



## Scoil Triest Special School

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### Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment Scoil Triest Special School

Scoil Triest is a special school providing post-primary education to pupils who have a diagnosis of ASD and Intellectual Disability (Moderate to Mild). 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 (Revised 2023) and Tusla Guidance on the preparation of Child Safeguarding Statements, the Board of Management of Scoil Triest 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: **Jerry Ryan, Principal**
- 3 The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is: **Niamh Murphy, Deputy Principal**
- 4 The Relevant Person is **Jerry Ryan** (*The relevant person is one who can provide information in respect of how the child safeguarding statement was developed and will be able to provide the statement on request. In a school setting the relevant person shall be the designated liaison person.*)

- 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. The school will adhere to the following principles of best practice in child protection and welfare. The school will:
- a. recognise that the protection and welfare of children is of paramount importance, regardless of all other considerations
  - b. fully comply with its statutory obligations under the Children First Act 2015 and other relevant legislation relating to the protection and welfare of children
  - c. fully co-operate with the relevant statutory authorities in relation to child protection and welfare matters
  - d. 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
  - e. develop a practice of openness with parents and encourage parental involvement in the education of their children; and
  - f. 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:
- a. 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 DES website
  - b. 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
  - c. 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:
    - i. Has provided each member of staff with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement
    - ii. Ensures all new staff are provided with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement
    - iii. Encourages staff to avail of relevant training
    - iv. Encourages Board of Management members to avail of relevant training
    - v. The Board of Management maintains records of all staff and Board member training.
  - d. 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

e. In this school, the Board has appointed the above named DLP as the 'relevant person' (as defined in the Children First Act 2015) to be the first point of contact in respect of the school's child safeguarding statement.

- 7 All registered teachers employed by the school are mandated persons under the Children First Act 2015
- 8 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 attached as an appendix to these procedures
- 9 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

10 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.

11 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 16/03/2023 & Revised in October 2023

Signed: Yvonne Cummins

Chairperson of BoM

*Yvonne Cummins*

Date: 02/10/2023

Signed: Jerry Ryan

Principal/Secretary to the BoM

*Jerry Ryan*

Date: 02/10/2023

## Child Protection Risk Assessment

### Scoil Triest



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 (Revised 2023)*, the following is the Written Risk Assessment of Scoil Triest.

List of School Activities	The School has identified following Risk of Harm	The School has Following Procedures in place to Address Risk Identified in this Assessment
Training of School Personnel in Child Protection Matters	Harm not recognized or reported promptly	Child Safeguarding Statement and DES Procedures made available to all staff. All staff to participate in online training offered by PDST/TUSLA. DLP & DDLP to attend PDST face to face training. Confidentiality Policy B.O.M. have records of all staff training.
Classroom Teaching	Harm to Students	Best Practice Guidelines Staff garda vetted Classroom doors have glass viewing panel Teachers are mandated person

<p>One – One Teaching/Movement Breaks/Music Therapy, P.E. O.T. Sessions – Sensory Room, S.I. Room</p>	<p>Harm by School Personnel</p>	<p>Procedures in place for one – one teaching – open doors, glass windows in door Best Practice Guidelines Supervision Policy Awareness of other staff that one staff member is alone with student</p>
<p>Intimate Care</p>	<p>Inappropriate Behaviour Harm by School Personnel</p>	<p>Supervision Policy Encourage Independence in toileting Intimate Care Policy</p>
<p>Curriculum Provision in Respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe</p>	<p>Non-Teaching of Same</p>	<p>School Implements Stay Safe, SPHE, RSE at a level commensurate with level of individual Student. Each Class displays visual “Say No”, “Get Away”, “Tell Someone”, Policies in Place</p>
<p>Recreation Breaks for Students</p>	<p>Injury to pupils Bullying Challenging behaviour Supervision levels Harm not recognised</p>	<p>Procedures in place Students identified who are not able to access recreation with larger groups Supervision Policy Anti-bullying Policy Best Practice Guidelines Staff engagement Ongoing Risk Assessment of supervision levels in yard</p>

Outdoor Teaching Activities	Risk of Absconding	Supervision Policy Environmental Modification Absconding Policy Best Practice Guidelines
Sports Coaches	Harm to Pupils	Garda Clearance for Staff Procedures for visiting coaches Supervision by School Staff always
Managing of Challenging Behaviour	Injury to Pupils and Staff	Code of Behaviour Positive Behaviour Management Behaviour Support Plans Health & Safety Policy Best practice guidelines CPI training for all staff Class Team/Multi D meeting
Daily Arrival and Dismissal of pupils	Harm from other students Inappropriate behaviour amongst students	Arrival and Dismissal Hand over Practice Procedures in Place Traffic Management Plan Supervision Policy Health & Safety Policy
Use of I.T. and Communication Technology by Pupils in School	Bullying Exposure to inappropriate Information via Social Media, texting etc. Inappropriate communication between students/another student/adult	I.T. Policy Anti-Bullying Policy Code of Behaviour Mobile Phone Policy Supervision Policy – Best Practice Guidelines
Use of Video and Cameras in School	Bullying	Camera/Video Policy

	Posting on Social Media	Confidentiality Policy Best Practice Guidelines
School Tours	Absconding Harm to Pupils Inadequate Supervision	School Tour Policy Supervision of Students Absconding Policy Code of Behaviour Risk assessment prior to outing
School transport arrangements including Bus Escorts	Harm to pupils Harm not recognized or properly or promptly reported.	All Escorts complete TUSLA Child Protection & produce certs to school Induction training Garda Clearance Bus Escort duties clearly identified
Administration of Medication	Harm to students	Training of Staff Administration of Medication Policy including ratification of B.O.M. & signed prescription Storage of Medication
Recruitment of all School Personnel	Harm to Pupils Harm not recognized properly or promptly reported	Garda Vetting & statutory declaration Induction Child Safeguarding Statement Best Practice Confidentiality Policy School Policy Folders
Administration of First Aid	Harm to students	Training of Staff Best Practice Guidelines Supervision

		Health & Safety Policy
Parents/Visitors to School	Harm to Pupils	Visitors to School Policy Visitors book Coded Entrance to door
Students Participating in Work Experience in Local Supermarket	Harm by Supporting Staff	Supervision Policy Support by School Staff Transporting of Students Policy Work Experience Policy
Students from 3 <sup>rd</sup> level Colleges participating in Work Experience	Harm to Pupils	Work Experience Policy Garda Clearance Induction by Senior Teacher/Principal Child Safeguarding statement issued
Sporting Activities/Swimming	Changing Rooms Harm to Pupils	Supervision Policy Separate Boy/Girl changing rooms. Review swimming supervision regularly. Discuss with pool manager Best Practice Policy
Practical subjects – Art, Cookery, Horticulture, Swimming	Harm by School Personnel	Garda vetting in place Best Practice Guidelines Special subject Teachers will be accompanied by school staff where possible
On-line teaching and learning remotely	Risk of harm due to inappropriate use of on-line remote teaching and learning platform	The school has an internet acceptable usage policy to include provision for on-line teaching and learning remotely and has communicated guidelines for remote learning to parents
Management of provision of food and drink	Food Safety	Food Safety Policy of school lunch provider. Health and Safety Policy



Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst pupils	Risk of harm due to bullying of a pupil	The school had an Anti-bullying Policy which fully adheres to the requirements of D.E.S. Anti-Bullying Procedure for Primary and Post-Primary Schools
Use of video/photography/other media to record School events	Risk of breach of confidentiality	School has a mobile phone and photograph policy which observes data protection guidelines
Student teacher undertaking training placement in the school	Inexperience of teachers. Unfamiliarity with policies and procedure	The school has in place a policy and procedure in respect of student teacher placement

**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.

This Identification of Risk Assessment (as part of the school’s Child Safeguarding Statement) was adopted and ratified by the Board of Management in **October 2023**

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Chairperson of Board of Management

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Date: \_\_\_\_\_