



St. Angela's School, Ursuline Convent, Waterford
Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment



For:	St. Angela's School
At:	Ursuline Convent, Waterford

This school is a Post-Primary 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): Bernadette McGlynn

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

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

Name of Relevant Person: Bernadette McGlynn

Relevant Person may be contacted at bmg@ursw.ie (051) 876510

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: Aidan McGrath

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 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 cooperate 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 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.

Note: The procedures and measures in place outlined above, are not intended as an 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

List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils ○ Recreation breaks for pupils ○ Classroom teaching ○ One-to-one teaching ○ One-to-one counselling/assessment/orals ○ Outdoor teaching activities ○ Sporting Activities ○ School outings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Risk of harm not being recognised by school personnel ○ Risk of harm not being reported properly and promptly by school personnel ○ Risk of child being harmed in the school by a member of school personnel 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 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 2025</i> are made

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ School trips involving overnight stays ○ School trips involving foreign travel ○ Use of toilet/changing/shower areas in schools ○ Annual Sports Day ○ Fundraising events involving pupils ○ Use of off-site facilities for school activities ○ School transport arrangements including use of bus escorts ○ Care of children with special educational needs, including intimate care where needed ○ Care of any vulnerable adult students, including intimate care where needed ○ Care of students enrolled in Sereni including movement between Sereni and mainstream classes ○ Management of challenging behaviour amongst pupils, including appropriate use of restraint where required ○ Administration of Medicine ○ Administration of First Aid ○ Curricular provision in respect of SPHE and RSE ○ Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst pupils/staff ○ Training of school personnel in child protection matters ○ Use of external personnel to supplement curriculum ○ Use of external personnel to support sports and other extra-curricular activities ○ Care of pupils with specific vulnerabilities/ needs such as <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pupils from other countries or from ethnic minorities or migrants - Members of the Traveller community - Lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender (LGBT) children - Pupils perceived to be LGBT 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Risk of child being harmed in the school by another child ○ Risk of child being harmed in the school by volunteer or visitor to the school or members of the public walking on school grounds ○ Risk of child being harmed by a member of school personnel, a member of staff of another organisation or other person while child participating in out of school activities e.g. school trip, swimming lessons ○ Risk of harm due to bullying of child ○ Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children in school ○ Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children while attending out of school activities ○ Risk of harm to children during free time and/or overnight stays on school tours and trips ○ Risk of harm due to inappropriate relationship/communications between child and another child or adult ○ Risk of harm due to children inappropriately accessing/using computers, social media, phones and other devices while at school ○ Risk of harm to children with AEN who have particular vulnerabilities ○ Risk of harm to child while a child is receiving intimate care ○ Risk of harm due to inadequate code of behaviour ○ Risk of harm in one-to-one teaching, counselling, coaching situation ○ Risk of harm caused by member of school personnel communicating with pupils in an 	<p>available to all school personnel</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ School Personnel are required to adhere to the <i>Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2025</i> and all registered teaching staff are required to adhere to the <i>Children First Act 2015</i> ○ The school implements in full the SPHE curriculum ○ The school implements in full the Wellbeing Programme at Junior Cycle ○ The school has ratified the BÍ Cineálta Policy to Prevent and Address Bullying Behaviour. This policy fully complies with the requirements of BÍ Cineálta: Procedures to Prevent and Address Bullying Behaviour for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2024 ○ 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. ○ The school has in place a barrier at the main
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pupils of minority religious faiths - Children in care - Children on CPNS - Non-verbal children ○ Recruitment of school personnel including - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Teachers/SNA's - Caretaker/Secretary/Cleaners - 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 ○ Participation by pupils in religious ceremonies/religious instruction external to the school ○ Presence of members of the public on the school grounds during school hours or after school activities e.g. dog walkers ○ Use of Information and Communication Technology by pupils in school ○ Application of sanctions under the school's Code of Behaviour including detention of pupils, confiscation of phones etc. ○ Students participating in work experience in the school ○ Students from the school participating in work experience elsewhere ○ Student teachers undertaking training placement in school ○ Use of video/photography/other media to record school events ○ After school use of school premises by other organisations ○ Use of school premises by other organisations during school day ○ Breakfast club ○ Homework club/evening study 	<p>inappropriate manner via social media, texting, digital device or other manner</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Risk of harm caused by member of school personnel accessing/circulating inappropriate material via social media, texting, digital device or other manner ○ Risk of damage to school building ○ Risk of harm due to being hit by a vehicle within the school grounds ○ Risk of harm by eating allergy causing food ○ Risk of self-harm and dangerous practice whilst on school premises. ○ Risk of harm in small group counselling group ○ Risk of harm caused during practical classes eg. Science, Home Economics & Art ○ Risk of harm when students are left on their own when sick ○ Health/Gym Club where students use communal changing area and the need for female member of staff ○ Risk of Harm to a student when transport by a staff member is required ○ Risk of harm to a student when school maintenance works are ongoing 	<p>gate, speed limit signs and ramps. Timed locks are in place on main entrance doors.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The school has in place a policy and clear procedures in respect of school outings ○ The school has a Health and Safety policy ○ The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation and relevant DES circulars in relation to recruitment and Garda vetting ○ The school has a code of conduct for school personnel (teaching and non-teaching staff) ○ The school complies with the agreed disciplinary procedures for teaching staff ○ The school has a Special Educational Needs policy ○ The school has an intimate care plan in respect of students who require such care e.g student mother policy, SSPs ○ The school has in place a policy and procedures for the administration of medication to pupils
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ End of Term Activities ○ Clubs ○ TY students engaged in outside voluntary roles such as Homework club ○ Sick students sitting at Reception waiting to go home ○ 6th Year students involved in the Reach Access Library scheme & Meetings around Dare, Hear or Reach – 5th/6th Years ○ Entrance exam ○ Recreation breaks to include lunchrooms/use of electrical appliances ○ The teaching of practical subjects eg. Science, Home Economics & Art ○ Use of I.C.T. by staff in the school ○ Use of phones/recording devices by students & staff to include inappropriate use of Social Media ○ Transport of student(s) & Students' property in teachers' cars ○ Use of online learning platforms and Microsoft Teams as an integral part of Blended Learning and Online Learning ○ PME Teachers ○ P/T Meetings ○ Whole School Activities ○ Student Exchange ○ School Maintenance Works 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The school has in place a school tours and trips policy ○ The school – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Has provided each member of school 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 - Maintains records of all staff and board member training ○ The school has in place a code of behaviour for pupils ○ The school has in place an Acceptable Usage Policy (AUP) in respect of usage of ICT by pupils
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The school has in place a personal technology policy in respect of usage of mobile phones by pupils ○ The school has in place a Critical Incident Management Plan ○ The school has in place a Whole School Guidance policy. This includes procedures for one-to-one counselling ○ The school has in place a policy and procedures in respect of pupils of the school undertaking work experience in external organisations ○ The school has in place procedures for informing all staff of student medical history ○ The school has an official formal partnership with SETU in relation to the Reach Access Library Scheme. Each student and their parent has signed an assessment form
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Online Safety

The Addendum to Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children 2017 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 and Risk Assessment.

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.

Risk in the context of this Child Safeguarding Statement and 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 the Children First Act 2015: “harm” means, in relation to a child— (a) assault, illtreatment or neglect of the child in a manner that seriously affects or likely to seriously affect the child’s health, development or welfare, or (b) sexual abuse of the child, whether caused by a single act, omission or circumstance or a series or combination of acts, omissions or circumstances, or otherwise.

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 10/11/25

Signed: Aidan McGeath

Date: 10-11-2025

Chairperson of the board of management

Signed: Benadette McGynn

Date: 10/11/25

Principal/ Secretary to the board of management

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Notification Regarding the Board of Management's Review of the Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment

This template must be used by the board of management to inform the school community and relevant parties that they have fulfilled their statutory obligation to annually review the school's Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment.

To:

The board of management of wishes to inform you that:

- (a) The board of management's annual review of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement was completed at the Board meeting of (date).
- (b) This review was conducted in accordance with the board of management's review of the Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment published on www.gov.ie/childprotectionschools.

Signed:*
Chairperson, board of management

Date:

Signed:*
Principal/Secretary to the board of management

Date:

* Doiciméad le priontáil agus le síniú le sínithe bunaidh