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Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment

For:	St. Clare's Comprehensive School
At:	Manorhamilton, Co. Leitrim

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):

Maeve Kelly

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

Ceola McGowan

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

Name of Relevant Person

Maeve Kelly

(In schools this person is the DLP)

Relevant Person can be contacted on:

071 9855087	mkelly@stclarescomprehensive.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:

Gerard Reilly

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.

The school and all mandated persons will cooperate with and provide assistance to Tusla, including mandated assisting, where requested.

The school recognises that disclosures of retrospective abuse must be managed in accordance with the *Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025* and the *Addendum to Children First 2025*. School personnel are required to report retrospective abuse concerns to Tusla where the reporting threshold is met and to consider any current risk to children that may arise from such disclosures.

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 Relevant Person ensures the Child Safeguarding Statement is reviewed, updated, and implemented.

This person is nominated by the board of management to be the first point of contact in respect of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement.

The DLP manages child protection concerns in accordance with the Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025.

The DLP provides a Child Protection Oversight Report to each Board of Management meeting in line with Department requirements.

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.

Procedure for Maintaining Child Protection Records

The school maintains secure, confidential and contemporaneous child protection records in accordance with the Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025, GDPR requirements and Department guidance. Access to such records is restricted to authorised personnel only.

Procedure in place to ensure students are aware of reporting

Students are informed through SPHE, Wellbeing, assemblies and student support systems about how to seek help, report concerns, access trusted adults, and use internal and external support pathways.

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.	Recreation breaks for students	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children in school	The school has in place appropriate supervision during breaks, transitions, and school activities and in respect of specific areas such as toilets, changing rooms, outdoor space etc.
2.	Classroom teaching	Risk of child being harmed in the school by a member of 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 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.	One-to-one teaching	Risk of harm in one-to-one teaching, counselling, coaching situations	One-to-one teaching takes place in observable environments where possible and in accordance with the school's one-to-one teaching policy.
4.	One-to-one counselling	Risk of harm in one-to-one teaching, counselling, coaching situations	School personnel are required to adhere to the Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025 and all registered teaching staff are required

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
			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:
5.	Outdoor teaching activities	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children in school	The school has in place appropriate supervision of students during assembly, dismissal and breaks and in respect of specific areas such as toilets, changing rooms, outdoor space etc.
6.	Sporting Activities	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children while attending out-of-school activities Risk of harm due to inappropriate supervision or privacy issues.	The school has in place appropriate supervision of students during assembly, dismissal and breaks and in respect of specific areas such as toilets, changing rooms, outdoor space etc. The school ensures risk assessments are carried out, parental consent is sought, appropriate supervision ratios are in place, and emergency contact procedures are in place.
7.	School outings	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children while attending out-of-school activities	The school has in place a policy and clear procedures in respect of school outings. The school ensures risk assessments are carried out, parental consent is sought, appropriate supervision ratios are in place, and emergency

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			contact procedures are in place.
8.	School trips involving overnight stay	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children while attending out-of-school activities. Risk of harm due to inappropriate supervision or privacy issues.	The school has in place a policy and clear procedures in respect of school outings/trips involving an overnight stay. The school ensures risk assessments are carried out, parental consent is sought, appropriate supervision ratios are in place, and emergency contact procedures are in place.
9.	School trips involving foreign travel	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children while attending out-of-school activities. Risk of harm due to inappropriate supervision or privacy issues.	The school has in place a policy and clear procedures in respect of school outings. The school ensures risk assessments are carried out, parental consent is sought, appropriate supervision ratios are in place, and emergency contact procedures are in place.
10.	Use of toilet/changing/ areas in schools	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children in school. Risk of harm due to inappropriate supervision or privacy issues.	The school has in place appropriate supervision of students during, assembly, dismissal and breaks and in respect of specific areas such as toilets, changing rooms, outdoor space etc.
11.	Fundraising events involving pupils	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children while	The school has in place appropriate supervision of

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
		attending out-of-school activities	students during activities organised by the school. The school ensures risk assessments are carried out, parental consent is sought, appropriate supervision ratios are in place, and emergency contact procedures are in place.
12.	Use of off-site facilities 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. Risk of harm due to inappropriate supervision or privacy issues.	The school ensures risk assessments are carried out, parental consent is sought, appropriate supervision ratios are in place, and emergency contact procedures are in place.
13.	School transport arrangements including use of bus escorts	Risk of harm to children with special educational needs who have particular vulnerabilities	The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation and relevant DES circulars in relation to recruitment and Garda vetting
14.	Care of children with special educational needs, including intimate care	Risk of harm to child while a child is receiving intimate care	The school has an intimate care policy/plan in respect of students who require such care. The school has a Special Educational Needs policy
15.	Care of any vulnerable adult students including intimate care	Risk of harm to child while a child is receiving intimate care	The school has an intimate care policy/plan in respect of students who require such care. The school has a Special Educational Needs policy

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
16.	Administration of Medicine	Risk of harm to children with special educational needs who have particular vulnerabilities, including medical vulnerabilities	The school has in place procedures for the administration of medication. The school has a Special Educational Needs policy
17.	Administration of First Aid	Risk of harm to children with special educational needs who have particular vulnerabilities, including medical vulnerabilities	The school has in place procedures for the administration of First Aid
18.	Curricular provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe	Risk of harm to children who may not develop self-protection and safety skills, may not recognise inappropriate behaviour or abuse, and may not know how to seek help or report concerns.	The school implements in full the Social, Personal, and Health Education (SPHE) & RSE curriculum. The school implements in full the Wellbeing Programme .
19.	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

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20.	Training of school personnel in child protection matters	Risk of harm not being recognised by school personnel. Risk of harm where members of school personnel have not received appropriate training	The school encourages personnel to avail of relevant training annually. The school maintains records of training.
21.	Use of external personnel to supplement curriculum	Risk of child being harmed in the school by a volunteer or visitor to the school	All external personnel working with pupils are appropriately vetted where required, supervised by school staff, and informed of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement and reporting procedures.
22.	Use of external personnel to support sports and other extra-curricular activities	Risk of child being harmed in the school by a volunteer or visitor to the school	All external personnel working with pupils are appropriately vetted where required, supervised by school staff, and informed of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement and reporting procedures.
23.	Care of pupils with specific vulnerabilities/needs	Risk of harm to children who have particular vulnerabilities	The school provides support through the Student Support Team, student support structures, anti-bullying and SEN policy, SPHE, and Wellbeing programme, and engagement with parents and relevant external agencies where appropriate.
24.	Pupils from ethnic minorities/migrants	Risk of harm due to racism	The school provides support through the Student Support Team, student support structures, anti-bullying

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			policy, SPHE and Wellbeing programme, and engagement with parents and relevant external agencies where appropriate. The school undertakes anti-racism awareness initiatives and celebrates world culture day annually.
25.	Members of the Traveller community	Risk of harm to children who have particular vulnerabilities	The school provides support through the Student Support Team, student support structures, anti-bullying policy, SPHE, and Wellbeing programme, and engagement with parents and relevant external agencies where appropriate. The school undertakes anti-racism awareness initiatives and celebrates world culture day annually.
26.	Lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender (LGBT) children	Risk of harm to children who have particular vulnerabilities	The school provides support through the Student Support Team, student support structures, anti-bullying policy, SPHE, and Wellbeing programme, and engagement with parents and relevant external agencies where appropriate. The school undertakes an awareness

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			initiative called 'stand up for difference' annually.
27.	Pupils perceived to be LGBT The school provides support through the Student Support Team, student support structures, anti-bullying policy, SPHE, Stay Safe and Wellbeing programme, and engagement with parents and relevant external agencies where appropriate.	Risk of harm to children who have particular vulnerabilities	The school provides support through the Student Support Team, student support structures, anti-bullying policy, SPHE, and Wellbeing programme, and engagement with parents and relevant external agencies where appropriate.
28.	Pupils of minority religious faiths	Risk of harm to children who have particular vulnerabilities	The school provides support through the Student Support Team, student support structures, anti-bullying policy, SPHE, and Wellbeing programme, and engagement with parents and relevant external agencies where appropriate. The school undertakes anti-racism awareness initiatives and celebrates world culture day annually.
29.	Children in care	Risk of harm to children who have particular vulnerabilities	The school provides support through the Student Support Team, student support structures, anti-bullying policy, SPHE, and Wellbeing programme, and engagement with parents and relevant external agencies where appropriate.

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
30.	Children on Tusla's Child Protection Notification System (CPNS)	Risk of harm to children who have particular vulnerabilities	The school provides support through the Student Support Team, student support structures, anti-bullying policy, SPHE, and Wellbeing programme, and engagement with parents and relevant external agencies where appropriate.
31.	Children with medical needs	Risk of harm to children with special educational needs who have particular vulnerabilities, including medical vulnerabilities	The school has procedures for Medical Needs / Administration of Medicines Policy. Individual Healthcare Plans are developed where required. Staff are informed of medical conditions on a need-to-know basis. Relevant staff receive training where required (e.g., EpiPen, diabetes care). Secure storage of medication.
32.	Recruitment of school personnel including teachers/SNAs, caretakers/secretaries/cleaners and sport coaches		Recruitment procedures follow Department of Education requirements. All personnel are subject to Garda vetting through the National Vetting Bureau. Statutory declaration and references obtained where appropriate. Identity verification and qualification checks carried out. All personnel receive a copy of the Child Safeguarding Statement

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
33.	External Tutors/Guest Speakers	Risk of child being harmed in the school by a volunteer or visitor to the school	All external personnel working with pupils are appropriately vetted where required, supervised by school staff, and informed of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement and reporting procedures.
34.	Volunteers/Parents in school activities	Risk of child being harmed in the school by a volunteer or visitor to the school	All external personnel working with pupils are appropriately vetted where required, supervised by school staff, and informed of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement and reporting procedures.
35.	Visitors/contractors present in school during school hours	Risk of child being harmed in the school by a volunteer or visitor to the school	All external personnel working with pupils are appropriately vetted where required, supervised by school staff, and informed of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement and reporting procedures.
36.	Participation by pupils in religious ceremonies/religious instruction external to the school	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children while attending out-of-school activities	School ensures appropriate supervision ratios. Parental consent obtained where required. Clear travel and supervision arrangements. School staff remain responsible for supervision during the activity
37.	Use of Information and Communication Technology by pupils in school, including social media	Risk of harm due to children inappropriately accessing/using computers, social media, phones and	The school has an Acceptable Use Policy, Personal Digital Device policy, and provides digital safety education through

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
		other devices while at school	SPHE and wellbeing programmes. The school has in place internet filtering systems, supervision of device use and digital citizenship education.
38.	Application of sanctions under the school's Code of Behaviour including detention of pupils, confiscation of phones etc.	Risk of harm due to inadequate code of behaviour	The school has in place a code of behaviour for pupils
39.	Students participating in work experience in the school	Risk of harm to pupils if work experience students are left unsupervised with pupils. Risk of inappropriate interaction or boundaries due to lack of safeguarding training or awareness. Risk that a work experience student may not know how to respond to or report a child protection concern or disclosure. Risk of access to pupils in vulnerable situations (e.g., toilets, changing areas, SEN support) without appropriate supervision.	Work experience students are supervised by a member of school staff at all times. They must not be left alone with pupils. Work experience students do not provide personal care, intimate care, or one-to-one teaching. They are not responsible for supervision of pupils. Work experience students are informed of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement and basic safeguarding expectations. Each student is assigned a designated supervising teacher responsible for oversight.

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
40.	Students from the school participating in work experience elsewhere	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children while attending out-of-school activities	The school has in place a policy and procedures in respect of pupils of the school undertaking work experience in external organisations
41.	Use of video/photography/other media to record school events		School follows Data Protection and Photography Guidelines. Parental consent obtained where required. Images used only for legitimate educational/school purposes. Storage and sharing comply with GDPR and school policy.
42.	After-school use of school premises by other organisations	Access of unknown adults to children, Lack of Garda vetting, Inadequate supervision, Safeguarding procedures not followed, Access to the building, Mixing of children and adults in unsupervised spaces	The Board of Management requires all external groups to confirm Garda vetting, compliance with Children First procedures, supervision of children at all times, restricted access to the building, and agreement to the school's Child Safeguarding Statement.

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 Board of Management recognises that safeguarding and child protection responsibilities extend to the use of digital technologies, online platforms, remote learning environments and electronic communication. The school acknowledges the potential risks associated with online interaction, including cyberbullying, online grooming, exposure to harmful or extremist content, inappropriate use of artificial intelligence (AI) tools, image sharing, unauthorised recording, and breaches of privacy or data protection.

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.

The school is committed to promoting the safe, responsible and ethical use of technology in accordance with:

- the Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025,
- Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children 2017 and associated addenda,
- the school's Acceptable Use Policy (AUP),
- GDPR and Data Protection requirements,
- Bí Cineálta procedures,
- and relevant Department of Education and Webwise guidance.

The school ensures that:

- approved digital platforms and school-based communication systems are used for educational purposes,
- online engagement between staff and students is professional, transparent and appropriately monitored,
- students receive education in digital citizenship, online safety and responsible technology use through SPHE, RSE and Wellbeing programmes,
- parents/guardians are informed of online learning arrangements and supported in promoting safe online behaviour,
- staff receive ongoing CPD in relation to online safety and safeguarding in digital environments,
- reasonable measures are in place to protect students from access to inappropriate, harmful or extremist online content.

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
1	Online and remote learning	Risk of inappropriate online contact between staff and pupils. Risk of unauthorised recording, screenshotting or sharing of online classes or school-related content. Risk of breaches of privacy or data protection.	The school has an Acceptable Use Policy (AUP), Personal Digital Device Policy and Data Protection procedures in place. Only approved school platforms, applications and school email accounts are used for online learning and communication. Staff-student communication must remain professional and relate solely to educational matters. Parents/guardians are informed when online learning may take place. Recording, screenshotting or redistribution of online learning content without permission is prohibited. Staff supervision and professional standards apply in online environments.
2	Use of the school's digital platforms.	Risk of cyberbullying, harassment, intimidation or harmful peer-to-peer behaviour through school digital platforms, messaging systems or social media. Risk of misuse of AI/chat platforms or sharing of inappropriate content.	The school's AUP and Personal Digital Device Policy outline acceptable and unacceptable online behaviour. Digital citizenship, online safety and responsible technology use are taught through SPHE, RSE and Wellbeing programmes, including cyberbullying prevention and safe online communication. School digital platforms are monitored appropriately. The school implements internet filtering and network security measures to restrict access to inappropriate material. Relevant incidents are addressed in accordance with the Code of Behaviour, Bí Cineálta procedures and anti-bullying procedures. Staff receive ongoing CPD in

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
			online safety and digital safeguarding.
3	Use of school wifi	Risk of students accessing harmful, inappropriate, extremist or age-inappropriate online material. Risk of unsafe online behaviour, exposure to harmful content or contact with unknown persons online.	The school uses filtered internet access, firewall protection and network monitoring systems. Students are supervised when using school devices and internet services where appropriate. The AUP outlines expectations regarding responsible use of technology and internet access. Online safety awareness is promoted through SPHE, RSE, Wellbeing and school awareness initiatives. Concerns relating to online safety are managed in accordance with child protection, anti-bullying and behaviour procedures where appropriate.
4	Digital communication and electronic contact	Risk of inappropriate or unsupervised digital communication between adults and students. Risk of boundary issues, grooming behaviour or misuse of communication platforms.	Staff communicate with students using approved school communication systems only. Personal social media contact between staff and students is not permitted. Staff are expected to maintain professional boundaries at all times in accordance with the school's Code of Conduct and Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025. External personnel using digital platforms with students are supervised appropriately and informed of safeguarding requirements. Any concerns regarding inappropriate online communication are reported and managed in accordance with child protection procedures.

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 _____ (most recent review date)

Signed:*		Date:	
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Chairperson of the board of management

Signed:*		Date:	
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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 _____ (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

The online location for the procedures is available from (Department of Education and Youth website www.gov.ie/childprotectionschools and/or the school website www.stclarescomprehensive.ie , and the Children First National Guidance 2017 [Children First National Guidance 2017.pdf](#)

A hard copy of the procedures is available at the front entrance of the school and available from the school office when requested.

