Trinity Primary School,

Tuam, Co. Galway

Child Safeguarding Statement

And

Risk assessment 2025/2026

Mandatory Template 1: Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment Template

Child Safeguarding Statement

Trinity P.S. Tuam 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 Trinity P.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 *(revised 2023)* as part of this overall Child Safeguarding Statement

2 The Designated Liaison Person (DLP) is

Loraine Burke

3 The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is

Padraig Birmingham

If the DLP and the DDLP are uncontactable then the point of contact is **Rosemary Atkinson** who will contact the chairperson of the Board of Management

4 The Relevant Person is **Loraine Burke**

(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-

Ø Has provided each member of staff with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement
Ø Ensures all new staff are provided with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement
Ø Encourages staff to avail of relevant training
Ø Encourages Board of Management members to avail of relevant training
Ø 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.

Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment

Written Assessment of Risk of Trinity P.S. Tuam

In accordance with section 11 of the Children First Act 2015 and with the requirements of Chapter 8 of the *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools (revised 2023)*, the following is the Written Risk Assessment of Trinity P.S..

1. List of school activities

Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils
Recreation breaks for pupils
Classroom teaching, One-to-one teaching, One-to-one learning support
One-to-one counselling/SCP work
Outdoor teaching activities
Movement of children between campuses/buildings
Online teaching and learning remotely
Sporting Activities /Annual Sports Day/School outings
Use of toilet/changing/shower areas in schools
Movement breaks for pupils.
Use of the Multisensory Room.
Fundraising events involving pupils
Use of off-site facilities for school activities
School transport arrangements including use of bus escorts
Care of children with extra needs, including intimate care where needed,
Management of challenging behaviour amongst pupils, including appropriate use of restraint where required
Management of provision of food and drink
Administration of Medicine
Administration of First Aid
Curricular provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe
Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst pupils
Training of school personnel in child protection matters
Use of external personnel to supplement curriculum

Use of external personnel to support sports and other extra-curricular activities

Care of pupils with specific vulnerabilities/ needs such as

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

Children with medical needs

Recruitment of school personnel including -

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

Visitors/contractors present during after school activities

Participation by pupils in religious ceremonies external to the school

Use of ICT by pupils in school, including social media

Application of sanctions in school's COB including detention of pupils, confiscation of phones etc.

Students participating in work experience in the school

Student teachers undertaking training placement in school

Use of video/photography/other media to record school events

Use of school for Summer programmes, summer inclusion programmes and DEIS literacy and numeracy camps

After school use of school premises by other organisations

Use of school premises by other organisation during school day

Homework club

Record keeping around contact with Tusla regarding CP issues

2. The school has identified the following risk of harm in respect of its activities -

Risk of harm not being recognised by school personnel

Risk of harm not being reported properly and promptly by school personnel

Risk of child being harmed in the school by a member of school personnel

Risk of child being harmed in the school by another child

Risk of child being harmed in the school by volunteer or visitor to the school

Risk of child being harmed by a member of school personnel, a member of staff of another organisation or other person while child participating in out of school activities e.g. school trip, swimming lessons

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

Risk of harm due to bullying of child

Risk of harm due to racism

Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children in school

Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children at out of school activities

Risk of harm due to inappropriate relationship/communications between child and another child or adult

Risk of harm due to children inappropriately accessing/using computers, social media, phones and other devices while at school

Risk of harm to children with SEN who have particular vulnerabilities, including medical vulnerabilities

Risk of harm to child while a child is receiving intimate care

Risk of harm due to inadequate code of behaviour

Risk of harm in one-to-one teaching, counselling, coaching situation

Risk of harm caused by member of school personnel communicating with pupils in an inappropriate manner via social media, texting, digital device etc.

Risk of harm caused by member of school personnel accessing/circulating inappropriate material via social media, texting, digital device or other manner or of circulating video/recordings of students made in school.

Lack of suitable adult male toilets on campus 1 and 2, an existing toilet on c2 is being brought back into use.

No door manager on campus 3b

3. The school has the following procedures in place to address the risks of harm identified in this assessment -

All school personnel are provided with a copy of the school's *Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment, there is a copy in every classroom as well as in each office. A link to the revised 2023 guidelines was emailed to each staff member at the start of the year.*

The *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2023* are made available to all school personnel

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* and it's Addendum (2019)

A DLP and DDLP have been appointed

The school implements in full the Stay Safe Programme

The school implements in full the SPHE curriculum

The school has an Anti-Bullying Policy which fully adheres to the requirements of the Department's *Anti-Bullying Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools*

The school undertakes anti-racism awareness initiatives eg. trinity week

The school has yard/playground supervision procedures to ensure appropriate supervision of children during, assembly, dismissal and breaks and in respect of specific areas such as toilets, changing rooms etc.

The school has procedures in place regarding movement between campuses and buildings

The school has in place clear procedures in respect of school outings

The school has a Health and safety policy

The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation and relevant DE circulars in relation to recruitment and Garda vetting

The school has a codes of conduct for school personnel (teaching and non-teaching staff)

The school complies with the agreed disciplinary procedures for teaching staff

The school has a Special Educational Needs policy

The school has an intimate care plan in respect of students who require such care

The school has in place a policy and procedures for the administration of medication to pupils

The school –

Has provided each member of school 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

Maintains records of all staff and board member training

If staff are required to record a student for medical reasons this recording is to be deleted immediately after being shared with the parent who requested it

The school has a DLP and follows the same child safeguarding procedures for the summer programmes and DEIS literacy and numeracy camps

All staff were required to ensure their children first e learning certs were dated within the last 3 years. This was due by the BoM review at the start of the year.

The school has in place a policy and procedures for the administration of First Aid

The school has in place a code of behaviour for pupils

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

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

The school has in place a Critical Incident Management Plan

The school follows theHome School Liaison related procedures as directed by TUSLA

The school has in place procedures for the use of external persons to supplement delivery of the curriculum

The school has in place procedures for the use of external sports coaches

The school has in place procedures in respect of student teacher placements

The school has in place procedures in respect of students undertaking work experience in the school

The school has regular care team meetings to discuss the needs of children that extend beyond education

An existing toilet on c2 is being brought back into use.

Teacher in room 1 c3B has doorbell in class for admission to campus

After consultation with our insurer, it was decided that where individual or small groups of children need to move between campuses they can be accompanied by an sna in consultation with a teacher/principal.
If it's a one off, the teacher can decide (eg. receive an award, catch up to the class).
If this is a regular timetabled event then an appropriate risk assessment should be carried out by the class teacher and the decision recorded on a shared document with management. This would involve taking the ability and needs of the student(s), and amount of students into account in making a decision. Sna's should monitor this and report back to a teacher if there is an issue en route.

Following the review by the Board of management it was decided that a template be used to record all aspects of correspondence around individual CP issues. The new guidelines in the next year will dictate what is in this template.

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.

Ratified by the Board of Management

Principal

Date 7/10/26

Chairperson

Date 7/10/26