



St. Finbarr's NS

Child Protection Policy

St. Finbarr's NS is a Catholic co-educational primary school providing primary education to pupils from Junior Infants to Sixth Class. In addition to its mainstream classes, it has one Early Intervention special class and one Junior Class for students with autism.

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 Túsla Guidance on the preparation of Child Safeguarding Statements, the Board of Management of St. Finbarr's 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 of Education Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017 as part of this overall Child Safeguarding Statement

The Designated Liaison Person (DLP) is Eoin Clerkin.

The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (DDLp) is Aoife Whelan.

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/employee 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 and maintain their certification.
 - 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 Túsla, 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 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.

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 Túsla and the Department if requested.

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 2017. It is reviewed and amended annually at the first BoM meeting of the school year.

Signed: 

Chairperson of the Board of Management

Date: 13.9.2023

Signed:



Principal

Date: 13.9.2023

Child Safeguarding ¹Risk 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 2017*, the following is the Written Risk Assessment of St. Finbarr's NS, Cabra West.

1. List of school activities

Risk Identified
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Opening/closing times and Break times● Visitors/Visiting tutors● One-to-one teaching/learning support/counselling● Online teaching and learning remotely● Care of children with SEN, including intimate care needs● Recruitment of school personnel● Students participating in work experience in school● Student teachers on placement● After school use of premises by SCP● Breakfast Club● School transport and use of bus escorts● Use of external personnel to support sports and other extracurricular activities● activities● School Tours/Outings● Access/Egress● Sports Events

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

Risk Identified

- Risk of harm not being recognised by school personnel
- Risk of harm not being reported properly and promptly by school personnel
- Risk of harm by a member of school personnel
- Access to pupils by strangers or other adults
- Risk of harm from other pupils

- Tutors behaving inappropriately
- Tutors lacking awareness of child safety issues

- Access to pupils by strangers while on trips
- Dangers posed by an unfamiliar environment
- Inappropriate activity by pupils
- Flight risk for some pupils
- Social Media/school website photographs
- Potential for unsupervised times in changing areas
- Potential for bullying
- Potential for grooming of pupils

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

Procedures in place to manage risk identified

All school personnel are provided with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement. The *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017* are made available to all school personnel. School personnel are required to adhere to the *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017*, and all registered teaching staff are required to adhere to the *Children First Act 2015 and its Addendum 2019*. The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda Vetting legislation and relevant DE circulars in relation to recruitment and Garda vetting. The school complies with the agreed Code of Conduct and disciplinary procedures for staff. The school ensures that all members of staff have the required training in child protection. Supervision by all staff from 8:40 a.m.

Adequate supervision at break times Visiting tutors from reputable organisations with appropriate vetting Sign in /Sign out book Glass panels in doors Adequate supervision Adequate planning and preparation by staff School Tour policy followed Magnetic locks on door Access via fob restricted to staff Gate from playground closed at break times Adequate supervision at all entry and exit places No phones allowed by students in school. Parental request sought for photos on website and no child identified by name Anti-bullying policy prevention procedures in place Acceptable use policy in place and awareness programmes re online safety ie webwise SPHE programme- RSE/Stay Safe taught to raise awareness in children

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 September 2025. It shall be reviewed as part of the school’s annual review of its Child Safeguarding Statement.

Signed: 

Date: September 2025

(Chairperson of the board of management)

Signed:

Eoin Clarke

Date: September 2025

(Principal)

Appendix 2: Checklist for Review of the Child Safeguarding Statement

The *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017* require the Board of Management to undertake a review of its Child Safeguarding Statement, and that the following checklist shall be used for this purpose. The review must be completed every year or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which the Child Safeguarding Statement refers. Undertaking an annual review will also ensure that a school meets its statutory obligation under section 11(8) of the Children First Act 2015, to review its Child Safeguarding Statement every two years.

The checklist is designed as an aid to conducting this review and is not intended as an exhaustive list of the issues to be considered. Individual Boards of Management shall include other items in the checklist that are of relevance to the school in question.

As part of the overall review process, Boards of Management should also assess relevant school policies, procedures, practices, and activities vis-à-vis their adherence to the principles of best practice in child protection and welfare as set out in the school's Child Safeguarding Statement, the Children First Act 2015 and the *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017*.

	Yes/No
1. Has the Board formally adopted a Child Safeguarding Statement in accordance with the 'Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools 2017'?	Y
2. As part of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement, has the Board formally adopted, without modification, the 'Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools 2017'?	Y
3. Does the school's Child Safeguarding Statement include a written assessment of risk as required under the Children First Act 2015?	Y
4. Has the Board reviewed and updated, where necessary, the written assessment of risk as part of this overall review?	Y
5. Has the DLP attended available child protection training?	Y
6. Has the Deputy DLP attended available child protection training?	Y
7. Have any members of the Board attended child protection training?	Y
8. Are there both a DLP and a Deputy DLP currently appointed?	Y
9. Are the relevant contact details (Túsla and An Garda Síochána) to hand?	Y
10. Has the Board arrangements in place to communicate the school's Child Safeguarding Statement to new school personnel?	Y
11. Is the Board satisfied that all school personnel have been made aware of their responsibilities under the 'Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools 2017' and the Children First Act 2015?	Y

12. Has the Board received a Principal's Child Protection Oversight Report at each Board meeting held since the last review was undertaken?	Y
13. Since the Board's last review, was the Board informed of any child protection reports made to Tús/An Garda Síochána by the DLP?	N
14. Since the Board's last review, was the Board informed of any cases where the DLP sought advice from Tús/and as a result of this advice, no report to the HSE was made?	N

15. Since the Board's last review, was the Board informed of any cases where an allegation of abuse or neglect was made against any member of school personnel?	N
16. Has the Board been provided with and reviewed all documents relevant to the Principal's Child Protection Oversight Report?	Y
17. Is the Board satisfied that the child protection procedures in relation to the making of reports to Tús/An Garda Síochána were appropriately followed in each case reviewed?	Y
18. Is the Board satisfied that, since the last review, all appropriate actions are being or have been taken in respect of any member of school personnel against whom an allegation of abuse or neglect has been made?*	NA
19. Were child protection matters reported to the Board appropriately recorded in the Board minutes?	Y
20. Is the Board satisfied that all records relating to child protection are appropriately filed and stored securely?	Y
21. Has the Board been notified by any parent in relation to that parent not receiving the standard notification required under section 5.6 of the 'Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools 2017'?	N
22. In relation to any cases identified at question 21 above, has the Board ensured that any notifications required under section 5.6 of the 'Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools 2017' were subsequently issued by the DLP?	NA
23. Has the Board ensured that the Parents' Association has been provided with the school's Child Safeguarding Statement?	Y website
24. Has the Board ensured that the patron has been provided with the school's Child Safeguarding Statement?	Y website
25. Has the Board ensured that the school's Child Safeguarding Statement is available to parents on request?	Y
26. Has the Board ensured that the Stay Safe programme is implemented in full in the school? (applies to primary schools)	Y
27. Has the Board ensured that the Wellbeing Programme for Junior Cycle students is implemented in full in the school? (applies to post- primary schools)	NA

28. Has the Board ensured that the SPHE curriculum is implemented in full in the school?	Y
29. Is the Board satisfied that the statutory requirements for Garda Vetting have been met in respect of all school personnel (employees and volunteers)? *	Y
30. Is the Board satisfied that the Department's requirements in relation to the provision of a child protection-related statutory declaration and associated form of undertaking have been met in respect of persons appointed to teaching and non-teaching positions?*	Y
31. Is the Board satisfied that, from a child protection perspective, thorough recruitment and selection procedures are applied by the school in relation to all school personnel (employees and volunteers)?*	Y
32. Has the Board considered and addressed any complaints or suggestions for improvements regarding the school's Child Safeguarding Statement?	Y
33. Has the Board sought the feedback of parents in relation to the school's compliance with the requirements of the child safeguarding requirements of the 'Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools 2017'	Y via website
34. Has the Board sought the feedback of pupils in relation to the school's child safeguarding arrangements?	NA
35. Is the Board satisfied that the 'Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools 2017' are being fully and adequately implemented by the school?	Y
36. Has the Board identified any aspects of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement and/or its implementation that require further improvement?	Y
37. Has the Board put in place an action plan containing appropriate timelines to address those aspects of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement and/or its implementation that have been identified as requiring further improvement?	Y
38. Has the Board ensured that any areas for improvement that were identified in any previous review of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement have been adequately addressed?	Y

*In schools where the ETB is the employer, the responsibility for meeting the employer's requirements rests with the ETB concerned. In such cases, this question should be completed following consultation with the ETB. (School Completion Staff)

Signed: 

Date: September 2025

(Chairperson of the board of management)

Signed: 

Date: September 2025

(Principal)