



St Joseph's NS roll number 17127S

Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment;

Formulated/Ratified/Reviewed	By
Formulated 5 th March 2018	
Reviewed and ratified ,Feb 2019, March 2020, March 2021, February 2022	Staff/parents.sample pupils
Reviewed February 2023	Staff/parents/sample of pupils
Reviewed and Ratified by the BOM 14 th February 2023	BOM

Signed Chairperson BOM; Mr Ted Forde

Signed Principal Teacher ; Ms Maria Barron

Mandatory Template 1: Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment Template (Landscape Version)

Child Safeguarding Statement

St. Joseph's NS is a primary school providing primary education to pupils from Junior Infants to Sixth Class inclusive.

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 2017](#) and [Tusla Guidance on the preparation of Child Safeguarding Statements](#), the Board of Management of St. Joseph's 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 2017 as part of this overall Child Safeguarding Statement
- 2 The Designated Liaison Person (DLP) is Ms Maria Barron
- 3 The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is Mr Barry Murphy
- 4 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 with a special vulnerability.

5 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 DE 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 DE 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 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 schools 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 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 DE 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.

- 6 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 Tusla and the Department if requested.
- 7 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 ;14/02____/2023_____ [date].

This Child Safeguarding Statement was reviewed by the Board of Management in February 2019, March 2019, March 2021, February 2022 and this most recent review on 14th February 2023

Signed: Maria Barron DLP ___Principal /Secretary to the BOM

Signed: Mr. Ted Forde (chairperson)

Chairperson of Board of Management

Date: 14/02/2023

Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment

Written Assessment of Risk of St. Joseph's NS

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 [name of school].

1. List of school activities	2. The school has identified the following risk of harm in respect of its activities –	3. 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 ,staff unclear about procedures	All staff have staff information folders .Reminded at November 2022 of procedures at staff meeting.CSS and relevant chapters from guidelines in staff folders and staff reminded to read same. Consulted with re review of this CSS .Staff attended TUSLA online training in 2018. Staff provided with Child safeguarding quiz and answers at /March 2023 at CP hours.
Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils	(insert risks of harm identified in this section) Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children in school Risk of harm from other children/ pupils.	Children are allowed enter the school building between 9;10 and and 9;20am and there is appropriate supervision of children from 9:10am once they enter the school grounds /building. There are at least 2 staff on morning duty .Children are closely supervised during yard, assembly, dismissal and breaks and in respect of specific areas such as toilets, etc...When dismissing children class teachers walk their own class to the exit gates.

	<p>Risk of harm to children with parents/adults remaining in the school yard when dropping children in, in the mornings.</p>	<p>Junior/Senior Infants are sent out by class teachers to parents/guardians at 2pm. Older children are allowed walk or cycle home if parents have told them so.</p> <p>Parents/guardians will be reminded that supervision by teachers begins at 9;10am and that they only need to drop their child inside the school gate and direct them to the entrance yard .</p>
<p>Recreation breaks for pupils</p> <p>Classroom teaching</p>	<p>Risk of child being harmed in school by another child</p> <p>Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children in school</p>	<p>The school has a yard/playground supervision policy to ensure appropriate supervision of children during, assembly, dismissal and breaks and in respect of specific areas such as toilets, changing rooms etc.. Code of Behaviour and Anti-bullying policy in place. Restorative Practice Training for all staff to take place in March 2023 . Code of Behaviour being reviewed in January February 2023 .</p>

		<p>Teachers use yard books when on duty and record issues, and actions to deal with same and -report to class teachers - We initially use conflict resolution, positive reinforcement. SNAs monitor children who we have concerns for and programmes are in place.</p> <p>Zones are established for junior /middle /senior classes.</p> <p>On wet days: (Supervised in classrooms)</p>
Classroom teaching	<p>Risk of child being harmed in school by a member of school personnel</p> <p>Risk of harm due to inappropriate relationship/communications between child and another child or adult.</p>	<p>All school personnel are provided with a copy of the school's <i>Child Safeguarding Statement and risk assessment</i>. The <i>Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017</i> are made available to all school personnel, as a staff these are discussed yearly. Garda vetting/statutory declaration forms are got from all staff. CPD for staff each school year School Personnel are required to adhere to the <i>Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017</i> and all registered teaching staff are required to adhere to the <i>Children First Act 2015</i>.</p> <p>If a teacher needs to leave their classroom briefly, they knock on the door of the class adjacent to them and inform the teacher, door</p>

		is left open he/she will also supervise their class .SNAs can assist teacher with supervision.
One-to-one teaching	<p>Risk of harm in one-to-one teaching, coaching situation</p> <p>Risk of harm due to inappropriate relationship/communications between child and another child or adult.</p>	<p>All school personnel are provided with a copy of the school’s <i>Child Safeguarding Statement</i>. The <i>Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017</i> are made available to all school personnel</p> <p>School Personnel are required to adhere to the <i>Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017</i></p> <p>and all registered teaching staff are required to adhere to the <i>Children First Act 2015</i></p> <p>Staff are encouraged to report any concerns to DLP immediately.</p> <p>All doors have glass panels.</p> <p>Use of spaces where all can be seen is maximised.</p> <p>Staff member sits at opposite side of desk to pupil if in 1;1 situation, if possible.</p>
Prevention of Bullying amongst pupils	Harm from other students	<p>Anti-bullying policy in place and reviewed with all yearly. Anti-bullying week and outside expertise invited in yearly to deliver training to certain classes-pupil surveys carried out Consultation held with parents /staff. Stay Safe Programme implemented as per policy .Close monitoring of all children - see supervision rota</p>

Outdoor teaching activities	<p>Risk of harm to child if he/she exits the school grounds without permission</p> <p>Risk of harm to child by adult approaching them at the school gates/wall onto the road</p>	<p>School gates are kept closed. Children are reminded regularly to stay away from gates, not allowed on the road to get the balls, not allowed to leave class without permission etc....Code of Behaviour in place.</p> <p>Supervision policy. Children are reminded of rules regularly and expected behaviour prior to leaving the classroom .If child leaves classroom/school without permission class teacher asks next door teacher to supervise class ,2 staff if possible follow child and calmly negotiate getting them back. Parents contacted as soon as possible .</p> <p>Teacher on the yard will make contact with person talking to the child/children to find out who they areReport any concerns to DLP as soon as possible.</p> <p>Teachers will strive to wear hi-visibility vests when walking on the roads.</p>
Multi-purpose space/calm space	Risk of harm by school personnel	Tell another staff member/glass in door/monitor/support child from a distance if possible.
Sporting Activities-	<p>Risk of someone entering the changing rooms</p> <p>Risk of child not being collected on time and teacher and child may be the only ones left</p>	<p>As far as is possible male teachers will supervise boys' dressing rooms when they are getting changed.</p> <p>Female teachers will supervise girls dressing room when they are getting changed</p> <p>Teacher will ask the teacher from another school /another parent to wait and if this is not possible, he/she will strive to stand in an open public area with the child and try to contact the parent.</p>

	<p>Risk of harm to child while a child is receiving intimate care or being changed in shower room</p>	<p>First aid Policy and Procedure on intimate care in place will be provided with 2 staff members present. If the injury occurs in an area that would make a child or staff member feel uncomfortable an ice pack will be provided for the child to use, Parents may be contacted to deal with it. Staff will not engage in showering children -parents will be contacted, if this is required .</p>
<p>School outings</p>	<p>Risk of child being harmed by a member of school personnel, a member of staff of another organisation or other person while the child is participating in out of school activities e.g. school trip.</p> <p>Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children while attending out of school activities</p>	<p>The school has in place a policy and clear procedures in respect of school outings/tours</p> <p>Code of Behaviour anti-bullying policy in place.</p> <p>Teachers will ensure there is adequate supervision as per tours policy.</p> <p>When booking school tours teachers will seek confirmation that staff at venues are Garda vetted .</p>
<p>Use of toilet/changing area in school/shower room</p>	<p>Risk of child being harmed by a member of school personnel, a member of staff of another organisation</p>	<p>1 child in toilet at a time. Use PE hall toilets when in yard .Infants go in 1 staff member watch from class door</p> <p>Girls and boys change in different areas. Relevant teachers monitor when their class are changing.</p> <p>2 staff involved in intimate care. Clear written procedure in place and agreed with parents for those with intimate care needs and children are changed in private area .</p>

Annual Sports Day	Risk of harm due to inappropriate relationship/communications between child and another child or adult.	Only those with garda clearance will be invited in to assist and teachers will lead the supervision/lessons. Concerns will be reported immediately to DLP.
Fundraising events involving pupils	Risk of harm due to inappropriate relationship/communications between child and another child or adult. Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children while attending out of school activities	All regular volunteers and members of the Parents Association and BOM will be garda vetted. If events take place outside school hours such , parents will be required to supervise their own children. Adequate supervision as per supervision and school tours policy .Code of Behaviour and Anti-Bullying policies in place.
Use of off-site facilities for school activities	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children while attending out of school activities	When going to the Church class teachers will have a phone and can phone school if support is required. A second adult goes with teacher, if at all possible
School transport arrangements	Risk of harm due to inappropriate relationship/communications between child and another child or adult.	Bus drivers are Garda Vetted by CIE Parents are required to take responsibility for checking garda clearance when organising lifts for their own children ,if attending outside school activities such as matches ...
Care of children with special educational needs, including intimate care where needed	Risk of child being harmed in school by a member of school personnel.	The school has a Special Educational Needs Policy, The school has an intimate care/plan in respect of students who require such care. All staff garda vetted and aware of procedures. 2 staff involved in intimate care. Agreed procedure in place.

	<p>Risk of harm due to inappropriate relationship/communications between child and another child or adult.</p> <p>Risk of harm to children with SEN who have particular vulnerabilities.</p> <p>Risk of nit implementing SPHE Programme</p>	<p>Close supervision by class teacher and Anti-bullying Code of Behaviour Child Protection training done by all staff.</p> <p>Stay Safe implemented in all classes at a certain time as per policy , and recorded on Cuntuis Miosuil .</p> <p>All parents are aware of where to access Stay Safe and RSE Lessons so they can reinforce the same at home.</p>
Management of challenging behaviour amongst pupils, including appropriate use of restraint	Risk of child being harmed in school by another child	<p>The school has in place a Code of Behaviour/anti-bullying policy for all pupils</p> <p>Friendship anti-bullying weeks are held yearly. Health and Safety Policy in Place.</p> <p>School Support Plans and Behavioural contracts put in place if required.</p> <p>We use conflict resolution to help children understand the consequences of their actions.</p> <p>NEPS/NCSE advice sought if needed.</p> <p>Further training will be sought .</p>
Administration of Medicine	Risk of harm to child while a child is receiving administration of medication	<p>The school has in place a policy and procedures for the administration of medication to pupils. CPD provided at the beginning of the school year.</p> <p>Photos and information is available in the staffroom of those requiring medication.</p> <p>Parents are asked to complete indemnity forms for BOM</p> <p>(SEE HEALTH AND SAFETY STATEMENT)</p>

Administration of First Aid	Risk of harm to child while a child is receiving intimate care	<p>The school has in place a policy and procedures for the administration of First Aid. Another child is sent in with the child. Teachers/SNA can ask a 2nd staff member to observe when dealing with first aid issues. Staffroom can also be used as a First Aid Room.</p> <p>Certain staff attend training in care of a child with diabetes in September 2022 and 1 staff member trained as First Aid Responder. Training provided to 15 staff in Basic First Aid in November 2022 .</p> <p>First Aid point and resources in press in staffroom .Teachers have some basic first aid resources in classrooms .Extra resources in Secretaries and Principal’s office</p>
Curricular provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe	Risk of harm of not teaching these.	<p>The school implements in full the Stay Safe Programme ,it is being implemented in all classes this year from January 2023 .</p> <p>The school implements in full the SPHE curriculum.</p> <p>The school has an Anti-Bullying Policy which fully adheres to the requirements of the Department’s <i>Anti-Bullying Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools</i></p>
Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst pupils.	Risk of harm due to bullying of a child	The school has in place a code of behaviour and anti-bullying policy for pupils

		Anti-bullying Weeks- yearly-March 2023 Policies and procedures revised with staff /children/parents and BOM yearly
Training of school personnel in child protection matters	<p>Risk of harm not being recognised by school personnel</p> <p>Risk of harm not being reported properly and promptly by school personnel</p>	<p>All school personnel have had training in relation to procedures and practices laid out in the Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017</p> <p>Staff completed Tusla Children First E-learning Programme and have had CPD on the procedures to follow in relation to Child Protection. Staff consulted ,training, discussion and revision and updating of CSS statement takes place at beginning of school year .All staff are reminded to be familiar with CSS ,when it’s reviewed yearly.</p> <p>DLP attended Inspectorate training re Department Inspections in January 2019</p>
Use of external personnel to support sports and other extra- curricular activities-	<p>Risk of child being harmed by a member of school personnel, a member of staff of another organisation or other person while child is participating in out of school activities e.g. school trip</p> <p>Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children while attending out of school activities</p>	<p>The school has in place procedures for the use of external sports coaches-Garda vetting obtained prior to commencement in school. Children will be supervised by class teachers. Teachers are present when visitors are in their class.</p> <p>Child Safety Statement will be sought from all organisations and confirmation that employees are Garda vetted. Tours policy will be followed.</p>

	Risk of harm due to inappropriate relationship/communications between child and another child or adult.	Teachers will model professional behaviour and immediately report to DLP any concerns by another
Care of pupils with specific vulnerabilities/needs such as <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pupils from ethnic minorities/migrants - Lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender (LGBT) children - Pupils perceived to be LGBT - Pupils of minority religious faiths Children in care	Risk of harm to children with SEN who have particular vulnerabilities.	The school has a Special Educational Needs policy, Anti-bullying and Code of Behaviour policies in place. Staff model respectful, inclusive behaviour towards all
Recruitment of school personnel including - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Teachers/SNA's - Caretaker/Secretary/Cleaner - 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 	Risk of child being harmed in school by staff member, volunteer or visitor to the school. Risk of harm due to inappropriate relationship/communications between child and another child or adult.	The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation and relevant DES circulars in relation to recruitment and Garda vetting The school adheres to the Fitness to Practice and Code of Conduct for teachers by the Teaching Council. The school complies with the agreed disciplinary procedures for teaching staff The school has in place a procedures for the use of external sports coaches Supervision policy is in place. The school ensures all new staff are provided with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement.

		<p>The school encourage staff to avail of relevant training</p> <p>The school encourages BOM members avail of relevant training</p> <p>Maintains records of all staff and board member training</p>
Participation by pupils in religious ceremonies.	<p>Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children while attending out of school activities</p> <p>Risk of harm due to inappropriate relationship/communications between child and another child or adult.</p>	<p>The school has in place a policy and clear procedures in respect of school outings/tours</p> <p>Class teachers accompany pupils to Church for practices when preparing for religious ceremonies.</p>
Use of Information and Communication Technology by pupils in school	<p>Risk of harm due to children inappropriately accessing/using computers, social media, phones and other devices while at school.</p> <p>Risk of harm caused by member of school accessing/circulating inappropriate material via social media, texting, digital devices or other manner.</p> <p>Risk of harm caused by member of school personnel communicating with pupils inappropriate manner via social media, texting, digital device or other manner</p>	<p>The school has in place an ICT policy in respect of usage of ICT by pupils.</p> <p>The school has reference to use of mobile phones policy via the Code of Behaviour.</p> <p>Cyber safety lessons covered by class teachers during anti-bullying week .</p> <p>Children in the senior end do the Webwise programme every year.</p> <p>Teacher with POR oversees use of laptops etc... in classrooms.</p> <p>Forbidden and school personnel would be subject to disciplinary procedures if same was found to occur</p> <p>School personnel do not communicate with individual pupils via personal phones, social media etc..</p>

Application of sanctions under the school's Code of Behaviour including reflection of pupils, confiscation of phones etc	<p>Risk of harm to child by school personnel during reflection time</p> <p>Risk of harm to pupil not having phone outside to contact parent after outside of school events</p>	<p>The school has in place a Code of Behaviour for all pupils Children are supervised by a teacher during detention/reflection or time out.</p> <p>If a pupil brings a phone to school they must hand it into the office in the morning and it will be returned to them at the end of the day. Staff will be supervising and have access to parents phone numbers via Aladdin .</p>
Students participating in work experience in the school	<p>Risk of child being harmed in school by volunteer or visitor to the school.</p> <p>Risk of harm due to inappropriate relationship/communications between child and another child or adult.</p>	<p>The school has in place a procedures in respect of student teacher, work experience and those on parents association assisting being involved in school activities</p> <p>Students on work experience will work with children with teacher supervision.</p> <p>Transition year Students will be expected to wear their school uniforms when on work experience, if possible and to adhere to the school rules. Under 16's won't be allowed as they can't be garda vetted- only allowed after garda vetting has been cleared.. If possible only 2 will be allowed on work experience at one time.</p>
Student teachers undertaking training placement in school	Risk of child being harmed in school by volunteer or visitor.	The school has in place procedures in respect of student teachers, work experience and those of parents association assisting being involved

	Risk of harm due to inappropriate relationship/communications between child and another child or adult.	in school activities. All regular volunteers and work experience students will have to provide evidence of garda vetting. Student teachers will be supervised by class teachers.
Use of video/photography/other media to record school events	<p>Risk of harm caused by members of school personnel communicating with pupils in inappropriate manner via social media, texting, digital devices.</p> <p>Risk of harm due to inappropriate relationship/communications between child and another child or adult. or other manner</p>	<p>The school has a Data Protection Policy.</p> <p>The school has reference to use of mobile phones policy via the Code Of Behaviour.</p> <p>Only a first name provided with photo on the school website or facebook page, never full name.</p> <p>If teachers use personal phone to take photos etc.. they will delete them once uploaded to school website/facebook page. One BOM member sanctioned to upload photos to website facebook page</p> <p>Parents /guardians etc.. will be reminded not to post photos of other parents children on social media, without the permission of the parents. Professional videos will be taken only by those vetted.</p>
After school Clubs such as music , HW Club, organised by teachers	Risk of harm due to inappropriate relationship/communications between child and another child or adult.	The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation and relevant DES circulars in relation to recruitment and Garda vetting .At least 1 teacher in the classroom and 2 staff in building

Swimming	<p>Risk of child being harmed by a member of school personnel, a member of staff of another organisation or other person while child is participating in out of school activities e.g. school trip, swimming lessons - The pool is booked but the changing rooms are public areas meaning people can enter the changing rooms/cubicle areas while pupils are getting changed</p> <p>Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children while attending out of school activities.</p>	<p>The school has in place a policy and clear procedures in respect of school outings/tours</p> <p>The school has an intimate care policy/plan in respect of students who require such care Older children , if possible, will use the cubicles in the pool and will have school staff supervision .If a parent attends to support their own child who has with SEN needs and staff deem it necessary that a parent is needed to attend to support their child the parent uses a cubicle with their own child.</p> <p>Relevant Teachers and SNAs responsible for supervision as in school .Code of Behaviour and Anti-Bullying Policy in place.</p>
Monitoring Attendance	Risk of harm to pupil by parents through lateness/poor attendance	The Deputy DLP has responsibility for monitoring attendance. Strategies in place to promote attendance .Teachers monitor ,text is sent daily ,if possible by secretary to those with unexplained absences .Teachers contact parents with concerns ,notify deputy ,who will follow up and monthly meeting with Deputy

		Principal re those who we have concerns about. Reward system in place ass per DEIS Plan
Critical Incident	Risk of harm to pupil by a traumatic event	The school has a Critical Incident Policy The school has in place a Critical Incident Management Plan
After school use of premises by other organisations	Not being supervised by responsible adult	Children not allowed on premises after school hours unless accompanied by an adult. It is the responsibility of that adult/organisation that the child is supervised correctly and due care is taken.
Virtual meetings- in the case of school closures as directed by Government or Dept. of Education and Skills	Risk of harm as children /staff are not in classroom setting.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● All people involved in the meeting will conduct themselves in a similar manner that would be expected in a regular class. ● Those at the meeting must dress appropriately ● Pick a room that is not a bedroom. ● Behave as if you are in a classroom ● Do not use chat ● No food allowed during the meeting. ● The staff member has the right to end the meeting for any person

		<p>being disruptive from a synchronous lesson.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● A family member is expected to be close by when a pupil is engaging in a meeting. They should monitor all online interactions from the pupil.● Staff will not meet any child alone using an online meeting. If there is a need for a meeting between a child with a staff member, another adult must be present at the meeting and/or the meeting must be recorded.● While chat may be available in an online meeting, it is the responsibility of the child's family to ensure that any interaction is appropriate. Any interaction from a pupil or a parent/guardian that could be deemed as inappropriate may result in the child's removal from the lesson or, where appropriate, a referral to Child Protection services.● Parents/Guardians can choose if they wish their child to attend
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		<p>particular online classes/assemblies for that class.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● If the school is open for pupils there will be no availability of live lessons for those at home. ● Remote teaching policy communicated with all.
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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.

Examples of activities, risks and procedures

The examples listed in this document are provided to assist schools in undertaking their risk assessment under the Children First Act, 2015. Schools should note that this list of examples is not intended to be exhaustive. It is the responsibility of each school to ensure, as far as possible, that any other risks and procedures that are relevant to its own particular circumstances are identified and specified in the written risk assessment and that adequate procedures are in place to address all risks identified.

It is acknowledged that schools already have in place a range of policies, practices and procedures to mitigate the risk of harm to children while they are participating in the activities of the school and that some school activities will carry low or minimal risks of harm compared to others. In the context of the risk assessment that must be undertaken by schools, the Children First Act, 2015 refers to risk as “any potential for harm”. Therefore, it is important that, as part of its risk assessment process, each school lists and reviews all of its various activities (which shall include

identifying those that may carry low risk of harm as well as those that carry higher risks of harm). Doing so will help the school to (1) identify, as required under the Children First Act, 2015, any risks of harm that may exist in respect of the school's activities, (2) identify and assess the adequacy of the various procedures already in place to manage those risks of harm and (3) identify and put in place any such additional procedures as are considered necessary to manage any risk identified.

The Addendum to Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children published in January 2019 clarifies that organisations providing relevant services to children should consider the specific issue of online safety when carrying out their risk assessment and preparing their Child Safeguarding Statement.

The Guidance on Continuity of Schooling for primary and post-primary schools (April 2020) advises of the importance of teachers maintaining the safe and ethical use of the internet during distance learning and assisting parents and guardians to be aware of their role also. Schools should ensure that their Acceptable Use Policy (AUP) informs and guides remote or distance learning activity.

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.

Risk Assessment reviewed /updated and ratified by the BOM of St. Joseph's NS 14th February 2023

Signed; Mr. Ted Forde Chairperson of the BOM

Signed; Maria Barron Principal Teacher/secretary to the BOM and DLP