

Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment



Child Safeguarding Statement

St. Olaf's N.S. 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 2017](#) and [Tusla Guidance on the preparation of Child Safeguarding Statements](#), the Board of Management of St. Olaf's N.S. 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 2017 as part of this overall Child Safeguarding Statement
- 2 The Designated Liaison Person (DLP) is **John Murtagh**
- 3 The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is **Lorraine Brady**
- 4 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.

5 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 2017 and to the relevant agreed disciplinary procedures for school staff which are published on the DE 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 DE 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 2017, including in the case of registered teachers, those in relation to mandated reporting under the Children First Act 2015.
- In this school the Board has appointed the abovenamed DLP as the "relevant person" (as defined in the Children First Act 2015) to be the first point of contact in respect of the schools child safeguarding statement.
- 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 DE 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.

- 6 This statement has been published on the school's website and has been provided to all members of school personnel, the Parents' Association 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.
- 7 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 14/9/2021.

This Child Safeguarding Statement was reviewed by the Board of Management on 13/9/2021.

Signed: _____

Chairperson of Board of Management

Signed: _____

Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Date: _____

Date: _____

Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment of St Olaf's NS

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 Post-Primary Schools 2017*, the following is the Written Risk Assessment of St Olaf's NS. In column one a number of activities relevant to our school are listed. These activities without the proper measures would be rated as a high risk of potential harm.

School activities and areas of potential risk in the school environment.	The likelihood of such harm occurring. Rated: High Medium or Low	The School has identified the following Risk of Harm	Who is responsible	The School has the following procedures in place to address identified risks
Staff Recruitment and Training				
Recruitment of school personnel . Personnel to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teachers • SNAs • Substitute teachers • Caretaker/Secretary/Cleaners • Sports coaches • External guests. Eg Accord Tutors/PA Facilitators • Visitors/contractors present in school during school hours 	Low	Harm to the child	Board of Management/ Interview Panel/ Principal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Garda vetting policy for all those with direct unsupervised contact with children • Requirement to provide proof of qualification and training before employment • Child Safeguarding Statement on display in prominent place in the school • DES procedures made available to all staff
Training by school personnel in Child Protection matters	Low	Harm not recognised. Harm not reported promptly	Board of Management Principal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child Safeguarding Statement on display in prominent place in the school • DES procedures made available to all staff. • Staff consultation on the formation of the Risk assessment and safeguarding statement

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DLP& DDLP attended PDST face to face training • All staff completed Tusla training & other online training offered by PDST
Student teachers undertaking training placement in school	Low	Harm to pupils	Teacher	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supervision Policy • College Vetting Policy • Close teacher observation
Transition year students undertaking work experience in school	Low	Harm to pupils	Teacher	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supervision Policy (Under the supervision of teachers at all times)
Remote Schooling				
Live virtual meetings, class/school assemblies	Med	Harm to child	Principal Teachers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff CPD • Team's policy (including parent permission and consent) • Co-hosting by at least two staff members
Remote Teaching and Learning	Low	Harm to child	Principal Teacher	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of DES approved platforms • Teacher approval and control over posting of content/responses • Teacher/Staff CPD • Pre-recorded lessons • Parental consent and supervision
SPHE Curriculum coverage	Low	Harm to child	Principal Teacher	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provision for coverage of sensitive topics in SPHE curriculum following resumption of face to face schooling • Liaising with post-primary providers in event of certain areas not adequately covered

Classroom Teaching & Special Education				
One to one teaching	Low	Harm to SEN Child	Principal Teacher	School has policy in place for one to one teaching (See child protection policy and H&S policy) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Glass in window • Shared teaching areas
Care of children with special needs, including intimate care needs	Low	Harm to child	Teacher SNA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See H&S policy, Child Protection policy, SNA policy and Covid Response Plan
Managing of challenging behaviour amongst pupils.	High	Harm to child Harm to staff	Teacher Principal Deputy Principal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Code of Behaviour • Assemblies
Curricular Provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe.	Low	Harm to child	Principal Teacher	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School implements SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe in full • Accord • Staff training in Stay Safe programme, updated training in RSE, SPHE plan updated and reviewed by PDST
Daily admission and dismissal of pupils	Med	Harm from other pupils Unknown adults on the playground Unknown adults in “waiting area” from 1.30pm	Principal Teachers SNAs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Admission and dismissal of pupils supervised by Teachers (class level appropriate) • Notice and reminders to parents re morning supervision • Notices and reminders to parents re admission and dismissal • Reporting procedures/incidents at reception. Monitoring of CCTV, • Late register and sign out register in effect

Application of sanctions under the school's Code of Behaviour including detention and suspension of pupils, confiscation of phones etc.	Low	Harm to pupils	Principal Teacher	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Code of Behaviour • Anti-Bullying Policy • Friends First/ Fun Friends
Extra-curricular activities				
Sporting Activities Sports Coaches	Low	Harm to pupils	Principal Teacher Teacher in charge.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All coaches vetted and qualification /references confirmed. (where necessary) • Teachers supervising. • Policy & Procedures in place (See supervision policy)
Annual Sports Day	Med	Harm to pupils. E.g. Unknown people in the park	Principal, Teachers SNAs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supervision Policy • Extra staff pupil ratio.
Use of off-site facilities for school activities	Med	Harm to pupils	Teachers in charge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supervision Policy • Verification of external agencies Child Protection Procedures. Eg Tours
After school use of school premises by other organisations eg PA classes	Low	Harm to pupils	Teachers in charge Parents' Association	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PA policy and insurance • Personnel vetted and trained with Tusla • Relevant child protection procedures completed and awareness of DLP role for non-mandated personnel
General Risk of Harm				
Recreation breaks for pupils	Med	Harm from other children	Teachers on yard supervision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anti-Bullying Policy • Supervision Policy • Code of Behaviour • Assemblies • SPHE lessons

Use of Information and Communication Technology by pupils in school	Low	Cyber Bullying Accessing inappropriate material	Class Teacher	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ICT policy • NCTE • Anti-Bullying Policy • Code of Behaviour • Cyber Safety Ireland (external speakers) • Assemblies • No unsupervised access to internet for pupils
Use of video/photography/other media to record school events	Low	Harm to the child	Principal Deputy Principal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health and Safety Policy • ICT Policy • Parental consent on admission form • Vetting Policy • Reminder to parents not to post publicly (eg Christmas Plays)
Toilet Areas	Low	Harm to the child	Teachers SNAs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supervision policy • SNA policy

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 2017*

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 14/09/2021. It shall be reviewed as part of the school’s annual review of its Child Safeguarding Statement.

Signed Donal Rochford Date 14/09/21

Chairperson, Board of Management

Signed John Murtagh Date 14/09/21

Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management