



Presentation Primary School

Child Safeguarding Statement

Presentation Primary School 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 [insert school name] 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 **Ms. Frankie Andrews**
- 3 The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is **Mrs. Mairéad Terry**
- 4 The Relevant Person is **Ms. Frankie Andrews**
(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;



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- 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](https://www.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](https://www.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.



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- 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 **23rd Sept 2026**.

This Child Safeguarding Statement was reviewed by the Board of Management on **23rd Sept 2026**.

Signed: Eileen Dunne
Chairperson of Board of Management

Signed: Frankie O'Leary
Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Date: 23/9/2026

Date: 23/9/26



Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment

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 Presentation Primary School, Portarlington, Co.Laois.

List of School Activities	Risk Level	The School has identified the following Risk of Harm	The School has the following Procedures in place to address risk identified in this assessment
Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils	High	Access to pupils by strangers or other adults.	✓ Supervision by SNAs from 8.35am. ✓ Note required from parent/guardian if a pupil is leaving before school closure. ✓ Infants are released into the care of parents/guardians or adults identified to the school. If a person outside of these adults is to collect an infant pupil on a given day, the school must be informed of the identity of this adult by phone, or in writing. If the school has not been informed of a change as above, the school will not release the pupil into the care of another adult. The school will attempt to contact the parents / guardians to confirm the collection details. ✓ If a child is being collected early a written note must be provided. A child will not be released to anyone other than a legal guardian unless otherwise stated in note from a parent.



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Break Times for pupils	Med	Risk of harm from other pupils	✓ Adequate Supervision at break times
School Access	Med	Access to pupils by strangers or other adults.	✓ Back Gate will be locked during school hours. ✓ Entrance is through front doors which can only be entered with a code. ✓ All visitors must present at a reception area.
One to one teaching	Med	Harm by school personnel	✓ Table between teacher and pupil. ✓ Glass panel in doors or if door has no glass panel the door is kept open at all times.
Sports Coaches	Med	Harm to pupils	✓ Staff will maintain reasonable and effective supervision of the pupils in their care. ✓ Garda Vetting Procedures are in Place ✓ Policy & Procedures in place
Students participating in work experience	Med	Harm by students	✓ Garda Vetting Procedures are in place. ✓ U/16's are not permitted in the school as Student Teachers or Work Placement Students. ✓ Where the school has agreed to vet the student and that student is between 16 – 18 years of age a Parental Consent for Vetting will be required. ✓ Work Experience Policy. ✓ Child Safeguarding Statement provided



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			✓ Induction by school staff
Volunteers / Helpers	Low	Harm to pupils	✓ Garda Vetting Procedures in place. ✓ Child Safeguarding Statement made available.
Visitors/Guests	Low	Harm to pupils	✓ All visitors and guests will wear a clearly identifiable visitor pass. ✓ Staff will ensure that members of the public without a visitor pass are approached and escorted to the school administrative office.
Swimming	High	Harm to pupils	✓ Teachers are in public changing area to supervise as necessary. ✓ Staff do not assist with drying/dressing with the exception of children with special needs who are assisted by an SNA, in view of the accompanying teacher. ✓ Pupils are supervised if they need to go to the toilet area in public changing area.
School outings & Sports Matches	High	Harm from other pupils/unknown adults outside the school grounds	✓ Staff will maintain reasonable and effective supervision of the pupils in their care. ✓ Policy and Procedures in place
School trips involving overnight stay	High		✓ Staff will maintain reasonable and effective supervision of the pupils in their care. ✓ Overnight School Tours Policy

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Care of Children with special needs, including intimate care needs.	High	Harm by school personnel	✓ Policy on intimate care
Managing of challenging behaviour amongst pupils, including appropriate use of restraint.	Low	Injury to pupils and staff	✓ Restraint Policy ✓ Health & Safety Policy. ✓ Code of Behaviour
School transport arrangements including use of bus escorts			✓ Garda Vetting Procedures in Place
Administration of Medicine Administration of First Aid			✓ Administration of Medicine policy. ✓ Training provided on specific conditions as necessary. ✓ Trained First Aiders on staff. ✓ First Aid kits available. ✓ First Aid is administered in open area. ✓ Defibrillators available in both reception areas.
Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst pupils			✓
Use of external personnel to supplement curriculum			✓



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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	Harm not recognised or properly or promptly reported	✓ Child Safeguarding Statement & DES procedures made available to all staff ✓ Staff to view Tusla training module & any other online training offered by PDST ✓ Vetting Procedures ✓ Policy of Parents / Volunteers ✓ Policy on Visiting Contractors	
			✓
Training of school personnel in Child Protection matters	High	Harm not recognised or reported promptly	✓ Child Safeguarding Statement & DES procedures made available to all staff. ✓ DLP & DDLP to attend PDST face to face training. ✓ All Staff to view TúsIa training module & any other online training offered by PDST ✓ BOM records all records of staff and board training
Curricular Provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay safe.	High	Non-teaching of same	✓ School implements SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe in full



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 **23rd Oct 2023**. It will be reviewed as part of the school's annual review of its Child Safeguarding Statement.

Signed *Eileen Dunne* Date *23/9/26*
Chairperson, Board of Management

Signed *Maureen Edwards* Date *23/9/26*
Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management