12. School trips involving foreign travel
13. Use of toilet/changing/shower areas in schools
14. Provision of residential facilities for boarders
15. Annual Sports Day
16. Fundraising events involving pupils
17. Use of off-site facilities for school activities
18. School transport arrangements including use of bus escorts
19. Care of children with special educational needs, including intimate care where needed
20. Care of any vulnerable adult students, including intimate care where needed
21. Management of challenging behaviour amongst pupils, including appropriate use of restraint where required
22. Management of provision of food and drink
23. Administration of medicine
24. Administration of First Aid
25. Curricular provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe
26. Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst pupils
27. Training of school personnel in child protection matters
28. Use of external personnel to supplement curriculum
29. Use of external personnel to support sports and other extra-curricular activities
30. Care of pupils with specific vulnerabilities/needs
31. Pupils from ethnic minorities/migrants
32. Members of the Traveller community

33. Lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender (LGBT) children
34. Pupils perceived to be LGBT
35. Pupils of minority religious faiths
36. Children in care
37. Children on Tusla's Child Protection Notification System (CPNS)
38. Children with medical needs
39. Recruitment of school personnel including teachers/SNAs, caretakers/secretaries/cleaners and sport coaches
40. External Tutors/Guest Speakers
41. Volunteers/Parents in school activities
42. Visitors/contractors present in school during school hours
43. Visitors/contractors present during after-school activities
44. Participation by pupils in religious ceremonies/religious instruction external to the school
45. Use of Information and Communication Technology by pupils in school, including social media
46. Application of sanctions under the school's Code of Behaviour including detention of pupils, confiscation of phones etc.
47. Students participating in work experience in the school
48. Students from the school participating in work experience elsewhere
49. Student teachers undertaking training placement in school
50. Use of video/photography/other media to record school events
51. After-school use of school premises by other organisations
52. Use of school premises by other organisations during school day
53. Breakfast club
54. Homework club/evening study
55. Children attending boarding schools or living away from home

Examples of Risks of Harm

1. Risk of harm not being recognised by school personnel
2. Risk of harm not being reported properly and promptly by members of school personnel
3. Risk of harm where members of school personnel have not received appropriate training
4. Risk of child being harmed in the school by a member of school personnel
5. Risk of child being harmed in the school by another child
6. Risk of child being harmed in the school by a volunteer or visitor to the school

7. Risk of child being harmed by a member of school personnel, a member of staff of another organisation or other person while a child is participating in out-of-school activities, e.g. school trip, swimming lessons
8. Risk of harm due to inappropriate use of online remote teaching and learning communication platform, such as an uninvited person accessing the lesson link, students being left unsupervised for long periods of time in breakout rooms
9. Risk of harm due to bullying of a child
10. Risk of harm due to racism
11. Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children in school
12. Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children while attending out-of-school activities
13. Risk of harm due to inappropriate relationship/communications between a child and another child or adult
14. Risk of harm due to children inappropriately accessing/using computers, social media, phones and other devices while at school
15. Risk of harm to children with special educational needs who have particular vulnerabilities, including medical vulnerabilities
16. Risk of harm to child while a child is receiving intimate care
17. Risk of harm due to inadequate code of behaviour
18. Risk of harm in one-to-one teaching, counselling, coaching situations
19. Risk of harm caused by a member of school personnel communicating with pupils in an inappropriate manner via social media, texting, digital device, or other manner
20. Risk of harm caused by a member of school personnel accessing/circulating inappropriate material via social media, texting, digital device or other manner
21. Risks where children are living away from home or attending boarding facilities

These are examples of policies and procedures that may be used to address Risks of Harm

1. All school personnel are provided with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment
2. The Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025 are made available to all school personnel
3. 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
4. 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
5. The school implements in full the Stay Safe Programme
6. The school implements in full the Social, Personal, and Health Education (SPHE) curriculum

7. The school implements in full the Wellbeing Programme at Junior Cycle
8. School authorities have a code of behaviour and an anti-bullying policy in place in accordance with the department's 'Bí Cineálta' procedures to prevent and address bullying in schools and as outlined in Circular 55/2024
9. The school has complied with the Understanding Behaviours of Concern and Responding to Crisis Situations developed by the Department of Education and Youth to address uncertainty for staff on how to respond when facing crisis situations where there are concerns regarding physical safety
10. The school undertakes anti-racism awareness initiatives
11. The school has a yard/playground supervision policy to ensure appropriate supervision of children during assembly, dismissal and breaks and in respect of specific areas such as toilets, changing rooms etc.
12. The school has in place a policy and clear procedures in respect of school outings
13. The school has a health and safety policy
14. The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation
15. The school adheres to the relevant Department of Education and Youth circulars in respect of recruitment
16. The school has a code of conduct for school personnel (teaching and non-teaching staff)
17. The school complies with the agreed disciplinary procedures for teaching staff
18. The school has a special educational needs policy
19. The school has an intimate care policy/plan in respect of students who require such care
20. The school has in place a policy and procedures for the administration of medication to pupils
21. The school has provided each member of school staff with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment
22. The school ensures all new personnel are provided with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment
23. The school encourages personnel to avail of relevant training
24. The school encourages board of management members to avail of relevant training
25. The school maintains records of all personnel and board member training
26. The school has in place a policy and procedures for the administration of First Aid
27. The school has in place a code of behaviour for pupils
28. 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
29. 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
30. The school has in place a Critical Incident Management Plan
31. The school has in place a Home School Liaison policy and related procedures

32. The school has in place a policy and procedures for the use of external persons to supplement delivery of the curriculum
33. The school has in place a policy and procedures for the use of external sports coaches
34. The school has in place a policy and clear procedures for one-to-one teaching activities
35. The school has in place a policy and procedures for one-to-one counselling
36. The school has in place a policy and procedures in respect of student teacher placements
37. The school has in place a policy and procedures in respect of pupils undertaking work experience in the school
38. The school has in place a policy and procedures in respect of pupils of the school undertaking work experience in external organisations
39. The school has in place a policy in relation to assisting members of school personnel in respect of disclosures of retrospective abuse
40. The school has considered the questions in Appendix 1 of the Child Protection and Safeguarding Procedures for Boarding Facilities Associated with Recognised Schools 2023 and implemented the necessary risk mitigation measures

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 13th October 2026 *(most recent review date)*

Signed:*	Amy M Kidd	**Date**: 13 October '26

Chairperson of the board of management

Signed:*	Emer Magee	**Date**: 13/10/2026

Principal/Secretary to the board of management

This Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment is expected to be reviewed again on October 2027 *(expected review date)*

** Document to be printed and signed with original signatures*

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

This may be in the form of specifying the online location for the procedures (Department of Education and Youth website www.gov.ie/childprotectionschools and/or the school website), providing a link to the Children First National Guidance 2017 Children_First_National_Guidance_2017.pdf, and stating the number and location of hard copies of these procedures available in the school.

A hard copy of the Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025 and the associated booklets are stored in the Principal's Office. A soft copy can be found online using this link: https://www.gov.ie/en/department-of-education/policy-information/child-protection-procedures-in-schools/#child-protection-procedures-2025-and-supports-for-schools

A hard copy of the Children First Act 2015 is stored in the Principal's Office. A soft copy can be found online using this link: https://www.tusla.ie/children-first/children-first-guidance-and-legislation/

The school's Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment can be found with the Child Protection Procedures and a copy of the Children First Act 2015 in the Principal's Office. A soft copy can be found online using this link: https://stmarysnsbagenalstown.ie/policies/