



St. Ultan's Special School, Navan, Co. Meath.

Roll no: 19216E

CHILD SAFEGUARDING STATEMENT 2026

Child Safeguarding Statement

St. Ultan's Special School is a special school providing primary and post-primary education for pupils from Junior Infants to Sixth Year. The Board of Management recognises that the protection and welfare of children and young people attending our school is of paramount importance.

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 2025)** and **Tusla guidance on the preparation of Child Safeguarding Statements**, the Board of Management of St. Ultan's Special School has agreed the following Child Safeguarding Statement.

1. Commitment to Safeguarding

The Board of Management has adopted and will implement fully and without modification the Department of Education's **Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools (revised 2025)** as part of this Child Safeguarding Statement.

The following activities have been identified as areas where potential risk of harm may arise:

- In-class teaching and learning
- Special education teaching and therapeutic interventions
- Outside classroom learning and recreation activities
- Educational visits, school outings and community access programmes
- Swimming and physical education activities
- Online learning and digital communication platforms
- Intimate care and personal care support
- Behaviour support and management of challenging behaviour
- Employment and supervision of teaching staff, SNAs and ancillary staff
- Student teachers and work placement students
- Visiting speakers, coaches and workshop providers
- School transport arrangements
- Parents' Association activities and school events
- Interactions with members of the public while pupils are participating in school activities

The detailed Written Risk Assessment forms part of this Child Safeguarding Statement and is reviewed annually.

5. Procedures and Measures in Place

Our Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment has been developed in line with requirements under the Children First Act 2015, the *Children First: National Guidance 2017*, and *Child Safeguarding: A Guide for Policy, Procedure and Practice, 2nd ed. (Tusla, 2024)*, and the *Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025*. In addition to the procedures listed in our risk assessment, the following procedures support our intention to safeguard children while they are availing of our service:

- **Procedure for the Management of Allegations of Abuse or Misconduct against School Personnel Relating to a Child Availing of Our Service**
 - Where any member of school personnel is the subject of any investigation in respect of any act, omission or circumstance in relation to a child attending the school, the school is required to adhere to the relevant procedures set out in Chapter 7 of *the Child*

- **Procedure for the Reporting of Child Protection or Welfare Concerns to Tusla**

-All members of school personnel are required to adhere to the procedures set out in the *Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025*, in relation to reporting of child protection concerns to Tusla. Mandated reporting applies to all registered teachers and any other mandated person who may be employed by the school.

- **Procedure for Maintaining a List of the Persons (if any) in the Relevant Service Who Are Mandated Persons**

-There is a procedure in place to maintain a list of mandated persons. Schools may on occasion employ additional staff who are mandated by virtue of their profession. This list will include all registered teachers and identify additional employees that are not registered teachers.

- **Procedure for Appointing a Relevant Person** -There is a procedure in place for appointing a relevant person. The relevant person in St. Ultan's school is the school principal.

The various procedures referred to in this Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment can be accessed via the school's website, the gov.ie website or will be made available on request by the school.

In accordance with the Children First Act 2015, the Addendum to Children First 2019 and 2025, and the *Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025*, the board of management 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.

Note: The procedures and measures in place outlined above, are not intended as exhaustive list. Individual boards of management shall also include in this section such other procedures and measures that are of relevance to the school.

This statement has been published on the school's website or will be made available on request by the school. It has been provided to all members of school personnel, the parents' association (if any), the patron and parents. A copy of this statement and risk assessment will be made available to Tusla and the department if requested.

This Child Safeguarding Statement was reviewed by the Board of Management on:
September 2026

Signed: Rebecca Connors

Chairperson, Board of Management

Date: 28/09/26

Signed: Jean Cunningham

Principal / Secretary to the Board of Management

Date: 28/09/26

2. SPECIAL EDUCATION, THERAPY AND ONE-TO-ONE SUPPORT

Potential Risks

- Inappropriate adult-child interactions.
- False allegations against staff.
- Failure to maintain professional boundaries.
- Child harmed during therapeutic intervention.

Control Measures

- Timetabled sessions.
- Rooms fitted with observation panels where possible.
- Open-door practice where appropriate.
- Staff adherence to professional codes of practice.
- Supervision and oversight by school leadership.
- Recording of significant incidents and concerns.

3. INTIMATE CARE AND PERSONAL CARE

Potential Risks

- Harm arising during toileting, changing or personal care.
- Inappropriate physical contact.
- Breach of dignity or privacy.

Control Measures

- Intimate Care and toileting policy.
- Individual care plans developed with parents.
- Two-adult support where appropriate.
- Staff training.
- Respect for privacy and dignity.
- Accurate record keeping where required.

4. MANAGEMENT OF CHALLENGING BEHAVIOUR

Potential Risks

- Injury to pupil or staff.
- Inappropriate use of restrictive practices.
- Failure to follow agreed behaviour plans.

Control Measures

- Individual behaviour support plans.
- Positive Behaviour Support approaches.
- Staff training.
- Recording and review of incidents.
- Consultation with parents and external professionals.

- Mobile phone access.
- Emergency procedures.
- Parental consent procedures.

8. SCHOOL TOURS, EDUCATIONAL VISITS AND RESIDENTIAL ACTIVITIES

Potential Risks

- Harm by adults outside school.
- Inadequate supervision.
- Peer-on-peer incidents.
- Personal care needs while off-site.

Control Measures

- Tours Policy.
- Risk assessments.
- Appropriate supervision ratios.
- Emergency contact arrangements.
- Intimate care arrangements agreed in advance.
- Vetting where required.

9. SWIMMING AND AQUATIC ACTIVITIES

Potential Risks

- Inappropriate contact during changing.
- Harm by instructors or members of the public.
- Insufficient supervision.

Control Measures

- Appropriate supervision at all times.
- Clear changing procedures.
- Vetting arrangements where required.
- Joint agreements with providers.
- Staff presence during activities.
- Privacy arrangements for pupils.

10. SCHOOL TRANSPORT

Potential Risks

- Harm by drivers, escorts or other pupils.
- Inadequate supervision during transport.

- Harm by visiting adults.
- Unsupervised access to pupils.

Control Measures

- Visitor sign-in procedures.
- Vetting where required.
- Staff supervision.
- Joint agreements where appropriate.
- Approval by Principal.

14. STUDENT TEACHERS AND WORK PLACEMENT STUDENTS

Potential Risks

- Harm by placement personnel.
- Lack of awareness of safeguarding procedures.

Control Measures

- Vetting requirements.
- Joint placement agreements.
- Child protection induction.
- Direct supervision.
- Clear reporting arrangements.

15. AFTER-SCHOOL ACTIVITIES AND USE OF SCHOOL PREMISES

Potential Risks

- Harm by external groups.
- Lack of safeguarding arrangements.

Control Measures

- Child Safeguarding Statement required from user groups.
- Appropriate insurance.
- Vetting where required.
- Named safeguarding contact.
- Written agreements with school.

16. PARENTS' ASSOCIATION EVENTS

Potential Risks

- Harm by adults attending events.
- Inadequate supervision.

Control Measures

Mandatory Template 2: Checklist for Review of the Child Safeguarding Statement

The child protection procedures for primary and post primary schools (revised 2025) require that the Board of Management must 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 also 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 a 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, the Addendum to Children First (2019) and the *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools (revised 2023)*.

	Yes/No
1. Has the Board formally adopted a Child Safeguarding Statement in accordance with the <i>Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools (revised 2023)</i> ?	Y
2. Is the Board satisfied that the Child Safeguarding Statement is displayed in a prominent place near the main entrance to the school?	Y
3. As part of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement, has the Board formally adopted, without modification, the <i>Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools (revised 2023)</i> ?	Y
4. Does the school's Child Safeguarding Statement include a written assessment of risk as required under the Children First Act 2015? (This includes considering the specific issue of online safety as required by the Addendum to Children First)	Y
5. Has the Board reviewed and updated where necessary the written assessment of risk as part of this overall review?	Y
6. Has the Risk Assessment taken account of the risk of harm relevant to online teaching and learning remotely?	Y
7. Has the DLP attended available child protection training?	Y
8. Has the Deputy DLP attended available child protection training?	Y
9. Have any members of the Board attended child protection training?	Y
10. Has the school appointed a DLP and a Deputy DLP?	Y
11. Are the relevant contact details (Tusla and An Garda Síochána) to hand?	Y
12. Has the Board arrangements in place to communicate the school's Child Safeguarding Statement to new school personnel?	Y
13. Is the Board satisfied that all school personnel have been made aware of their responsibilities under the <i>Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools (revised 2023)</i> and the Children First Act 2015?	Y
14. Has the Board received a Principal's Child Protection Oversight Report (CPOR) at each Board meeting held since the last review was undertaken?	Y
15. Since the Board's last review, did each CPOR contain all of the information required under each of the 4 headings set out in sections 9.5 to 9.8 inclusive of the procedures?	Y
16. Since the Board's last review, has the Board been provided with and reviewed all records relevant to the CPOR?	Y
17. Is the Board satisfied that the records provided are anonymised and redacted as necessary to ensure that the identities of children and any other parties, including school personnel, to whom the concern or report relates are not disclosed?	Y

41. 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?	N/A
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*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.

Signed *Patricia M. Lucey* Date 28-09-16

Chairperson, Board of Management

Signed *Jean Cunningham* Date 28-09-16

Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Note: Where a school is undertaking its first review, references in this checklist to the "last review" shall be taken to refer to the date on which the Child Safeguarding Statement was first put in place.