

Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment Template (Landscape Version)

Child Safeguarding Statement

St. Aloysius' School is a post-primary school providing post-primary education to pupils from First Year to Leaving Certificate Year.

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. Aloysius' School** 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 Ms Alexandria Savage
- 3 The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is Ms Kathy McGlade
- 4 The Relevant Person is Ms Alexandria Savage
(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 27/02/2019_ [date].

This Child Safeguarding Statement was reviewed by the Board of Management on 29/11/2023 [most recent review date].

Signed: 

Chairperson of Board of Management

Signed: 

Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Date: 29/11/2023.

Date: 29/11/2023

Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment

Written Assessment of Risk of St Aloysius' School

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 St Aloysius' School.

Risk	1. List of school activities	2. The school has identified the following risk of harm in respect of its activities –	3. The school has the following procedures in place to address the risks of harm identified in this assessment -
1.	Recreation breaks for students	Possible risk caused by inadequate supervision of all areas used by students for breaks	Supervision & Substitution Rota in operation by vetted staff for the school year which covers all areas sanctioned for use by students
2.	One to one teaching	Risk of being harmed by a member of staff	Staff are vetted and all rooms used are fitted with windows in the doors
3.	One to one counselling	Risk of being harmed by a member of staff	Staff are vetted and all rooms used are fitted with windows in the doors
4.	One to one career guidance appointments	Risk of being harmed by a member of staff	Staff are vetted and all rooms used are fitted with windows in the doors
5.	Online Teaching	Risk of being harmed by a member of staff or by other pupils if inadequately supervised.	An acceptable Usage Policy has been updated to take into account online acceptable behaviour
6.	Online Counselling	Risk of being harmed by a staff member	Procedures in place to work with online guidance / counselling have been put in place including parental consent
7.	Online SNA Support	Risk of being harmed by a member of staff	Acceptable Usage Policy has been updated to take into account online acceptable behaviour
8.	School outings	Students at risk from being harmed by another adult or child if inadequately supervised	School outings have the requisite number of staff to student ratio for adequate supervision

9.	School trips involving overnights stays	Students at risk from being harmed by another adult or child if inadequately supervised	School outings have the requisite number of staff to student ratio for adequate supervision
10.	School trips involving foreign travel	Students at risk from being harmed by another adult or child if inadequately supervised	School outings have the requisite number of staff to student ratio for adequate supervision
11.	Use of toilet/changing/shower areas in school	Students at risk of harm by member of staff inappropriately engaging with student in this area	Members of staff do not enter these areas while students are present unless an urgent need arises due to student ill-health, etc
12.	Fundraising events involving taking students outside of the school	Risk of harm to students from members of other organisations or those who have not been appropriately vetted	Students only take part in activities with organisations that have a relationship with the school and are accompanied by a member of staff as appropriate
13.	Use of off-site facilities for school activities	Risk of harm to students from members of other organisations or those who have not been appropriately vetted	Students attend with school staff and are adequately supervised while outside the school
14.	Care of children with special education needs	Potential risk of harm to students caused by members of staff unaware of students' difficulties	Staff are fully informed about students' additional needs at a staff meeting at the beginning of the school year. SEN Co-ordinator ensures records pertaining to such are available to all staff, both on VsWare and files are held in the Year Head Office. The school has a Special Education Needs Policy.
15.	Management of challenging behaviour amongst students	Risk of student being detained or treated inappropriately by member of staff	Only Vetted staff have access to students. Updates on behaviour are kept on the Pastoral Care notice board. School has regular contact with the NEPs Psychologist and the SENO. Pastoral Care team is established in the school.
16.	Curricular provision with respect to SPHE and RSE	Risk of harm to students caused by member of staff inappropriately communicating class material	The SPHE and RSE curriculum are delivered in full by teachers who have undergone specialised training in this area.
17.	Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst students	Risk of students being harmed in the school by other students	Students and parents are informed of the Code of Behaviour and Anti-Bullying Policy. Parents sign the school journals agreeing to the Code of Behaviour and Discipline. Re-enrolment form is signed annually to

			agree to the Code of Behaviour. Class teachers and SPHE classes also cover these topics during the year.
18.	Prevention and dealing with bullying via social media amongst students	Risk of students being harmed in the school by other students	The school has a Mobile Phone and Electronic Media Device Policy
19.	Training of school personnel in child protection matters	Risk of harm not being recognised or reported by members of staff	All staff are required to undergo the appropriate training and are required to adhere to the school's Child Protection Policy
20.	Use of external personnel to supplement curriculum	Risk of students being harmed by a visitor to the school	Visitors to the school are required to be vetted and/or be supervised at all times by a member of staff. All workshops etc, are fully supervised by a staff member at all times.
21.	Use of external personnel to support sports and extra curricular activities	Risk of students being harmed by personnel from another organisation	All such activities are supervised by a member of staff
22.	Student teachers/guidance counsellors undertaking training placement in school	Risk of harm not being recognised or reported by members of staff	All trainee personnel are instructed in these matters prior to starting their placement and are vetted by their 3 rd level institution
23.	Use of IT by students in school	Risk of harm to students accessing inappropriate website content	Students using the IT room are fully supervised at all times. Websites containing inappropriate content and social media sites such as Facebook have been blocked. The school has an Internet Access Policy.
24.	Application of sanctions under the Code of Behaviour including detention and confiscation of phone, etc	Risk of harm to students engaging in challenging behaviour with member of staff	Code of Behaviour is addressed at staff meetings and all staff are familiar with the Code of Behaviour and procedures. New staff are mentored in this at the beginning of the school year.
25.	Students participating in work experience in the school	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of the student at all times	Students are supervised by a member of staff at all times
26.	Students from the school participating in work experience elsewhere	Risk of students being harmed by personnel from another organisation	Students receive instruction prior to work experience regarding safety

27.	Use of media to record school events	Risk of harm to students caused by member of school personnel circulating inappropriate material via social media or other methods	School social media and website content is managed internally.
28.	Use of media to record events involving students outside the school where members of the public or personnel from other organisations are present	Risk of harm to students caused by members of the public or others circulating inappropriate material via social media or other methods	Students receive instruction on appropriate use of social media and are advised to alert parents and school to any inappropriate content being circulated
29.	After school use of school premises by other organisations	Risk of students engaging in after school activities being harmed by personnel from another organisation	Any student who has permission remaining in the school or grounds after the school day are supervised by a member of staff
30.	Evening study	Risk of being harmed by a member of staff	Staff are vetted and all rooms used are fitted with windows in the doors. Other staff members are also on school grounds during the period of evening study
31.	Visitors/placement supervisors/contractors present in school during the school day	Risk of students being harmed by visitors to the school	All visitors are accompanied throughout the school by a member of staff
32.	Visitors/contractors present in school during after school activities	Risk of students engaging in after school activities being harmed by visitors to the school	Any student who has permission remaining in the school or grounds after the school day are supervised by a member of staff
33.	Administration of first aid	Risk of student being harmed while receiving care	Staff undergo training to administer appropriate first aid

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 no 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.

This risk assessment has been completed by the Board of Management on 29th November 2023. It shall be reviewed annually.