

## Mandatory Template 1: Child Safeguarding Statement; St. Ailbe's National School, Emly

St. Ailbe's NS is a primary school providing primary 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 St. Ailbe's NS 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 **Michelle O'Brien**

3 The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is **Paula Hartigan**

4 The Relevant Person is **Michelle O'Brien**  
(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. This person can also be the DLP)

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.

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 in March 2018

This Child Safeguarding Statement was reviewed by the Board of Management on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2024.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Chairperson of Board of Management

Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_



## Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment (of any potential harm)

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
Training of school personnel in Child Protection matters	High	Harm not recognised or reported promptly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Child Safeguarding Statement &amp; DES procedures made available to all staff</li> <li>School Personnel are required to adhere to the Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2023 and all registered teaching staff are required to adhere to the Children First Act 2015</li> <li>DLP&amp; DDLP have attended specific PDST training</li> <li>All Staff to view Túsla Children First training module &amp; any other online training offered by PDST at least every 3 years</li> <li>BOM members to view Tusla training module.</li> <li>Child Protection guidelines remain in place until Child Safety Statement is completed.</li> <li>Staff to revisit PDST website to do online training during the 2024-2025 school year</li> <li>BOM records all records of staff and board training</li> </ul>
One to one teaching	Med	Harm by school personnel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>School has policy in place for one to one teaching</li> <li>Table between teacher and pupil</li> <li>Glass in doors.</li> <li>Timetables showing times of one to one teaching is available in the office.</li> </ul>
Care of Children with special needs, including intimate care needs and Flight Risk.	High	Harm by school personnel Risk of Flight.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Policy on intimate care for students who require such care.</li> <li>Individual intimate care Plans developed when necessary. These are signed and copied to parents/guardians. They are retained in their individual files. Relevant teacher and Principal only to have access to these files.</li> <li>In cases of Flight risk parents are made aware of such risk. Adequate supervision is provided. Environment alterations are put in place when and where it is necessary. All staff are made aware of such risk. It is recorded on School Support Plan.</li> </ul>
Toilet areas	High	Inappropriate behaviour	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Supervision policy.</li> <li>Code of Behaviour and Code of Discipline.</li> <li>Anti-Bullying Policy.</li> </ul>
Curricular Provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay safe.	Med	Non-teaching of same	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>School implements SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe in full.</li> <li>Regular Staff CPD.</li> <li>Principal monitoring Cúntais Míosúil to oversee teaching</li> </ul>
LGBT Children/Pupils perceived to be LGBT	Low	Bullying	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Anti-Bullying Policy</li> <li>Code of Behaviour</li> <li>Implementation of Stay Safe Policy.</li> <li>Wellbeing initiatives</li> </ul>
Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils	Med	Harm from older pupils, and others on the school grounds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Children are supervised by teachers in their classrooms from 8.40am. Parents are not permitted in the building without appointment.</li> <li>A drop off and collection plan has been drawn up and circulated to all parents. All children are met at their designated gate by a staff member every morning and escorted to their classroom.</li> <li>All children are escorted from and to the yard for collection by parent/guardian. Parents /guardians are responsible for the safe collection of their child/children from the schoolyard.</li> <li>Staff will meet all children from Spraoi, Realtai and Iontas as the bus approaches.</li> <li>Parents bringing children to Autism class come to Gate 4 and staff accompany children into their respective classrooms.</li> <li>The SNAs will escort children to the bus/taxi in the evening ensuring that they are safely on the bus.</li> </ul>
Managing of challenging behaviour amongst pupils.	High	Injury to pupils and staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Health &amp; Safety Policy</li> <li>Code of Behaviour</li> <li>Psychological reports to inform staff action.</li> <li>Staff training where relevant</li> <li>NEPS advice where necessary</li> </ul>
Sports Coaches	Med	Harm to pupils	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All Sports Coaches are garda vetted.</li> <li>Class teachers are always present with the children when coaching is taking place.</li> </ul>
Students participating in work experience	Low	Harm by student	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Child Safeguarding Statement available.</li> <li>Student is always under the supervision of the teacher.</li> </ul>
Recreation breaks for pupils	High	Harm to pupils	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Supervision policy strictly adhered to. The school has a yard supervision policy to ensure appropriate supervision of children during playtime.</li> <li>New playground area: Class teacher to supervise in the new playground when their class grouping is scheduled to be in there.</li> <li>Supervision timetable in place for each break ensuring appropriate supervision of children.</li> </ul>
Classroom teaching including Summer Programme	Low	Harm to pupil/teacher	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assumed adherence to Teaching Council Code of Conduct. The school complies with the agreed disciplinary procedures for teaching staff.</li> </ul>
Outdoor teaching activities Including Summer Programme	Med	Harm to pupil/ teacher	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Supervision Policy strictly adhered to.</li> </ul>
Sporting Activities including Swimming Including Summer Programme	Med	Harm to pupil/ teacher	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As above.</li> </ul>

School outings Including Summer Programme	High	Harm to pupils and teacher	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Supervision Policy.</li> <li>Code of Behaviour.</li> <li>Health and Safety Statement.</li> <li>Administration Of Meds Policy</li> <li>Anti Bullying Policy.</li> </ul>
Use of toilet/changing/shower areas in schools	High.	Inappropriate Behaviour	As For Toilet Areas. Refer Back. Intimate Care policy where required.
Annual Sports Day	High	Harm to pupils	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Supervision Policy.</li> <li>Code of Behaviour.</li> <li>Health and Safety Statement.</li> <li>Administration Of Meds Policy.</li> <li>Anti-Bullying Policy.</li> </ul>
Fundraising events involving pupils	High	Harm to pupils	Same as above.
Use of off-site facilities for school activities	High	Harm to Pupils	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure all adults in contact with children are garda vetted.</li> <li>Ensure that adequate supervision is provided by the group.</li> <li>Ensure that any group using the premises have their own Child Protection policy in place. Provide the school with a copy of same.</li> </ul>
Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst pupils	High	Harm to Pupils	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Anti-Bullying Policy- Bí Cinealta policy to be devised in 2024/2025</li> <li>Code of Behaviour.</li> <li>Acceptable Use Policy</li> <li>Wellbeing Initiatives</li> <li>SPHE lessons to focus on Bullying and online safety.</li> </ul>
Training of school personnel in child protection matters	low	Harm to pupils	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Regular updating of Child Protection policy/ Statement.</li> <li>Regular CPD to be advised and encouraged.</li> <li>All new staff to be given copy of Child protection guidelines and encouraged to do online PDST training, Children First Certificate requested</li> </ul>
Use of external personnel to supplement curriculum	Low	Harm to pupils	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All External teachers/facilitators are garda vetted.</li> <li>Class teachers always present when external teachers are in their classrooms.</li> </ul>
Care of pupils with specific vulnerabilities/ needs such as <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>Pupils perceived to be LGBT</li> <li>Pupils of minority religious faiths</li> <li>Children in care</li> <li>Children on CPNS</li> </ul>	Low	Bullying	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The school has an Anti-Bullying policy which strictly adheres to the requirements of the Dept 's Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools.</li> <li>Code of Behaviour.</li> <li>All members of school staff strictly adhere to Child Protection guidelines.</li> <li>The School has an SEN policy.</li> <li>SPHE lessons.</li> <li>Wellbeing initiatives</li> </ul>
Recruitment of school personnel including - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Teachers</li> <li>SNA's</li> <li>Summer Programme Staff</li> <li>Caretaker/Secretary/Cleaners</li> <li>Sports coaches</li> <li>External Tutors/Guest Speakers</li> <li>Volunteers/Parents in school activities</li> <li>Visitors/contractors present in school during school hours</li> <li>Visitors/contractors present during after school activities</li> </ul>	High	Harm not recognised or properly or promptly reported	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Child Safeguarding Statement &amp; DES procedures made available to all staff.</li> <li>All new staff are given a copy of Child Safe Guarding Statement. They sign for it as they receive it.</li> <li>Regular reviews of Child Protection Protocols.</li> <li>Staff to view Tusla training module &amp; any other online training offered by PDST</li> <li>Vetting Procedures in line with Diocesan requirements</li> </ul>
Use of school premises by other organisation during school day	low	Harm to pupils	Children not present if school is being used for any other activity e.g. Voting for referenda /elections.
Use of Information and Communication Technology by pupils in school, including social media	High	Bullying Risk of harm caused by member of school personnel communicating with pupils in appropriate manner via social media, texting, email, use of online platforms, digital device or other manner. Risk of harm caused by member of school personnel accessing/circulating inappropriate material via social media, texting, digital device or other manner. Risk of harm due to children inappropriately accessing/using computers, Ipads, social media while at school .	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ICT policy</li> <li>Anti-Bullying Policy</li> <li>Code of Behaviour</li> <li>Wet Days. Teacher chooses appropriate viewing material for children.</li> <li>Implementation of Stay Safe programme.</li> <li>Responsible digital citizenship Webwise.</li> <li>AUP policy has been updated to include use of Ipads.</li> <li>All children to be supervised when using computers and Ipads at school.</li> <li>Safe filters on school wifi to disable access to social media etc</li> </ul>
Use of Information and Communication Technology by pupils for remote learning, including social media	High	Bullying Risk of harm caused by member of school personnel communicating with pupils in appropriate manner via social media, texting, email, use of online platforms, digital device or other manner. Risk of harm caused by member of school personnel accessing/circulating inappropriate material via social media, texting, digital device or other manner. Risk of harm due to children inappropriately accessing/using computers, Ipads, social media while engaging in remote learning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ICT policy</li> <li>Anti-Bullying Policy</li> <li>Code of Behaviour</li> <li>Responsible digital citizenship -Webwise.</li> <li>Specific contact and communication made with parents surrounding the need for children to be supervised while working/ learning online</li> </ul>
Application of sanctions under the school's Code of Behaviour.	Low	Harm to children and staff.	All staff members to follow appropriate procedures in line with Anti Bullying policy, Code of behaviour

			The school has codes of conduct for school personnel (teaching and non-teaching staff)
Students participating in work experience in the school	low	Harm to children	Students never alone with a child. Students to have approval from their schools prior to participating in work experience.
Student teachers undertaking training placement in school	Low	Harm to pupils	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All recommended guidelines to be followed.</li> <li>Vetting assurances in place from Third Level Institution</li> </ul>
Use of video/photography/other media to record school events	low	Harm to pupils	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ICT policy in place. GDPR Policy. CCTV Policy in operation. Parental permission sought .</li> </ul>
After school use of school premises by other organisations	high	Harm to pupils	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure that all adults are garda vetted.</li> <li>Ensure that adequate supervision is provided.</li> <li>Child protection statement to be provided to the BOM.</li> </ul>

**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 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 in March 2018. It will be reviewed in September 2024 as part of the school’s annual review of its Child Safeguarding Statement.

Signed **Pat Hennessy** Date; 30<sup>th</sup> September 2024

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Chairperson, Board of Management

Signed; **Michelle O’Brien** Date 30<sup>th</sup> September 2024

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Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management