



Child Safeguarding Statement

St Conleth's Infant School Newbridge

St. Conleth's Infant School is a primary school providing primary education to pupils from Junior Infants to First Class. We also have two Special Classes, one ASD Pre-School and one Junior Special 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. Conleth's Infant 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 **Mrs. Anne-Marie O'Connor**
- 3 The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is **Mrs. Norma Nugent**
- 4 The Relevant Person is **Mrs. Anne-Marie O'Connor**

(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](https://www.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 18/9/25 [date].

This Child Safeguarding Statement was reviewed by the Board of Management on 18/9/25 [most recent review date].

Signed: P. Longan

Chairperson of Board of Management

Date: 18-09-25

Signed: Marie Marie O'Conor

Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Date: 18/9/25



St. Conleth's Infant School Risk Assessment

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 (revised 2023)*, the following is the Written Risk Assessment of St. Conleth's Infant School.

List of School Activities	The school has identified the following risk of harm in respect of its activities	The school has the following procedures in place to address the risks of harm identified in this assessment
Assembly time each morning Dismissal of pupils Recreation time One-to one teaching Management of challenging behaviour	Children may leave the yard or be approached by an unknown adult	In School Management and SNA staff supervise from 9am onwards.
	Children may walk out unaccompanied or be taken by an unknown adult	Children line up at home time and are collected by a known person. Children walking to the bus or to the front of the school must do so only after a letter is received by teacher from parents indicating they are allowed to walk out
	Child safety at break times	Teachers are on a supervision rota and Snas supervise on yard also.
	Child is on their own with an adult	We have installed glass panels on all the classroom doors Garda Vetting of all staff members
	Children with extreme behaviour may hit out or hurt staff.	Staff have received training on managing challenging behaviour.



		Continuous CPD in the area of managing challenging behaviour Policies such as Code of Behaviour and Intimate Care and toileting policy Continuous awareness of policies for all staff members
Group/Class Teaching Toileting PE Outside Coaches	Close contact with an adult	We have installed glass panels on all the classroom doors Garda Vetting of all staff members
	Close contact between adult and child	See toileting policy
	Close contact with an adult	Children do not change clothes for PE
	Close contact with an adult	Garda Vetting of all coaches Teacher and SNA (if applicable) available
Visitors	If visitor goes to a classroom unaccompanied	Barrier system for the yard Fob system for all doors Sign in book at reception Must be accompanied to the classroom by a staff member Children will always be accompanied by a staff member Visitors must check in at reception Staff on alert for strangers in the school
Student teachers	As per staff teachers	As per staff teachers



Parent projects	Close contact with an adult	Garda vetting Accompanied by a staff member at all times Never left alone with a child Sign in at reception
Sporting events and matches for teaching staff (n/a for current academic year)	Changing clothes	They change in the library Two staff members accompany children at all times
School concerts and shows	Changing clothes	Two staff members are present at all times
Off-site activities	Children may become separated from the class group	Adequate number of staff members accompany class on any off-site activities Emergency response plan where appropriate.
Bus escort in taxis and SEN transport	Close contact between child and adult	All personnel are Garda vetted
Administration of medicines and first aid	Close contact between child and adult	See policies in place
School tours	Close contact with an adult unsupervised	Children will always be accompanied by a teacher and 1-2 volunteers and will travel in groups of 12-15
Professional contact with children	Close contact between child and adult	Professional contact to be maintained at all time
Recruitment of staff	Working closely with children	BOM will follow recruitment procedures Teaching Council registration Retrospective vetting if applicable Garda vetting of all staff
Work Experience	Close contact between child and adult	Garda Vetting



Transition year students	Close contact between child and adult	Never being alone with children Always within sight of other staff Only students who are 16 years of age when completing work experience can be accommodated. All students must be Garda vetted
Video Online/Remote Learning	Sharing of unauthorised pictures/video online Bullying/ Inappropriate behaviour	Acceptable Use Policy in place for parents and staff Online learning policy
Homework Club	Close contact between child and adult	Homework Club organisers are Garda Vetted Homework Club takes place in area/classroom that is within sight Two Staff member present at all times
Photographer	Close contact between child and adult	Garda Vetting, Within sight of staff
HSE screening/immunisations	Close contact between child and adult	HSE Child Protection procedures Garda Vetting
Psychologists/Occupational Therapists	Close contact between child and adult	HSE/DES Procedures in place Working in areas within sight of staff

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.

This risk assessment has been completed by the Board of Management on 18th September 2025. It will be reviewed as part of the school's annual review of its Child Safeguarding Statement.

Signed: _____

Date: _____

Chairperson, Board of Management

Signed: _____

Date: _____

Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management