Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment

For:	**ST. DAVID'S NATIONAL SCHOOL**
At:	**PIPER'S HILL EDUCATION CAMPUS, KILCULLEN ROAD, NAAS, CO. KILDARE. W91 AE26**

This school is a: (tick appropriate) ☒primary ☐post-primary ☐ special school

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) and 2025, Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025 and Child Safeguarding: A Guide for Policy, Procedure and Practice, 2nd ed. (Tusla, 2024), the board of management has adopted the Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment set out in this document.

The board of management has adopted and will implement fully and without modification the department's Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025 as part of this overall Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment.

Name of the Designated Liaison Person (DLP):

LOUISE GILLESPIE

Name of the Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP/DDLP):

KELLY DELANEY

In the absence of the DLP, the Deputy DLP shall assume responsibilities of the DLP

Name of Relevant Person

LOUISE GILLESPIE

(In schools this person is the DLP)

Relevant Person can be contacted on:

085 2144914	stdavidsnationalschool@gmail.com

Under the Children First Act 2015 Relevant Person means a person who is appointed by a provider of a relevant service to be the first point of contact in respect of the Child Safeguarding Statement. This person is nominated by the board of management to manage and provide oversight of child protection concerns/allegations of child abuse.

Name of Chairperson of the board of management, or in an ETB school the Chief Executive or their delegate:

REV'D CANON CRAIG MCCAULEY

In the event that both DLP and DDLP are absent and unavailable, and where there is no staff member formally acting in their role, the chairperson of the board of management, or in an ETB school the chief executive or their delegate, assumes the role of DLP.

The board of management recognises that child protection and safeguarding permeate all aspects of school life and must be reflected in all of the school's policies, procedures, practices and activities. In all of these, 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 happening to children and protect members of school personnel from the necessity to take unnecessary risks that may leave themselves open to accusations of child abuse.
- ☐ Develop a practice of openness with parents and encourage parental involvement in the education of their children.
- ☐ Fully respect confidentiality requirements as set out in the Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025 in dealing with child protection matters.
- ☐ Adhere to the above principles in relation to any vulnerable adult.

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 Protection Procedures for Schools 2025* and to the relevant agreed disciplinary procedures for school staff which are published on the gov.ie website.

> Procedure for the Safe Recruitment and Selection of School Personnel to Work with Children

~ The school is required to adhere to the requirements of the Vetting Act. The selection or recruitment of staff and their suitability to work with children, requires the school to adhere 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 Youth and available on the gov.ie website and as outlined in Chapter 10 of the procedures.

~ A written protocol is in place authorising immediate action for cases which require an employee to be immediately absented from school for child safeguarding reasons.

> Procedure for Provision of and Access to Child Safeguarding Training and Information, Including the Identification of the Occurrence of Harm

~ The school provides information and training to members of school personnel in relation to the identification of the occurrence of harm (as defined in the 2015 Act) as follows:

~ The school has provided each member of school personnel, including any new members of school personnel, (employees and volunteers, board of management members, student teachers and those on work experience) with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment.

~ The school ensures that members of school personnel have availed of relevant training and completed child protection training.

~ The school encourages board of management members to avail of any relevant training and complete child protection training.

~ The board of management ensures that records of all staff and board member child protection training are maintained.

> 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, for example a chaplain or nurse. A full list of those people who are mandated persons is set out in Appendix 1 procedures.

> 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 (In schools this person is the DLP)

~ There is a procedure in place for appointing a relevant person.

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 and Risk Assessment will be reviewed annually or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which this statement refers.

Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
1.	Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils	Harm from older pupils. Unknown adults on the school grounds	Arrival and dismissal supervised by Teachers
2.	Recreation breaks for pupils	Harm from other pupils Bullying	Yard supervision rota – 2 staff on yard Procedures for wet play days
3.	Classroom teaching	Harm not recognised or reported promptly Harm by school personnel Harm by pupils	All teachers are Garda vetted and have registered with the Teaching Council Child Safeguarding Statement & DES procedures made available to all staff DLP& DDLP to attend Oide face to face training All Staff to view online training offered by Oide
4.	One to one teaching / learning support	Harm by school personnel	School has procedures in place for one-to-one teaching in SEN policy Glass panel in door
5.	Outdoor teaching activities	Harm by school personnel Harm by pupils Flight risk	All teachers are Garda vetted and have registered with the Teaching Council Child Safeguarding Statement & DES procedures made available to all staff DLP& DDLP to attend Oide face to face training All Staff to view online training offered by Oide Adequate supervision
6.	Online teaching and learning remotely	Harm to pupils	Acceptable Usage Policy for Internet Students are not permitted to use interr chat rooms.
7.	Sporting activities	Harm not recognised or reported promptly Harm by coaching staff Harm by pupils	All teachers and parent volunteers are Garda vetted Adequate supervision
8.	School outings	Harm by school personnel Harm by outside personnel Harm by pupils	All teachers are Garda vetted and have registered with the Teaching Council Child Safeguarding Statement & DES procedures made available to all staff Extra supervision if necessary

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
			First Aid brought
9.	Use of toilet / changing areas Toilet areas > Classroom > Toilets in hallway	Inappropriate behaviour	Yard Rules Yard toilets used only in emergency Toilets located in classrooms
10.	Annual Sports Day	Flight risk of pupils Harm by outside adults	Extra personnel required All helpers are Garda vetted Risks identified. Boundaries need to be clearly identified before the event
11.	Fund raising events involving pupils	Harm to pupils Harm by outside adults	All helpers are Garda vetted Risks identified
12.	Use of off-site facilities for school activities	Harm by outside personnel	All teachers are Garda vetted and have registered with the Teaching Council
13.	School transport arrangements including use of bus escorts	Harm to pupils Bullying Unsupervised access of phones/devices	Bí Cineálta Policy Smart Device Policy Code of Behaviour Up to date list of contact numbers
14.	Care of pupils with special educational needs, including intimate care where needed	Harm by school personnel	Intimate Care Policy SNA Policy
15.	Managing of challenging behaviour amongst pupils, including appropriate use of restraint where required	Injury to pupils and staff	Health & Safety Policy Code Of Behaviour Relate document implemented (staff training complete) SNA Policy SNA deployment around school based on needs Physical Intervention Policy
16.	Management of provision of food and drink	Harm to pupils with allergies / food intolerances	Hot lunches provider, Mindfuel, deliver hot lunches and fruit on days school open Mindfuel remove all waste Parents order lunches through the app No food allowed to be swapped

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
			List of pupils with allergies in school office
17.	Administration of medicine	Harm to pupils	Administration of Medicine Policy Medical Condition and Administration of Medicines Form completed by parents
18.	Administration of First Aid	Harm to pupils Harm to school personnel	First Aid training provided to staff First Aid accessible from yard
19.	Curricular Provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay safe	Non-teaching of same	School implements SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe in full
20.	Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst pupils	Bullying of pupils by pupils	Bí Cineálta Policy Code of Behaviour Regular staff training in Anti bullying/Bí Cineálta KiVa programme implemented KiVa team in place Provision of information talks on Cyber Bullying for Parents and pupils Smart Device Policy
21.	Training of school personnel in child protection matters	Harm not recognised or reported promptly Harm by ignorance	Child Safeguarding Statement & DEY procedures made available to all staff and carried out DLP& DDLP to attend Oide face to face training All Staff to view training module & any other online training offered by Oide on Child Protection guidelines Tulsa training BOM records all records of staff and board training
22.	Use of external personnel to supplement curriculum	Harm to pupils Harm not recognised or properly or promptly reported	Sign a statutory declaration Class teacher will always be present in the classroom External personnel involved in regular teaching must be Garda vetted
23.	Use of external personnel to support sports and other extra-curricular activities	Harm to pupils Harm not recognised or properly or promptly reported	Sign a statutory declaration Class teacher will always be present in the classroom

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
			External personnel involved in regular teaching must be Garda vetted
24.	Care of pupils with specific vulnerabilities / needs	Harm to pupils	SEN Policy Intimate Care Policy SNA Policy Physical Intervention Policy Relate document implemented (staff training complete)
25.	Pupils from ethnic minorities / migrants	Harm by pupils Harm by school personnel Harm by outside personnel	Code of Behaviour Policy Bí Cineálta Policy Equal Opportunity & Gender Equity Poli EAL Hours for support
26.	Members of the Traveller Community	Harm by pupils Harm by school personnel Harm by outside personnel	Code of Behaviour Policy Bí Cineálta Policy Equal Opportunity & Gender Equity Poli
27.	Lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender (LGBT) children	Bullying	Bí Cineálta Policy Code of Behaviour
28.	Pupils perceived to be LGBT	Bullying	Bí Cineálta Policy Code of Behaviour
29.	Pupils with medical needs	Emergency medical situation	Critical Incident Management Plan Administration of Medicine Policy Medical Condition and Administration of Medicines Form completed by parents SNA have access to medication for certain pupils
30.	Recruitment of school personnel including - • Teachers • SNAs • Secretary • Sports coaches • External Tutors/Guest Speakers • Volunteers/Parents in school activities • Visitors/contractors present in school during school hours	Harm not recognised or properly or promptly reported	Child Safeguarding Statement & DEY procedures made available to all staff Staff to view training offered by Oide Vetting Procedures Child Protection Policy covers volunteers and visiting speakers

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
31.	Students participating in work experience in school	Harm to pupils	Garda vetted if over the age of 16 Supervised in classroom Not left alone with pupils
32.	Student teachers undertaking training placement in school	Harm to pupils	Garda Vetted Copy of Safeguarding Statement
33.	Use of video / photography / other media to record school events	Harm to pupils	Consent from parents Smart Device policy
34.	After school use of school premises by other organisations	Harm to school personnel Potential hazard if equipment not stored away	No contact with pupils as pupils are off site Have their own insurance Have their own key and access code Are Garda vetted

In accordance with Section 11 of the Children First Act 2015 and with the requirements of Chapter 9 of the Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025, the following is the written Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment.

In undertaking this Child Safeguarding Statement and 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 Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment was reviewed by the board of management on 22.9.2026

Signed:*	Ciaran McCauley	**Date**: 22/9/26

Chairperson of the board of management

Signed:*	L. Gillespie	**Date**: 22/9/26

Principal/Secretary to the board of management

This Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment is expected to be reviewed again on September 2027

Appendix - Location of copies of the Child Protection Procedures and Children First Guidance

This may be in the form of specifying the online location for the procedures (Department of Education and Youth website www.gov.ie/childprotectionschools and/or the school website), providing a link to the Children First National Guidance 2017 Children_First_National_Guidance_2017.pdf, and stating the number and location of hard copies of these procedures available in the school.

In folders in School Office On school website