

## **Child Safeguarding Statement St. Attractas Junior N. S.**

**2023/24**

St Attractas Junior NS is a primary/post-primary school providing primary/post-primary education to pupils from Junior Infants to Second 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 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 Attractas JNS 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 **Tommy Neary**
- 3 The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is **Elizabeth Kingston**
- 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;
  - comply fully with its statutory obligations under the Children First Act 2015 and other relevant legislation relating to the protection and welfare of children;
  - co-operate fully 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.

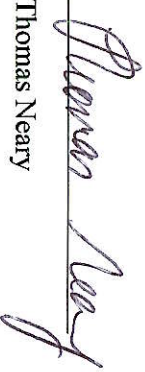
- 5 The following procedures/measures are in place:

- 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 DES 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 DES and available on the DES 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
  - Requires all staff to sign-off on having read the School's Child Safeguarding statement on an annual basis.
  - 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 abovenamed 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, 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 attached as an appendix to these procedures.

The various procedures referred to in this Statement can be accessed via the school's website, the DES website or will be made available on request by the school.

- 6 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.
- 7 This Child Safeguarding Statement which was initially ratified by the BOM on 6<sup>th</sup> March 2018 will be reviewed annually or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which this statement refers.
- 8 This Child Safeguarding Statement reviewed and ratified by the BOM on March 12<sup>th</sup> 2019
- 9 This Child Safeguarding Statement was reviewed and ratified by the Board of Management on 26<sup>th</sup> February 2020.
- 10 This Child Safeguarding Statement was reviewed and ratified to make provision for risks associated with Covid 19 on 30<sup>th</sup> November 2020 (Appendix 1)
- 11 This Child Safeguarding Statement was reviewed and ratified by the BOM on 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2021
- 12 This Child Safeguarding Statement was reviewed and ratified by the BOM on 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2022
- 13 This Child Safeguarding Statement was reviewed and ratified by the BOM on 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2023

Signed:   
Paddy Gough  
Chairperson of Board of Management

  
Thomas Neary  
Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Date: 23.01.23

Date: 23/01/2023

## Checklist for Review of the Child Safeguarding Statement

	Yes/No
1. Has the Board formally adopted a Child Safeguarding Statement in accordance with the 'Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools 2017'?	Yes
2. As part of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement, has the Board formally adopted, without modification, the 'Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools 2017'?	n
3. Does the school's Child Safeguarding Statement include a written assessment of risk as required under the Children First Act 2015?	n
4. Has the Board reviewed and updated where necessary the written assessment of risk as part of this overall review?	n
5. Has the DLP attended available child protection training?	n
6. Has the Deputy DLP attended available child protection training?	n
7. Have any members of the Board attended child protection training?	n
8. Are there both a DLP and a Deputy DLP currently appointed?	n
9. Are the relevant contact details (Tusla and An Garda Síochána) to hand?	n
10. Has the Board arrangements in place to communicate the school's Child Safeguarding Statement to new school personnel?	n
11. Is the Board satisfied that all school personnel have been made aware of their responsibilities under the 'Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools 2017' and the Children First Act 2015?	n
12. Has the Board received a Principals Child Protection Oversight Report (CPOR) at each Board meeting held since the last review was undertaken?	n
13. 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?	n

14. Since the Board's last review, has the Board been provided with and reviewed all documents relevant to the CPOR?	YES
15. Since the Board's last review, have the minutes of each Board meeting appropriately recorded the records provided to the Board as part of CPOR report?	"
16. Have the minutes of each Board meeting appropriately recorded the CPOR report?	"
17. Is the Board satisfied that the child protection procedures in relation to the making of reports to Tusla/An Garda Síochána were appropriately followed in each case reviewed?	"
18. Is the Board satisfied that, since the last review, all appropriate actions are being or have been taken in respect of any member of school personnel against whom an allegation of abuse or neglect has been made?*	N/A
19. Where applicable, were unique identifiers used to record child protection matters in the Board minutes?	YES
20. Is the Board satisfied that all records relating to child protection are appropriately filed and stored securely?	"
21. Has the Board been notified by any parent in relation to that parent not receiving the standard notification required under section 5.6 of the 'Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools 2017'?	NO
22. In relation to any cases identified at question 21 above, has the Board ensured that any notifications required under section 5.6 of the 'Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools 2017' were subsequently issued by the DLP?	N/A
23. Has the Board ensured that the Parents' Association (if any), has been provided with the school's Child Safeguarding Statement?	YES
24. Has the Board ensured that the patron has been provided with the school's Child Safeguarding Statement?	"
25. Has the Board ensured that the school's Child Safeguarding Statement is available to parents on request?	"
26. Has the Board ensured that the Stay Safe programme is implemented in full in the school? (applies to primary schools)	"
27. Has the Board ensured that the Wellbeing Programme for Junior Cycle students is implemented in full in the school? (applies to post- primary schools)	N/A
28. Has the Board ensured that the SPHE curriculum is implemented in full in the school?	YES

29. Is the Board satisfied that the statutory requirements for Garda Vetting have been met in respect of all school personnel (employees and volunteers)? *	YES
30. Is the Board satisfied that the Department's requirements in relation to the provision of a child protection related statutory declaration and associated form of undertaking have been met in respect of persons appointed to teaching and non-teaching positions?*	Y
31. Is the Board satisfied that, from a child protection perspective, thorough recruitment and selection procedures are applied by the school in relation to all school personnel (employees and volunteers)?*	Y
32. Has the Board considered and addressed any complaints or suggestions for improvements regarding the school's Child Safeguarding Statement?	NONE
33. Has the Board sought the feedback of parents in relation to the school's compliance with the requirements of the child safeguarding requirements of the 'Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools 2017'?	YES
34. Has the Board sought the feedback of pupils in relation to the school's child safeguarding arrangements?	Y
35. Is the Board satisfied that the 'Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools 2017' are being fully and adequately implemented by the school?	Y
36. Has the Board identified any aspects of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement and/or its implementation that require further improvement?	NO
37. Has the Board put in place an action plan containing appropriate timelines to address those aspects of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement and/or its implementation that have been identified as requiring further improvement?	N/A
38. 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

\*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:



Paddy Gough (Chairperson BOM)

Date: 23/01/23



Thomas Neary, (Principal, Secretary BOM)

Date: 23/01/23



**Notification regarding the Board of Management's Annual Review of  
the Child Safeguarding Statement**

To:

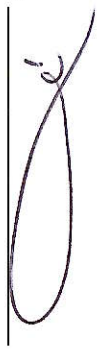
The Parents/Guardians of Pupils of St Attractas JNS

The Archbishop of Dublin, Patron of St Attractas JNS

The Board of Management of St. Attractas Junior NS wishes to inform you that:

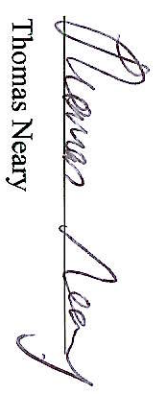
- The Board of Management's annual review of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement was completed at the Board meeting of 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2023

- This review was conducted in accordance with the "Checklist for Review of the Child Safeguarding Statement" published on the Department's 'website [www.education.ie](http://www.education.ie)

Signed: 

Paddy Gough

Chairperson of Board of Management



Thomas Neary  
Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Date: 23.01.23

Date: 28/01/2023



## Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment (23<sup>rd</sup> January 2023)

### Written Assessment of Risk of St Attractas JNS

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 St. Attractas JNS.

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
1. Training of school personnel in Child Protection Matters	Harm not recognised or reported promptly	Child Safeguarding Statement and DES procedures made available to all staff. DLP and DDLP to attend PDST face to face/online training. All staff to view Tusla training module and any other training offered by the PDST. BOM retains all records of staff and Board training. Visiting staff and part-time teachers to comply with Garda vetting and to be familiar with Child Safeguarding Statement.
2. One to one teaching	Harm by school personnel	School has glass panels in doors of all classrooms where one to one teaching takes place.
3. Care of children with special needs including intimate care needs	Harm by school personnel	School has Intimate Care Needs Policy. Intimate care needs will be dealt with by SNAs or teachers depending on availability. RSE and SPHE can be differentiated as appropriate
4. Toilet areas	Inappropriate behaviour	Toilet procedures (only one child in toilet area at a time). Supervision policy

5.	Curricular provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe Programme	Med	Non-teaching of same	School implements SPHE (Social, Personal and Health Education) RSE (Relationships and Sexuality Education) and Stay Safe Programmes, and facilitates staff training when available.
6.	Recruitment of new staff including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Teachers</li> <li>• SNAs</li> <li>• Ancillary Staff</li> <li>• Guest speakers</li> <li>• Volunteers/Parents in school activities</li> </ul>	Med	Harm not recognised or properly or promptly reported	Child Safeguarding Statement and DES procedures made available to all staff. Staff to view Tusla training module and any other online training offered by PDST (Professional Development Service for Teachers) or provide certificate to prove training has previously been undertaken. Vetting Procedures Supervision of volunteers/guest speakers by teachers
7.	Management of challenging behaviour amongst pupils	Low	Injury to pupils and staff	Health and Safety Policy Code of Behaviour SEN policy Golden Rules
8.	External Sports Coaches – including extra-curricular activities coaches/teachers	Low	Harm to pupils	Garda vetting procedures in place. Supervision by teachers
9.	Students participating in work experience	Low	Harm to pupils	Work Experience Policy in place (available on our website). All students over 16 years of age, and Garda vetted. School has signed agreement with relevant post primary schools. Child Safeguarding Statement.

				Supervision by teachers
10.	3 <sup>rd</sup> Level students participating in School Placement	Med	Harm to pupils	Letter of agreement completed with 3 <sup>rd</sup> Level College. Child Safeguarding Statement distributed to student Teachers
11.	Volunteers / Parent Helpers	Low	Harm to pupils	Supervised by staff Garda vetting procedures in place
12.	School Trips	Med	Harm to pupils from non-staff members, other pupils or members of the public	School Tours Policy Supervision by school staff and parent volunteers Detailed information letter to parents outlining roles, responsibilities, safety areas etc. Venues chosen after careful consideration of safety and educational value.
13.	Afterschool Activities	Low	Harm to enrolled children	Activities are conducted only by school staff who are Garda Vetted and who signed off on the Child Safe guarding Statement and Risk Assessment. Glass panels in door of teaching room.

14.	Supervision of children at playtime	High	Injury to pupils Bullying Harm not recognised or properly or prompted reported	Supervision policy and procedures in place. Code of Behaviour/Anti- Bullying policies in place Health & Safety Statement Supervision Rota maintained electronically in the office. Procedures for Parents who are lunch time volunteers
15.	Risks associated with open plan-nature of the school site Risks associated with children who are a flight risk	Med	Risks associated with those using the school grounds as a 'short cut'	Supervision Policy in place Individuals accessing grounds are approached by supervising staff if there is any evidence of 'loitering' Exterior classroom doors locked when children return to classrooms from the yard
16.	School Access	Med	Harm to pupils	Access to classrooms during the school day is restricted and monitored. All external doors locked if staff members are not present in classrooms Access during school day through front door only. Visitors must sign in at office. Children can only be collected early from school directly from the school office and not from the yard during playtime. Deliveries during school hours supervised by ancillary staff.
17.	After-School activities Seasonal Art Camps/Summer Camps	Low	Harm to participants	Activities organised by Staff of St Attractas JNS who are Garda Vetted.
18.	Use of St Attractas Oratory	Low	Harm by outsiders	Children are always supervised by teachers when using the church. Children are supervised when using toilets in these locations.

19.	Visiting speakers	Low	Harm to pupils	Teachers remain in class with visiting speakers.
20.	Use of ICT by pupils or staff	High	Bullying Staff not following policies and procedures Access to inappropriate material	ICT and Acceptable Use policies in place. Internet Content Filtering Level 4 is provided by the Schools' Broadband Service. Code of Behaviour Anti-Bullying Policy Communications and Digital Learning Platform Policy in place
21.	Use of mobile phones/devices by pupils	Low	Inappropriate use	Mobile phones/ devices with recording capability not permitted by the BOM
22.	Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst pupils	Med	Harm to pupils	Anti-bullying Policy and Procedures in place. Code of Behaviour.
23.	LGBT pupils, trans-pupils, ethnic minorities etc.	Low	Bullying of pupils	Code of Behaviour Anti-Bullying Policy SPHE programmes
24.	Administration of First Aid/Medicine	Low	Harm to pupils	Administration of Medicine policy. Training provided on specific conditions as necessary. First Aid kits available. Shared access to Defibrillator with Senior School

**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*

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.