



Child Protection 2023

Child Safeguarding Statement

Guardian Angels' NS 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 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 Guardian Angels' NS has agreed the Child Safeguarding Statement 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 Primary and Post Primary Schools 2017 as part of this overall Child Safeguarding Statement.

1. The Designated Liaison Person (DLP) is **Pádraig Ó Néill**
2. The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is **Diarmuid Howley**
3. 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.
- 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.

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 DES 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 DES and available on the DES 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 above named DLP as the 'relevant person' (as defined in the Children First Act 2015) to be the first point of contact in respect of the school's 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, 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 attached as an appendix to these procedures.

- The various procedures referred to in this statement can be accessed via the school's website, the DES 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.

- 1 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.
- 2 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 21/03/2023.

Signed: James McHally Signed: Paddy Geill
Chairperson of Board of Management Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Date: 21/3/2023

Date: 21/03/2023

Appendix: Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment

Written Assessment of Risk of Guardian Angels' National 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 Post-primary Schools 2017, the following is the Written Risk Assessment of Guardian Angels' National School.

1. List of school activities:

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

Training for school personnel in child protection matters.	Harm not recognised or reported promptly or correctly
One-to-one teaching	Harm by school personnel
Care of children with special needs, including intimate care needs	Harm by school personnel
Curricular provision in respect of SPHE, RSE and Stay Safe	Non-teaching of same

Toilet areas	Inappropriate behaviour
LGBTQ+ pupils, transgender pupils and pupils perceived as LGBTQ+, ethnic minorities etc.	Bullying
ICT usage by pupils and staff	Bullying and inappropriate behaviour
Recruitment of new staff	Harm not recognised or reported promptly and correctly
External tutors and guest speakers	Harm to pupils
Extra-curricular sports coaches	Harm to pupils
TY students on work experience and student teachers	Harm to pupils
Challenging behaviour amongst pupils and/or against staff	Injury to pupils and/or staff
Volunteers/visitors/parents	Harm to pupils
Health and safety	Risk to entire school community
Administration of medicine/first aid	Risk to child/children's health and wellbeing
School tour and trip policy	Risk to pupils
Swimming lessons	Risk to pupils
Annual sports day	Risk to pupils

Guardian Angels' NS has the following procedures in place to address the risks of harm identified in this assessment:

Training for school personnel in child protection matters.	Harm not recognised or reported promptly or correctly	Child Safeguarding Statement and DES procedures available to all school personnel. DLP and DDLP to attend PDST face-to-face training. All staff to view Tusla and PDST training module. BOM records all records of staff and BOM training. All visiting staff and part-time teachers to comply with Garda vetting and to be familiarised with the Child Safeguarding Statement. Child protection to be on the agenda for all BOM meetings.
One-to-one teaching	Harm by school personnel	Open doors. Table between teacher and pupil. Glass panels in doors. Comprehensive learning support policy and procedures in place.
Care of children with special needs including intimate care needs	Harm by school personnel	Intimate care policy in place. All SNAs/teachers familiar with policy. Differentiated programmes in place for the teaching of the Stay Safe and RSE programmes.
Curricular provision in respect of SPHE, RSE and Stay Safe	Non-teaching of same	The school implements the following programmes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stay Safe programme • RSE programme • SPHE programme
Toilet areas	Inappropriate behaviour	Usage and supervision policies in place.

LGBTQ+ pupils, trans pupils and pupils perceived as LGBT, ethnic minorities etc.	Bullying	Anti-bullying policy in place. Code of Positive Behaviour in place.
ICT usage by pupils and staff.	Bullying and inappropriate behaviour	Laptop usage agreement in place. Anti-bullying policy in place. AUP in place. Mobile phone policy in place. Website policy in place.
Recruitment of new staff	Harm not recognised or reported promptly and correctly	Child Safeguarding Statement and Children First procedures available to all staff. All new staff to complete online Tusla Children First module and provide cert to Principal.
External tutors and guest speakers	Harm to pupils	Policy on external personnel in place.
Extra-curricular sports coaches	Harm to pupils	Garda vetting, policy and procedures in place. No 'one-to-one' situations.
TY students on work experience and student teachers.	Harm to pupils	Work experience policy in place. Student informed of child protection procedures. National Bureau vetted.
Challenging behaviour amongst pupils and/or against staff	Injury to pupils and staff	Health and safety policy in place. Supervision policy in place. Code of Positive Behaviour in place. SESS interventions and/or training if necessary.
Volunteers/visitors/parents	Harm to pupils	Vetting procedures. Access to Child Safeguarding Statement and relevant policies.
Health and safety	Risk to entire school community	Health and safety policy in place.

Administration of medicine/first aid	Risk to child/children's health and wellbeing	Policies and procedures in place. Regular communication with parents/adults and outside agencies. Records of medication administered kept securely in children's files.
School tour and trip policy	Risk to pupils	Adequate supervision by adults as per instruction of insurance company. Seat belt policy. Toileting policy.
Swimming lessons	Risk to pupils	Swimming policy in place.
Annual sports day	Risk to pupils	Vetting procedures in place. Children supervised by parents and staff. Procedures carefully worked out. Parents informed of details of day.
Online Teaching and Learning Remotely	Risk of harm to pupils	Policy on Online Teaching and Learning Remotely

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 up in Chapter 4 of the Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-primary Schools 2017.

In undertaking this risk assessment, the Board of Management of Guardian Angels' NS 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 21/03/2023. It shall be reviewed as part of the school's annual review of its Child Safeguarding Statement.

Signed

James McHally

Date

21/3/2023

Chairperson, Board of Management

Signed Pady O'Neill
Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Date 21/03/2023

