

Scoil Náisiúnta Cúil an tSúdaire 2  
Sandylane National School  
Portarlinton, Co. Laois



**Mandatory Template 1:**

**Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment Template**

**Child Safeguarding Statement**

Sandylane National 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 Scoil Náisiúnta Cúil an tSúdaire 2 (otherwise Sandylane NS) 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 **John Noonan**
- 3 The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is **Orla Whittle**
- 4 The Relevant Person is **John Noonan**  
*(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;
- 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.

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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 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

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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 7<sup>th</sup> October 2025

This Child Safeguarding Statement was reviewed by the Board of Management on 7<sup>th</sup> October 2025

Signed: *Paula Delaney*  
Chairperson of Board of Management

Signed: *John Rowan* 7<sup>th</sup> October 25  
Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Date: 7<sup>th</sup> October 2025

Date: 7<sup>th</sup> October 2025

## Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment

### Written Assessment of Risk of Sandylane National School

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 Sandylane NS.

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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 -
Training of school personnel in Child Protection matters	Harm not recognised or reported promptly	Child Safeguarding Statement & DES procedures made available to all staff <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DLP&amp; DDLP have attended online training and new Child Protection Procedures for schools 2025.</li> <li>• BOM records all records of staff and board training</li> <li>• The <i>Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools (revised 2023)</i> are made available to all school personnel</li> </ul>
Care of Children with special needs, including intimate care needs. SNAs often alone with pupils i.e. toileting, movement breaks	Harm by school personnel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Free/ engaged sign on the door</li> <li>• Door remains open</li> <li>• Intimate care Policy will be developed</li> </ul>
LGBT Children/Pupils perceived to be LGBT	Bullying	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bí Cineálta Policy</li> <li>• Code of Behaviour</li> <li>• stay safe</li> </ul>
Managing of challenging behaviour amongst pupils, including appropriate use of restraint	Injury to pupils and staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Health &amp; Safety Policy</li> <li>• Code Of Behaviour</li> </ul>
Curricular Provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay safe.	Non-teaching of same Bullying	School implements SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe in full annually SPHE policy to be completed Bí Cineálta Policy Code of Behaviour

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Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils	Harm from other pupils <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Unknown adults on the school yard</li> </ul>	Gate & infant dismissal supervised by teachers. Front of school supervised by school personnel until gates are locked. SEN pupils escorted into and out of school by SNA. Parents collecting pupils early must sign the Sign-Out Book
Managing of challenging behaviour amongst pupils, including appropriate use of restraint	Injury to pupils and staff	Health & Safety Policy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Code Of Behaviour</li> </ul>
Sports Coaches	Harm to pupils by sports coaches	Coach must be Garda Vetted by organisation and school Supervised by class teacher
Students participating in work experience	Harm from unknown adults on the playground <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bullying</li> <li>Injury to pupils</li> <li>Harm by school personnel</li> </ul>	Work experience Policy Child Safeguarding Statement
Recreation breaks for pupils	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Harm from other pupils</li> <li></li> </ul>	Yard supervised by teacher <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Each class is collected from yard by class teacher at after break</li> <li>SEN pupils supervised by SNAs</li> <li>Gates are closed</li> <li>Code of Behaviour</li> <li>Bí Cineálta Policy</li> <li>Teaching of Stay Safe</li> </ul>
Classroom teaching	Bullying Harm from other pupils Harm by school personnel	Class supervised by teacher <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Code of Behaviour</li> <li>Anti- Bullying Policy</li> <li>Teaching of Stay Safe</li> <li>Developing class rules with the pupils- SPHE</li> </ul>

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One-to-one teaching	<p>Bullying</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Harm from other pupils</li> <li>• Harm by school personnel</li> </ul>	<p>Glass panel/window in door/door left open</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Table between teacher and pupil if possible</li> <li>• One-to-one teaching only occurs when necessary</li> <li>•</li> </ul>
One-to-one counselling/External Agency assessment	Harm from others	<p>Glass windows in doors</p> <p>Parental Permission Bodies with adequate vetting (eg NEPS)</p>
Outdoor teaching activities	Harm by school personnel	<p>Pupils are supervised by teacher</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SEN pupils supervised by SNAs</li> <li>• Gates are closed</li> <li>• Code of Behaviour</li> <li>• Bí Cineálta Policy</li> <li>• Teaching of Stay Safe- Strangers etc.</li> <li>• Developing class rules with the pupils- SPHE</li> </ul>
Sporting Activities i.e. Swimming, football, etc.	<p>Harm by school personnel</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Harm by a member of staff of another organisation</li> <li>• Harm by another person when child participating in out of school activities i.e. swimming</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adequate number of school staff accompanying the pupils</li> <li>• Booking changing rooms to avoid unknown persons</li> </ul>
School gates left open	Unauthorised entry	Experienced staff know to close gates and only open in the morning or with permission.
Use of toilet/changing/shower areas in schools	<p>Harm by school personnel</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Harm by a member of staff of another</li> </ul>	Adequate number of school staff accompanying the pupils

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	<p>organisation/ unknown adult</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Harm by another person when child participating in out of school activities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Booking changing rooms to avoid unknown persons i.e. for water sports</li> <li>Teaching of Stay Safe</li> </ul>
External doors left open	<p>Harm by unknown adult coming in Harm by unknown adult if child escapes</p>	<p>Door to front kept closed .</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Visitors to gain access by ringing the doorbell</li> <li>1.40pm and then again at 2.40 for whole school dismissal</li> </ul>
Yard helpers(bringing in and collecting Playground Equipment)	<p>Harm by unknown adult Bullying</p>	<p>Under supervision of Teacher on Duty- only go out when teacher is present</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bring equipment back with the rest of the class</li> </ul>
Administration of Medicine	<p>Harm by school personnel/other children</p>	<p><b>Administration of medicine policy.</b></p>
Administration of First Aid	<p>Harm by school personnel</p>	<p>Intended Training in First Aid Adminstrated outside by staff there is an accident on the yard, otherwise administrated in the classroom Documented and dated by teachers</p>
Participation by pupils in religious ceremonies	<p>Harm by other pupils</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Harm by school personnel</li> <li>Harm by unknown adults</li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Supervised by teachers</li> </ol> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Teaching of Stay Safe</li> <li>Vetting procedures in place</li> </ul>
Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst pupils	<p>Non-teaching of Stay Safe</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Injury/harm to</li> </ul>	<p>Teaching of Stay Safe</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bi Cinealta Policy</li> </ul>

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	<p>pupil</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inadequate use of Code of Behaviour</li> <li>• Bi Cinealta policy</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Code of Behaviour implemented in full</li> <li>• Pupils supervised by teachers</li> </ul>
Use of external personnel to supplement curriculum i.e. Guest Speakers	Risk of harm by volunteer or visitor to the school	<p>Class teacher remains in the classroom</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The school has in place a policy and procedures for the use of external visitors to supplement delivery of the curriculum</li> </ul>
<p>Care of pupils with specific vulnerabilities/ needs such as</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pupils from ethnic minorities/migrants</li> <li>• Members of the Traveller community</li> <li>• Lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender (LGBT) children</li> <li>• Pupils perceived to be LGBT</li> <li>• Pupils of minority religious faiths</li> <li>• Children in care</li> </ul>	<p>Harm to pupils by other pupils</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Harm by school personnel</li> <li>• Bullying</li> </ul>	<p>Teaching of Stay Safe especially Identity Based Bullying</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pupils supervised by teacher</li> <li>• Code of Behaviour</li> <li>• Bí Cineálta Policy</li> </ul>
<p>Recruitment of school personnel including -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Teachers</li> <li>• SNAs</li> <li>• Caretaker/Secretary/Cleaners</li> <li>• Sports coaches</li> <li>• External Tutors/Guest Speakers</li> <li>• Volunteers/Parents in school activities</li> <li>• Visitors/contractors present in school during school hours</li> <li>• Visitors/contractors present during after school activities</li> </ul>	Harm not recognised or properly or promptly reported	<p>Child Safeguarding Statement &amp; DES procedures made available to all staff</p> <p>Staff to view Tusla training module &amp; any other online training offered by oide.</p>

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Use of Information and Communication Technology by pupils in school	<p>Bullying</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Accessing inappropriate material</li> </ul>	<p>Acceptable use Policy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• BÍ Cineálta</li> <li>• Code of Behaviour</li> <li>• Supervised by teacher</li> <li>• The school has in place a policy governing the use of smart phones and tablet devices in the school by pupils as per circular 38/2018</li> </ul>
Application of sanctions under the school's Code of Behaviour including detention of pupils, confiscation of phones etc.	<p>Harm to pupils by pupils</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Harm by school personnel</li> </ul> <p>Harm by unknown adults</p>	<p>Detention takes place on yard/GP room, outside the main door. Supervised by the Teacher On Duty</p>
Students participating in work experience in the school	<p>Harm by unknown adults/students</p>	<p>Vetting procedures in place Teacher always remains in the classroom</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The school has in place a policy and procedures for the use of external visitors to supplement delivery of the curriculum</li> <li>• The school has in place a policy and procedures in respect of students undertaking work experience in the school.</li> </ul>
Student teachers undertaking training placement in school	<p>Harm by unknown adults</p>	<p>Vetting procedures in place Teacher remains in the classroom</p>
Use of video/photography/other media to record school events	<p>Harm caused by breach of confidentiality i.e.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• circulating photos/videos on social media, texting,</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consent forms for pupils</li> <li>• Acceptable usage Policy</li> </ul>

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	<p>digital device or any other manner</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bullying</li> </ul>	
<p>Online teaching and learning remotely</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Risk of harm not being recognised by school personnel</li> </ol> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Risk of harm not being reported properly and promptly by school personnel</li> <li>• Risk of harm due to inappropriate relationship/communications between child and another child/ adult</li> <li>• Risk of harm to children with SEN who have particular vulnerabilities</li> <li>• Risk of harm in one-to-one teaching,</li> <li>• Risk of harm caused by member of school personnel communicating with pupils in appropriate manner via social media, texting, digital device or other manner</li> <li>• Risk of harm caused by member of school personnel accessing/circulating inappropriate material via social media, texting, digital device or other manner</li> <li>• Risk of harm by school personnel</li> <li>• Risk of harm by unknown personnel (hackers)</li> </ul>	<p>Remote Learning plan in place</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Private number to be used when phoning the parent</li> <li>• Only use school generated email accounts</li> <li>• Zoom being looked into</li> </ul>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cyberbullying</li> </ul>	
Fundraising involving children	Supervision Policy Garda Vetting Code of Behaviour	School Policy on Behaviour and Discipline. School Anti Bi Cíntalta, procedures. Increased supervision
Annual Sports Day	Harm From others Bullying	Code Of behaviour Adequate supervision Bí Cineálta
School outings	Harm From others Bullying	Code Of behaviour Adequate supervision Bí Cineálta School trips Policy
Use of off-site facilities for school activities	Harm From others Bullying	Code Of Behaviour Adequate Supervision
School transport arrangements including use of bus escorts	Harm from Others	Garda Vetting
After Schools	Harm From Others	All after schools subject to Children First Guidelines, vetting and compliance.

**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.

