

## St. Attractas JNS, Child Safeguarding Statement 2025-26

St. Attractas Junior NS, is a primary school providing 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 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 St. Attractas Junior 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 **Thomas Neary**
- 3 The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is **Suanne Shanahan**
- 4 The Relevant Person is **Thomas Neary**
- 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.

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.

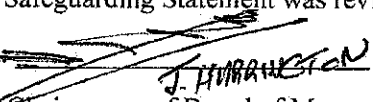
- In relation to the selection or recruitment of staff and their suitability to work with children, the school adheres to the statutory vetting requirements of the National Vetting Bureau (Children and Vulnerable Persons) Acts 2012 to 2016 and to the wider duty of care guidance set out in relevant Garda 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.

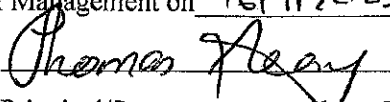
**Note:** The above is not intended as an exhaustive list. Individual Boards of Management shall also include in this section such other procedures/measures that are of relevance to the school in question.

- 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 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 16/9/2025.

This Child Safeguarding Statement was reviewed by the Board of Management on 16/9/2025.

Signed:   
Acting Chairperson of Board of Management  
Management

Signed:   
Principal/Secretary to the Board of

Date: 16/9/2025

Date: 16/9/2025

## Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment

### Written Assessment of Risk of [name of 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 [name of school].

#### List of school activities

1. Training of school personnel in Child Protection Matters
2. One to one teaching
3. Care of children with special needs including intimate care needs
4. Use of toilet areas
5. Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils
6. Management of challenging behaviour amongst pupils
7. Curricular provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, StaySafe Programme
8. Recruitment of new staff including:
  - Teachers
  - SNAs
  - Ancillary Staff
  - Guest speakers
  - Volunteers/Parents in school activities
9. 3<sup>rd</sup> Level students participating in School Placement
10. Second level students participating in work experience
11. External Sports Coaches –including extra-curricular
12. School Trips/ participation in religious ceremonies external to the school
13. Afterschool activities/ Seasonal Art Camps/Summer camps run by school staff
14. Supervision of children at playtime
15. Risks associated with open plan-nature of the school site
16. Risk of incursion into school through external doors
17. Use of ICT/mobile devices by pupils or staff including risks associated with online teaching
18. Use of video/ photography /other media to record school events
19. Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst pupils
20. LGBT pupils, trans-pupils, ethnic minorities etc.
21. Administration of FirstAid/Medicine

**The school has identified the following risk of harm in respect of its activities -**

1. Harm not recognised or reported
2. Harm to pupils or observed harm not recognised or properly or promptly reported
3. Harm to pupils by non- school staff or members of the public
4. Inappropriate behaviour among pupils
5. Risk of child absconding/being collected by someone other than those nominated by parents
6. Non-teaching of relevant SPHE/RSE programmes
7. Injury to pupils and bullying not recognised or properly or promptly reported.
8. Risk of harm to children by 'passers-by' or of children leaving school grounds
9. Risk of harm to pupils in classrooms by intruders
10. Risk of children accessing inappropriate material
11. Risk of material being distributed on social media or the material being manipulated by others
12. Risk of staff not identifying acts of bullying, or of staff not following stated policies and procedures when there is evidence of bullying taking place
13. Risk of harm to pupils/ bullying based on ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation etc
14. Risk of mis-adventure and subsequent harm to pupils

**The school has the following procedures in place to address the risks of harm identified in this assessment -**

1. 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. School has glass panels in doors of all classrooms where one to one teaching take place.
3. School has Intimate Care Needs Policy. Intimate care needs will be dealt with by SNA or teachers depending on availability. RSE and SPHE can be differentiated as appropriate
4. Toilet procedures in place (only one child in toilet area at a time). Supervision policy in place
5. Procedures in place for the arrival, dismissal and collection of children both at official opening and closing times and at other times of the school day
6. The school has the following procedures in place:
  - Health and Safety policy
  - Code of Behaviour/Golden Rules
  - SEN Policy

7. School implements SPHE (Social, Personal and Health Education) RSE (Relationships and Sexuality Education) and Stay Safe Programmes, and facilitates staff training when available.  
Child Safeguarding Statement and DES procedures made available to all staff.
8. 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
9. Letter of agreement completed with 3<sup>rd</sup> Level College. Child Safeguarding Statement distributed to student Teachers
10. 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 school. Work experience participants given Child Safeguarding statement
11. Garda vetting procedures in place. Supervision by teachers during activities  
School Tours Policy, Supervision by school staff and parent volunteers  
Detailed information letter to parents
12. School Tours Policy in place, 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. Activities are conducted only by school staff who are Garda Vetted and who signed off on the Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment. Glass panels in classroom doors.
14. Supervision policy and procedures in place. Code of Behaviour/Anti-Bullying policies in place. Supervision rota maintained electronically in the office.
15. 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 from the yard.
16. Access to classrooms during the school day is restricted and monitored.  
All external doors locked if staff members are not present in classrooms.  
Access by visitors/those collecting children early during school day is through the main school 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. ICT and Acceptable Use policies in place. Internet Content Filtering Level 4 is provided by the Schools' Broadband Service. Code of Behaviour, Anti-Bullying and Communications and Digital Learning Platform policies in place. Children cannot bring personal mobile devices into school.
18. AUP in place. Parents advised not to re-distribute school related material through their own social media

- 19. Anti-bullying Policy and Procedures and Code of Behaviour in place.
- 20. Code of Behaviour, Anti- Bullying and SPHE policies in place
- 21. Administration of Medicine Policy in place. Training provided on specific medical conditions provided to relevant school staff. Access to First Aid Kits and 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 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.

### Checklist for Review of the Child Safeguarding Statement

The *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools (revised 2023)* and the *Child Protection and Safeguarding Procedures for Boarding Facilities associated with Recognised Schools 2023* require that the Board of Management/Management authority must undertake a review of its Child Safeguarding Statement and that the following checklist shall be used for this purpose. **The review must be completed every year or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which the Child Safeguarding Statement refers.** Undertaking an annual review will also ensure that a school also meets its statutory obligation under section 11(8) of the Children First Act 2015, to review its Child Safeguarding Statement every two years.

The checklist is designed as an aid to conducting this review and is not intended as an exhaustive list of the issues to be considered. Individual boards of management/management authorities shall include other items in the checklist that are of relevance to the school/boarding facility in question.

As part of the overall review process, boards of management/management authorities should also assess relevant school/boarding facility policies, procedures, practices and activities vis a vis their adherence to the principles of best practice in child protection and welfare as set out in the school’s Child Safeguarding Statement, the Children First Act 2015, the Addendum to Children First (2019), the *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools (revised 2023)* and the *Child Protection and Safeguarding Procedures for Boarding Facilities associated with Recognised Schools 2023*.

	Yes/No or N/A
1. Has the board/management authority formally adopted a Child Safeguarding Statement in accordance with the <i>Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools (revised 2023)</i> and the <i>Child Protection and Safeguarding Procedures for Boarding Facilities associated with Recognised Schools 2023</i> ?	YES
2. Is the board/management authority satisfied that the Child Safeguarding Statement is displayed in a prominent place near the main entrance to the school/boarding facility?	YES
3. As part of the school/boarding facility’s Child Safeguarding Statement, has the board/management authority formally adopted, without modification, the <i>Child</i>	YES

<i>Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools (revised 2023) and the Child Protection and Safeguarding Procedures for Boarding Facilities associated with Recognised Schools 2023?</i>	
4. Does the school/boarding facility's Child Safeguarding Statement include a written assessment of risk as required under the Children First Act 2015? (This includes considering the specific issue of online safety as required by the Addendum to Children First)	YES
5. Has the board/management authority reviewed and updated where necessary the written assessment of risk as part of this overall review?	YES
6. Has the Risk Assessment taken account of the risk of harm relevant to online teaching and learning remotely?	YES
7. Has the DLP of the school attended available child protection training?	YES
8. Has the DLP of the boarding facility attended available child protection training?	YES N/A
9. Has the Deputy DLP of the school attended available child protection training?	YES
10. Has the Deputy DLP of the boarding facility attended available child protection training?	N/A
11. Have any members of the board/management authority attended child protection training?	YES
12. Has the school/boarding facility appointed a DLP and a Deputy DLP?	YES
13. Are the relevant contact details (Tusla and An Garda Síochána) to hand?	YES
14. Has the board/management authority arrangements in place to communicate the Child Safeguarding Statement to new school/boarding facility personnel?	YES
15. Is the board/management authority satisfied that all personnel have been made aware of their responsibilities under the <i>Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools (revised 2023)</i> , the <i>Child Protection and Safeguarding Procedures for Boarding Facilities associated with Recognised Schools 2023</i> and the Children First Act 2015?	YES
16. Has the board/management authority received a Child Protection Oversight Report (CPOR) at each board/management authority meeting held since the last review was undertaken?	YES
17. Since the board/management authority'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?	YES
18. Since the board/management authority's last review, has the board/management authority been provided with and reviewed all records relevant to the CPOR?	YES
19. Is the board/management authority satisfied that the records provided are anonymised and redacted as necessary to ensure that the identities of children and other parties, including boarding facility personnel, to whom the concern or report relates are not disclosed?	YES
20. Since the board/management authority's last review, have the minutes of each board/management authority meeting appropriately recorded the records provided to the board/management authority as part of CPOR?	YES
21. Have the minutes of each board/management authority meeting appropriately recorded the CPOR?	YES
22. Is the board/management authority 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?	YES
23. Is the board/management authority satisfied that, since the last review, all appropriate actions are being or have been taken in respect of any member of school/boarding facility personnel against whom an allegation of abuse or neglect has been made?*	N/A
24. Where applicable, were unique identifiers used to record child protection matters in the board/management authority minutes?	N/A
25. Is the board/management authority satisfied that all records relating to child protection are appropriately filed and stored securely?	YES

26. Has the board/management authority been notified by any parent in relation to that parent not receiving the standard notification required under section 5.6 of the <i>Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools (revised 2023)</i> ?	NO
27. In relation to any cases identified at question 22 above, has the board/management authority ensured that any notifications required under section 5.6 of the <i>Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools (revised 2023)</i> were subsequently issued by the DLP?	N/A
28. Has the board/management authority ensured that the Parents' Association (if applicable), has been provided with the school/boarding facility's Child Safeguarding Statement?	YES
29. Has the board/management authority ensured that the patron has been provided with the school/boarding facility's Child Safeguarding Statement?	YES
30. Has the board/management authority ensured that the school/boarding facility's Child Safeguarding Statement is available to parents on request?	YES
31. Has the board ensured that the Stay Safe programme is implemented in full in the school? (applies to primary schools)	YES
32. 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
33. Has the board ensured that the SPHE curriculum is implemented in full in the school?	YES
34. Is the board/management authority satisfied that the statutory requirements for Garda Vetting have been met in respect of all school/boarding facility personnel (employees and volunteers)? *	YES
35. Is the board/management authority 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?*	YES
36. Is the board/management authority satisfied that, from a child protection perspective, thorough recruitment and selection procedures are applied by the school/boarding facility in relation to all school/boarding facility personnel (employees and volunteers)?*	YES
37. Has the board/management authority considered and addressed any complaints or suggestions for improvements regarding the school/boarding facility's Child Safeguarding Statement?	N/A
38. Has the board/management authority sought the feedback of parents in relation to the school/boarding facility's compliance with the requirements of the <i>Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools (revised 2023)</i> and the <i>Child Protection and Safeguarding Procedures for Boarding Facilities associated with Recognised Schools 2023</i> ?	YES
39. Has the board/management authority sought the feedback of pupils/students in relation to the school/boarding facility's child safeguarding arrangements?	YES
40. Has the board/management authority identified any aspects of the school/boarding facility's Child Safeguarding Statement and/or its implementation that require further improvement?	NO
41. Has the board/management authority put in place an action plan containing appropriate timelines to address those aspects of the school/boarding facility's Child Safeguarding Statement and/or its implementation that have been identified as requiring further improvement ?	N/A
42. Has the board/management authority ensured that any areas for improvement that were identified in any previous review of the school/boarding facility's Child Safeguarding Statement have been adequately addressed?	N/A
43. Where the board of management of the school and the management authority of the boarding facility are independent of each other, has the board of management of the school and the management authority of the boarding facility afforded each other the opportunity to input during the review of each other's child safeguarding statements and risk assessments and have a written data sharing agreement for this purpose?	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 ~~\_\_\_\_\_~~ J. HARRINGTON Date 16/9/2025  
Acting Chairperson, Board of Management/Management authority

Signed Thomas Neay Date 16/9/2025  
Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management/Management authority

**Note:** Where a school/boarding facility is undertaking its first review, references in this checklist to the "last review" shall be taken to refer to the date on which the Child Safeguarding Statement was first put in place.