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Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment

For:	Star of the Sea Boys National School	(School Name)
At:	Leahy's Terrace, Sandymount, Dublin 4	(School Address)

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

In accordance with the requirements of the Children First Act 2015, Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children 2017, the Addendum to Children First (2019) and 2025, Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025 and Child Safeguarding: A Guide for Policy, Procedure and Practice, 2nd ed. (Tusla, 2024), the board of management has adopted the Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment set out in this document.

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

Name of the Designated Liaison Person (DLP):

Mr. Niall Walsh

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

Ms. Joan Finnerty

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

Name of Relevant Person

Mr. Niall Walsh

(In schools this person is the DLP)

Relevant Person can be contacted on:

(01) 668 6394	office@starofthesea.ie
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Under the Children First Act 2015 Relevant Person means a person who is appointed by a provider of a relevant service to be the first point of contact in respect of the Child Safeguarding Statement. This person is nominated by the board of management to manage and provide oversight of child protection concerns/allegations of child abuse.

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

Mr. Bernard Barron

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

The board of management recognises that child protection and safeguarding permeate all aspects of school life and must be reflected in all of the school's policies, procedures, practices and activities. In all of these, the school will adhere to the following principles of best practice in child protection and welfare. The school will:

- ☒ Recognise that the protection and welfare of children is of paramount importance, regardless of all other considerations.
- ☒ Fully comply with its statutory obligations under the Children First Act 2015 and other relevant legislation relating to the protection and welfare of children.
- ☒ Fully co-operate with the relevant statutory authorities in relation to child protection and welfare matters.
- ☒ Adopt safe practices to minimise the possibility of harm happening to children and protect members of school personnel from the necessity to take unnecessary risks that may leave themselves open to accusations of child abuse.
- ☒ Develop a practice of openness with parents and encourage parental involvement in the education of their children.
- ☒ Fully respect confidentiality requirements as set out in the Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025 in dealing with child protection matters.
- ☒ Adhere to the above principles in relation to any vulnerable adult.

Procedures and Measures in Place

Our Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment has been developed in line with requirements under the Children First Act 2015, the *Children First: National Guidance 2017*, and *Child Safeguarding: A Guide for Policy, Procedure and Practice, 2nd ed. (Tusla, 2024)*, and the *Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025*. In addition to the procedures listed in our risk assessment, the following procedures support our intention to safeguard children while they are availing of our service:

> Procedure for the Management of Allegations of Abuse or Misconduct against School Personnel Relating to a Child Availing of Our Service

~ Where any member of school personnel is the subject of any investigation in respect of any act, omission or circumstance in relation to a child attending the school, the school is required to adhere to the relevant procedures set out in Chapter 7 of the *Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025* and to the relevant agreed disciplinary procedures for school staff which are published on the gov.ie website.

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

~ The school is required to adhere to the requirements of the Vetting Act. The selection or recruitment of staff and their suitability to work with children, requires the school to adhere to the statutory vetting requirements of the National Vetting Bureau (Children and Vulnerable Persons) Acts 2012 to 2016, and to the wider duty of care guidance set out in relevant Garda vetting and recruitment circulars published by the

Department of Education and Youth and available on the gov.ie website and as outlined in Chapter 10 of the procedures.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

> Procedure for the Reporting of Child Protection or Welfare Concerns to Tusla

~ All members of school personnel are required to adhere to the procedures set out in the *Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025*, in relation to reporting of child protection concerns to Tusla. Mandated reporting applies to all registered teachers and any other mandated person who may be employed by the school, for example a chaplain or nurse. A full list of those people who are mandated persons is set out in Appendix 1 procedures.

> Procedure for Maintaining a List of the Persons (if any) in the Relevant Service Who Are Mandated Persons

~ There is a procedure in place to maintain a list of mandated persons. Schools may on occasion employ additional staff who are mandated by virtue of their profession. This list will include all registered teachers and identify additional employees that are not registered teachers.

> Procedure for Appointing a Relevant Person (In schools this person is the DLP)

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

The various procedures referred to in this Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment can be accessed via the school's website, the gov.ie website or will be made available on request by the school.

In accordance with the Children First Act 2015, the Addendum to Children First 2019 and 2025, and the *Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025*, the board of management carried out an assessment of any potential for harm to a child while attending the school or participating in school activities. A written assessment setting out the areas of risk identified and the school's procedures for managing those risks is included with the Child Safeguarding Statement.

Note: The procedures and measures in place outlined above, are not intended as exhaustive list. Individual boards of management shall also include in this section such other procedures and measures that are of relevance to the school.

This statement has been published on the school's website or will be made available on request by the school. It has been provided to all members of school personnel, the parents' association (if any), the patron and parents. A copy of this statement and risk assessment will be made available to Tusla and the department if requested.

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

Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
1.	Training of school personnel in Child Protection matters	Harm not recognised or reported promptly.	- All school personnel are provided with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement. - The Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025 are made available to all school personnel. - School personnel are required to adhere to the Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025 and all registered teaching staff are required to adhere to the Children First Act 2015. - The school has provided each member of school staff with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement. - All new staff are provided with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement. - Staff to avail of relevant training - Board of Management members to avail of relevant training. - Maintain records of all staff and board member training. - All visiting staff and part time teachers to comply with Garda vetting and to be familiar with the Child Safeguarding Statement. - Child Protection will be on the agenda for all BOM meetings.

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
			Annual review of the Risk Assessment and Child Safeguarding Statement by staff, pupils, parents and the Board of Management.
2.	Classroom Teaching	Harm by school personnel	- Garda Vetting - Child Safeguarding Statement & DES procedures made available to all staff - All staff to view Túsla and PDST training modules - The school has a Code of Behaviour - The school has a Supervision Policy
3.	One-to-one teaching	Harm by school personnel	- Small group or classroom-based SET teaching where practicable in the first instance - Open doors where practicable in SET room setting. - Visibility panels in the doors in SET rooms - Comprehensive SEN Policy and procedures in place.
4.	Care of Children with special needs, including intimate care needs	Harm by school personnel	- The school has intimate care guidelines that are shared with relevant staff on Supporting Children with Special Educational Needs. - Individual care arrangements are established where required. - Parental involvement and consent is sought - Difficulties in respect of intimate care are appropriately recorded and reported to parents.

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
			Staffing arrangements are allocated in line with the continuum of support appropriate to the pupil's needs.
5.	Activities related to the use of toilet areas	- Inappropriate behaviour - Risk of harm due to bullying of a child - Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children in the toilet area - Risk of harm due to inappropriate relationship/communications between child and another child or adult - Risk of harm due to biohazard (infectious disease, cross-contamination)	- The school has a Supervision Policy to ensure appropriate supervision of children during assembly, dismissal and breaks and in respect of specific areas such as toilets, etc. - The school has a Safety Statement in which hygiene control measures are set out.
6.	Curricular Provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe	Non-teaching of SPHE, RSE and Stay Safe	- School personnel are required to adhere to the Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025 and all registered teaching staff are required to adhere to the Children First Act 2015 - The school implements in full the Stay Safe Programme - The school implements in full the SPHE curriculum
7.	Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils	Harm from other pupils, unknown adults on the school grounds	- Arrival and dismissal supervised by Teachers - Supervision Policy - Health & Safety Policy

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
			The school has a Supervision Policy to ensure appropriate supervision of children during assembly, dismissal and breaks and in respect of specific areas such as toilets, etc.
8.	Managing challenging behaviour among pupils, including appropriate use of restraint	- Risk of harm to children with SEN who have particular vulnerabilities - Injury to pupils and staff	- SEN Policy - Health & Safety Policy - Code of Behaviour Policy incorporating Policy on Behaviours of Concern
9.	External Visitors, Teachers, Coaches, Third-Party Professionals	- Harm to pupils - Risk of child being harmed in the school by a visitor to the school - Risk of unknown adults on the school grounds	- The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation and relevant DES circulars in relation to recruitment and Garda vetting. - Child Safeguarding Statement. - All visiting staff and part-time teachers to comply with Garda vetting
10.	School Placement students and Transition Year students participating in work experience	Harmful acts carried out by student	- The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation and relevant DES circulars in relation to recruitment and Garda vetting. - Child Safeguarding Statement. - Work Experience Policy - Garda Vetting
11.	Yard time Supervision, Wet Day Supervision	- Harm by pupils - Injury to pupils - Bullying - Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children in school	- Supervision Policy - The school has a Supervision Policy (to ensure appropriate supervision of children during assembly, dismissal and breaks and

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
		<i>Harm not recognised or responded to appropriately</i>	<i>in respect of specific areas such as toilets etc.</i> <i>Health & Safety Policy</i> <i>Anti-Bullying Policy (Bí Cineálta). The school has an Anti-Bullying Policy which fully adheres to the requirements of the Department of Education's Anti-Bullying Procedures for Schools</i> <i>Code of Behaviour Policy</i> <i>The school has in place a Code of Behaviour for pupils</i> <i>Yard duty supervision rota</i> <i>Discipline book</i> <i>Yard record book</i>
12.	<i>Accommodating unannounced visitors</i>	<i>Risk of a child being harmed in the school by a visitor to the school</i> <i>Risk of unknown adults on the school grounds</i>	<i>The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation and relevant DES circulars in relation to recruitment and Garda vetting.</i> <i>The school has in place procedures in respect of visitors to the school</i> <i>Visitors sign the "Sign in Sign Out" and "Early Leaver" Book</i> <i>Strict access into school – doors only opened by the secretary who uses an intercom.</i>
13.	<i>Sporting activities</i>	<i>Harmful act carried out by school personnel</i> <i>Risk of harm due to acts carried out by pupils of the school</i>	<i>Applicable Garda vetting requirements are satisfied.</i> <i>Code of Behaviour</i> <i>Anti-Bullying (Bí Cineálta) Policy</i>

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
			• <i>Supervision Policy</i>
14.	<i>School outings and outdoor learning opportunities</i>	• <i>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</i> • <i>Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children while attending out-of-school activities</i>	• <i>All school personnel are provided with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement</i> • <i>The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation and relevant DES circulars in relation to recruitment and Garda vetting</i> • <i>Code of Behaviour</i> • <i>Anti-Bullying (Bí Cineálta) Policy</i> • <i>Supervision Policy</i>
15.	<i>Annual Sports Day</i>	• <i>Risk of child being harmed by a member of school staff, employee of another organisation or other person while activities occur off site.</i> • <i>Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children while attending activities</i>	• <i>The school has in place a policy and clear procedures in respect of school outings – Educational Tour Policy</i> • <i>The school has a Health & Safety Policy</i> • <i>Code of Behaviour</i> • <i>Anti-Bullying (Bí Cineálta) Policy</i> • <i>Garda vetting of volunteer mentors and coaches</i> • <i>A staff meeting, specific to the sports day, is held to reinforce key points of delivery such as care and supervision.</i>
16.	<i>Administration of Medicine and First Aid</i>	• <i>Risk of harm due to health concern not being recognised by school personnel</i>	• <i>The school has an Administration of Medicine Policy</i> • <i>The school has a Health & Safety Policy</i>

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
		• Risk of harm due to health concern not being reported properly and promptly by school personnel • Risk of child being harmed in the school by a member of school personnel attempting to administer medicine or medical care. • Risk of harm to children with SEN who have particular vulnerabilities	• Parental contribution to agreed procedures is sought in advance of approval to use medicine. • Use of school communications channels to promote and reinforce prohibitions on the consumption of nuts and products containing nuts in certain classes where children present with nut allergies. This prevents the necessity to use medications such as epi pens.
17.	Prevention of bullying instances among pupils	• Risk of child being harmed/bullied in the school by another child • Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children in school • Risk of harm caused by member of school personnel communicating with pupils inappropriately via social media, texting, digital device or other manner • Risk of harm by member of school personnel accessing/circulating inappropriate material via social media, texting, digital device or another manner	• Anti-Bullying (Bí Cineálta) Policy • Code of Behaviour • Supervision Policy • The school implements the Stay Safe Programme and the SPHE curriculum. • The school has in place an Acceptable Use (IT and Internet) Policy in respect of the use of ICT by pupils. • The school has in place procedures in respect of the use of mobile phones by pupils. • A report to the Board of Management on instances of bullying is submitted to Board members at every meeting.
18.	Care of pupils with specific vulnerabilities/needs such as • Pupils from ethnic minorities/migrants • Members of the Traveller community	• Risk of child being harmed in the school by another child • Risk of harm due to bullying of child • Risk of harm not being recognised by school personnel	• The school has an Anti-Bullying (Bí Cineálta) Policy which adheres to the requirements of the Department's Anti-Bullying Procedures for Schools.

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
	• <i>Lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender (LGBT) children</i> • <i>Pupils perceived to be LGBT</i> • <i>Pupils of minority religious faiths</i> • <i>Children in care</i> • <i>Children on Child Protection Notification System</i>		• <i>The school implements the Stay Safe Programme and the SPHE curriculum, including learning relevant to respectful relationships, personal safety and the reporting of concern</i>
19.	<i>Management of school personnel including -</i> • <i>Teachers</i> • <i>SNAs</i> • <i>Caretaker/Secretary/Cleaners</i> • <i>Sports coaches</i> • <i>External Tutors/Guest Speakers</i> • <i>Volunteers/Parents in school activities</i> • <i>Visitors/contractors present in school during school hours</i> • <i>Visitors/contractors present during after-school activities</i>	• <i>Harm not recognised or properly or promptly reported</i> • <i>Risk of harm not being reported properly and promptly by school personnel</i> • <i>Risk of child being harmed in the school by a member of school personnel</i>	• <i>All school personnel are provided with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement.</i> • <i>The school implements in full the SPHE curriculum to promote child reporting.</i> • <i>The school has an Anti-Bullying Policy which fully adheres to the requirements of the Department's Anti-Bullying Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools</i> • <i>The school has a Supervision Policy to ensure appropriate supervision of children during assembly, dismissal and breaks and in respect of specific areas such as toilets, etc.</i> • <i>The school has in place a Code of Behaviour for pupils</i> • <i>The school has a Special Educational Needs Policy</i> • <i>The school has an intimate care policy in respect of students who require such care</i>

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
			• The school has in place an ICT policy in respect of the usage of ICT by pupils • All staff are made aware of any court orders in place • All staff have an up-to-date Children First training certificate. • All teachers are members of the Teaching Council. • The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation and relevant DES circulars in relation to recruitment and Garda vetting. • The school encourages Board of Management members to avail of relevant training • The school has in place procedures in respect of students undertaking work experience in the school
20.	Use of information and communication technology by pupils in the school	• Risk of harm due to bullying of child • Risk of harm caused by a member of school personnel communicating with pupils in an inappropriate manner via social media, texting, digital device or other manner • Risk of harm caused by a member of school personnel accessing/circulating inappropriate material via social media, texting, digital device or other manner	• The school has an Acceptable Use (IT and Internet) policy in place. • The school has a Code of Behaviour that specifically addresses risks associated with ICT. • The school has an Anti Bullying Policy in place. • The Parents Association has a voluntary charter in place, strongly discouraging smartphone ownership and social media accounts for children enrolled.

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
21.	Online teaching and remote learning	• Risk of harm due to under supervision of pupils while online together. • Risk of harm due to actions of member(s) of staff • Risk of harm due to inappropriate materials being shared online	• The school has an Acceptable Use (IT and Internet) Policy • The school's Code of Behaviour refers to inappropriate use of technologies. • The school implements in full the Stay Safe Programme • The school implements in full the SPHE curriculum • The school has an Anti-Bullying Policy which fully adheres to the requirements of the Department's Anti-Bullying Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools • For video calls, a parent must be present in the room while their child is online • The principal is a co-teacher in each Google Classroom alongside each teacher.
22.	Implementation of the school's Code of Behaviour	• Risk of harm due to inadequacies contained in the code of behaviour	• The school implements in full the Stay Safe Programme • The school implements in full the SPHE curriculum • The school has an Anti-Bullying Policy which fully adheres to the requirements of the Department's Anti-Bullying Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools • The school has in place a code of behaviour for pupils • The school has in place an ICT policy in respect of usage of ICT by pupils • The school has in place procedures in respect of usage of mobile phones by pupils

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
23.	<i>Use of video, photography and other media to record school events</i>	• Risk of harm not being recognised by school personnel • Risk of harm caused by member of school personnel communicating with pupils in inappropriate manner via social media, texting, digital device or other manner • Risk of harm caused by member of school personnel accessing/circulating inappropriate material via social media, texting, digital device or other manner	• The school has an Anti-Bullying Policy which fully adheres to the requirements of the Department's Anti-Bullying Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools • The school has a Health and safety policy • The school has in place a code of behaviour for pupils • The school has in place an ICT policy in respect of usage of ICT by pupils • The school has in place procedures in respect of usage of mobile phones by pupils • All school personnel are provided with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement • School obtains a signed consent in our enrolment form which is then updated annually through the student's confidential form.
24.	<i>After-school use of school premises by other organisations</i>	• Risk of harm to Star of the Sea pupils while under the supervision of non-school personnel	• The coach/instructor will be appropriately Garda vetted. • The activity will take place in designated areas of the school premises. • The coach/instructor will be responsible for the supervision of participating pupils for the duration of the activity. • Clear arrangements are in place for the collection of children following each session, and during each session should it be necessary for parents/guardians to collect their child earlier than planned.

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
			The coach/instructor will be provided with the school's Child Safeguarding Statement and with the contact details of the school's DLP and is required to report any child safeguarding concern arising during the activity to the DLP.
25.	Use of school premises by other organisations during school day.	Risk of harm to pupils arising from contact with, or supervision by, non-school personnel.	- The school's supervision policy applies at all times during the school day, including where a visiting instructor takes the primary role in teaching or leading a class. - The school ensures that applicable Garda vetting requirements are satisfied in respect of external personnel undertaking relevant work or activities with pupils.

Child Protection Statement and Risk Assessment

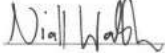
In accordance with Section 11 of the Children First Act 2015 and with the requirements of Chapter 9 of the Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025, the following is the written Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment.

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 24/09/2026 (most recent review date)

Signed:*		Date: 24/09/2026
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Chairperson of the board of management

Signed:*		Date: 24/09/2026
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Principal/Secretary to the board of management

This Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment is expected to be reviewed again on 30 September 2027 (expected review date)

** Document to be printed and signed with original signatures*

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

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

The Child Safeguarding Procedures for 2026/2027 will be available to read and download via the school website:

<https://starofthesea.ie/about/policies/>

A hard copy of the Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment document will be stored at the entrance to the school.

The Children First National Guidance document (2017) is available to staff via the school server. It is stored in the folder named 'Child Protection and Safeguarding'.