CSS1

Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment

For:	**St Kevin's National School**
At:	**Rathdown Road, Greystones, Co. Wicklow, A63 AD73**

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):

Paul O'Dwyer

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

Brian McNeice

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

Name of Relevant Person

Paul O'Dwyer

(In schools this person is the DLP)

Relevant Person can be contacted on:

(01) 287 6660	principal@stkevins.ie

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:

Paul Talbot

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.	Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children in school	1. Pupils may enter the grounds at the morning bell at 08:50. 2. A member of the senior leadership team (usually the principal) greets pupils as they arrive at the gate each morning. 3. Teachers of younger classes (Infants to Second Class) meet their pupils in the line. 4. At dismissal time, junior pupils are released to parents/guardians/minders only.
2.	Recreation breaks for pupils	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children on the yard (or inside the school during wet breaks)	The school has a break supervision rota to ensure appropriate supervision of children, as well as rules around access to toilet facilities during yard breaks
3.	Classroom teaching and one-to-one teaching (e.g. additional educational needs teachers)	1. Risk of child being harmed in the school by a member of school personnel 2. Risk of harm in one-to-one teaching situations 3. Risk of harm where members of school personnel have not received appropriate training	1. All school personnel are provided with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment 2. 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 as well as supporting the continued implementation of the best practice guidance set out in Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children 2017 and its addenda, including the Addendum to Children First 2019 and 2025 3. The school complies with the agreed disciplinary

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			procedures for teaching staff 4. The school encourages board of management members to avail of relevant training 5. The school maintains records of all personnel and board member training.
4.	School outings, school trips involving overnight stay, school trips involving foreign travel	Risk of child being harmed by a member of school personnel, a member of staff of another organisation or other person while a child is participating in out-of-school activities, e.g. school trip, swimming lessons	1. The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation. 2. The school has a Tour Policy to ensure an adequate supervision ratio of adults to children. 3. Host families for foreign exchange trips are vetted by the relevant authority of that country by the host school. Host families in St Kevin's are likewise vetted.
5.	Use of toilet areas in school	1. Risk of child being harmed in the school by another child 2. Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children in school	The school has a break supervision rota to ensure appropriate supervision of children, as well as rules limiting the numbers of children who may access toilet facilities during yard breaks at any one time.
6.	Use of off-site locations for school activities	Risk of child being harmed by a member of school personnel, a member of staff of another organisation or other person while a child is participating in out-of-school activities, e.g. school trip, swimming lessons	The school has in place a policy and clear procedures in respect of school outings and swimming lessons, including supervision ratios.
7.	School transport arrangements	1. Risk of harm due to inappropriate relationship/communications	1. The school adheres to the relevant Department of Education and Youth

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
	including use of bus escorts	between a child and another child or adult 2. Risk of harm to children with special educational needs who have particular vulnerabilities, including medical vulnerabilities	circulars in respect of recruitment 2. The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation
8.	Care of children with special educational needs, including intimate care where needed	Risk of harm to child while a child is receiving intimate care	The school has an intimate care plan in respect of students who require such care
9.	Management of challenging behaviour amongst pupils, including appropriate use of restraint where required	1. Risk of child being harmed in the school by another child during a crisis situation. 2. Risk of child being harmed by a member of school personnel who is managing a crisis situation.	The school has complied with the Understanding Behaviours of Concern and Responding to Crisis Situations developed by the Department of Education and Youth to address uncertainty for staff on how to respond when facing crisis situations where there are concerns regarding physical safety.
10.	Administration of medicine	Risk to pupils from lack of staff training	1. The school has in place a policy and procedures for the administration of medication to pupils. 2. The school encourages personnel to avail of relevant training. 3. Parents are required to sign an Administration of Medicine form if required for their child's health condition.

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11.	Administration of First Aid	Risk to pupils from lack of staff training	1. The school has in place a policy and procedures for the administration of First Aid 2. The school routinely organises first aid training for all teachers and additional needs assistants (ANAs)
12.	Curricular provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe	Risk of harm to pupils if these curricular areas are not covered regularly and thoroughly per the curriculum framework	The school implements in full the Stay Safe Programme and the Social, Personal, and Health Education (SPHE) curriculum
13.	Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst pupils	Risk of harm due to bullying of a child	School authorities have a code of behaviour and an anti-bullying policy in place in accordance with the department's 'Bí Cineálta' procedures to prevent and address bullying in schools and as outlined in Circular 55/2024
14.	Training of school personnel in child protection matters	Risk of training and experience lapsing among members of personnel.	1. The school requires all personnel to undergo training on a periodic basis as required by current procedures. 2. The school maintains records of all personnel and board member training
15.	Use of external personnel to supplement	Risk of child being harmed in the school by an external person	The school has in place procedures for the use of external persons to supplement delivery of the curriculum

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	curriculum and to support sports and other extra-curricular activities		
16.	Members of the Traveller community	Risk of harm to pupils who are members of the Traveller community due to bullying	1. The school endeavours to maintain a well-stocked set of literature in the school to facilitate staff supporting the inclusion of all members of the school community. 2. External support from relevant agencies will be accessed if required.
17.	Lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender (LGBT) children / Pupils perceived to be LGBT	Risk of harm to LGBT pupils due to bullying	1. The school undertakes anti-racism awareness initiatives 2. The school endeavours to maintain a well-stocked set of literature in the school to facilitate staff supporting the inclusion of all members of the school community. 3. External support from relevant agencies will be accessed if required.
18.	Pupils of minority religious faiths	Risk of harm to pupils of minority religious faiths due to bullying	1. The school endeavours to maintain a well-stocked set of literature in the school to facilitate staff supporting the inclusion of all members of the school community. 2. External support from relevant agencies will be accessed if required.

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
19.	Pupils from ethnic minorities/migrants	Risk of harm to pupils from ethnic minorities/migrants due to bullying	The school undertakes anti-racism awareness initiatives
20.	Pupils in care	Risk of divulging identity/location of such pupils inadvertently (e.g. in photographs, website)	1. The school liaises closely with its Educational Welfare Officer and other contacts from Tusla to support pupils in care. 2. Pupils in care are not included in photographs which are published.
21.	Risk of harm to children experiencing mental health difficulties or those impacted by domestic violence, including coercive control	Vulnerability due to emotional or psychological harm Risk of harm not being recognised by school personnel Potential need to limit access of one or both parents/guardians to family information on Aladdin	1. When a child joins St Kevin's NS, parents/guardians are asked to make the principal aware, in confidence, of any relevant legal or safeguarding issues. 2. Staff members working with any vulnerable children in this category will be provided information on a need-to-know basis to facilitate their work with the child(ren) and be aware of the potential for harm. 3. Where a court order instructs the school to do so, a parent/guardian's Aladdin access may be limited. 4. In situations where two parents/guardians cannot attend a parent-teacher meeting together, separate meetings can be arranged by the class teacher, AEN teacher or principal at the

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			parents'/guardians' request. 5. Where a parent/guardian in this category does not wish to send a specific correspondence via the Aladdin Noticeboard used by the school for reasons of confidentiality, he/she may instead send an email privately to the principal so it can be brought to the attention of the relevant staff member.
22.	Volunteers/Parents in school activities	Risk of child being harmed in the school by a volunteer to the school	The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation
23.	Visitors/contractors present in school during school hours	Risk of child being harmed in the school by a visitor or contractor to the school	1. The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation. 2. Visitors/contractors who attend the school while pupils are present are escorted inside the building at all times by a member of school personnel (e.g. caretaker, housekeeper, principal).
24.	Use of Information and Communication Technology by pupils in school, including social media	Risk of harm due to children inappropriately accessing or using computers, social media, phones and other devices while at school	The school has an Acceptable Use Policy in place, to include provision for online teaching and learning remotely, and has communicated this policy to parents.
25.	Application of sanctions under the school's Code of Behaviour	Risk of harm due to inadequate code of behaviour	The school has in place a code of behaviour for pupils

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
	including confiscation of phones etc.		
26.	Students participating in work experience in the school	1. Risk of child being harmed in the school by a transition year student. 2. Risk of a transition year student being harmed by a member of school personnel	1. The school has in place a policy and procedures in respect of pupils undertaking work experience in the school. 2. The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation.
27.	Student teachers undertaking training placement in school	Risk of child being harmed by a student teacher	The school has in place a policy and procedures in respect of student teacher placements.
28.	Use of video, photography or other media to record school events	1. Risk of child being inadvertently identified in a public 2. Risk of child being harmed by a member of school personnel	1. Written parental consent is required to photograph/video pupils. 2. Pupils' names are never listed next to their photo in public settings (e.g. local newspapers) 3. Photos/videos of pupils and/or school events taken by members of school personnel are no longer uploaded by the school to its website or social media
29.	Breakfast club and after-school use of school premises by other organisations	1. Risk of child being harmed by a member of breakfast club or after-school activity personnel 2. Risk of child being harmed by another child	1. The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation. 2. Breakfast club and after-school providers will be required to meet their pupils before the activity begins at an agreed point (typically the middle yard). Pupils may not enter a

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
			classroom at the start of an after-school activity without the supervising adult present.
30.	Online teaching and learning remotely	Risk of harm due to inappropriate use of online remote teaching and learning communication platform, such as an uninvited person accessing the lesson link, students being left unsupervised for long periods of time in breakout rooms	The school has an Acceptable Use Policy in place, to include provision for online teaching and learning remotely, and has communicated this policy to parents.

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.

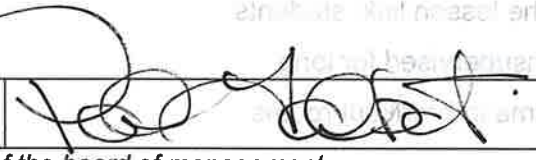
The Guidance on Continuity of Schooling for primary and post-primary schools (April 2020) advises of the importance of teachers maintaining the safe and ethical use of the internet during distance learning and assisting parents and guardians to be aware of their role also. Schools should ensure that 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, ill-treatment or neglect of the child in a manner that seriously affects or is 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 29th September 2026.

Signed:*		**Date**:

Chairperson of the board of management

Signed:*	Paul O' Dwyer	**Date**: 29/09/2026

Principal/Secretary to the board of management

This Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment is expected to be reviewed again in **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.

This policy is available in hard copy from the school office.

It can also be accessed online at the following link: https://www.stkevins.ie/policies/

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