St. Joseph's Patrician College Galway, The Bish.

Child Safeguarding Statement

St Joseph's Patrician College is a post-primary school providing post-primary education to pupils from First Year to Leaving Certificate Year.

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.

1. 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.

2. The Designated Liaison Person (DLP) is **Sarah Gleeson**

3. The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is **Barry McDermott**

4. The Relevant Person**:** **Sarah Gleeson**

(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. In its policies, procedures, practices and activities, 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 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;
- develop a practice of openness with parents and encourage parental involvement in the education of their children; and
- 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:

- 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 gov.ie website.

- 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 Department of Education and available on the gov.ie website.

- 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-

  - Has provided each member of staff with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement
  - Ensures all new staff are provided with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement
  - Encourages staff to avail of relevant training
  - Encourages Board of Management members to avail of relevant training
  - The Board of Management maintains records of all staff and Board member training

- 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.

- All registered teachers employed by the school are mandated persons under the Children First Act 2015.

- 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 included with the Child Safeguarding Statement.

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

Note: The above is not intended as an exhaustive list. Individual Boards of Management shall also include in this section such other procedures/measures that are of relevance to the school in question.

1 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.

2 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 reviewed by the Board of Management on **September 15th, 2026.**

Signed: _____

Kieran Kavanagh

Chairperson of Board of Management

Date: 15th September 2026

Signed: _____

Sarah Gleeson

Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Date: 15th September 2026

Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment

Written Assessment of Risk at St. Joseph's Patrician College, The Bish.

Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment.

Written Assessment of Risk of St Joseph's Patrician College

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 **St Joseph's Patrician College Galway**.

List of school activities	The school has identified the following risk of harm in respect of its activities	The school has the following procedures in place to address the risks of harm identified in this assessment -
General Daily Activities • Early Arrival • General Arrival • Departure • Mid-morning Break • Lunchtime for students who remain on the premises. • Lunchtime for students who leave the premises. • Use of Toilet facilities • School Transport • Use of Technology in areas other ○ than the classroom • Congregation in locker areas • Supervised after school study	**Potential Risks Associated (General Daily Activities)** a) Risk of harm not being recognised by school personnel b) Risk of harm not being reported properly and promptly by school personnel c) Risk of student being harmed by a member of school personnel d) Risk of student being harmed in the school by another child e) Risk of harm due to bullying of student f) Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of student in school g) Risk of harm where student finds	**Mitigation of Risks (General Daily Activities)** a) The school has a corridor/grounds supervision protocol to ensure appropriate supervision of students during arrival from 8am b) Supervision provided from 8am, dismissal and break times and in respect of specific areas such as toilets, changing rooms etc. Supervision staff instructed by Management to be vigilant and report any incidents to the school office c) Appropriate supervision is provided before, during and after STUDY times which occur after school tuition times All staff are mandated persons and have completed the TUSLA online Child Protection Course. All staff have been provided with the Child Safeguarding Statement and have had appropriate training which is regularly updated. A register of same is compiled annually by the principal. All staff are Garda Vetted, and the School has a current vetting Policy. d) Teachers should ensure Pupils leave in a collective manner and a teacher must not find themselves on their own with an individual

• An 'empty' school at the beginning or end of the school day • Detention during school hours, after school (Fri evening) and Saturday morning as part of our Code of Responsibility and Behaviour.	himself last/first in the school building h) Risk of harm during late night study, especially during break and at the end of study. i) Risk of harm to students during official school detention j) Risk of harm to students undertaking work experience k) Risk of harm to students while on location in the student toilets l) Risk of harm to students up town at lunch time	student. All staff are mandated persons and have completed the TUSLA online Child Protection Course. The school has in place a Code of Responsibility and Behaviour for students e) The school has an Anti-bullying policy (Bí Cineálta Policy May 2025,) and procedures are in place, which have been explained to the whole school community. f) The school has a Health and Safety policy. g) Teachers should ensure Pupils leave in a collective manner and a teacher must not find themselves on their own with an individual student. Teachers are instructed to ensure that all students are off site 15 minutes after the end of school day (except those attending agreed after school activities). h) Study is supervised by mandated personnel who ensure that the Code of Responsibility and Behaviour is implemented. i) Teachers in charge of detention to be notified of students attending detention. Parents will have received communication re: detention also, if it is outside of normal school hours, with venue, and collection details. Automated system via Compass. j) The school has guidelines for students undertaking work experience in an external organisation. Transition Year / LCVP coordinator will communicate same to pupils involved. k) Toilets are located in well trafficked areas within the school, doors remain open to allow access and egress, whilst maintaining privacy. l) Educate and advise pupils of risks associated with being off premises at lunch (1st year induction/ SPHE).
Teaching and Learning Activities • Classroom interactions • One-to-one teaching • Guidance/counselling • One-to-one sessions	**Potential Risks Associated (teaching & learning Activities)** a) Risk of student being harmed in the classroom by another student b) Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of students in classroom	**Mitigation of Risks (Teaching & learning Activities)** a) All teachers are trained professionals and follow the Code of Responsibility and Behaviour when addressing issues in the classroom. The school is implementing in full the SPHE & RSE curriculum. (Current ASD classes receives training also)

• Curricular Content and/or presentation in SPHE/RSE/ • Wellbeing • Use of substitute teachers in the case of absenteeism • Facilitation of all Faiths in Curricular RE • Meetings with Senior Leadership Team members on one-to-one basis • Use of Education Technology within the classroom • Work Experience • Students with Special Needs • Student teachers undertaking training placement in school	c) Risk of harm not being recognised by school personnel d) Risk of harm not being reported properly and promptly by school personnel e) Risk of harm due to bullying of student in classroom f) Risk of student being harmed in the classroom by teacher or substitute teacher g) Risk of harm in one-to-one teaching h) Risk of harm caused by member of school personnel communicating with pupils in an inappropriate manner via social media, texting, digital device or other i) Risk of harm while carrying out work experience j) Risk of harm caused by personnel not differentiating for the needs of students with Special Needs k) Risk of harm due to students' lack of awareness of dangers l) Students' religious beliefs not being respected and students not being included in classes	b) All school personnel are provided with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement. Emailed to all staff and also available on Staff MSTEAMS c) The Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2025 are made available to all school personnel. Available on Staff MSTEAMS d) School Personnel are required to adhere to the Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2025 and all registered teaching staff are required to adhere to the Children First Act 2015, Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children 2017, the Addendum to Children First (2019) the Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools (revised 2023) e) The school has an Anti-bullying policy (Bí Cineálta) and procedures in place, which have been explained to the whole school community. f) School Personnel are required to adhere to the Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2025 and all registered teaching staff are required to adhere to the Children First Act 2015, Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children 2017, the Addendum to Children First (2019) the Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools (revised 2023) A policy and procedures in respect of student teacher placements is in place since June 2023. g) See (f). Guidelines for dealing with pupils on a one-to one basis are in place since June 2023. h) The school has in place an Acceptable Use policy in respect of usage of all Computers, Internet and Social Media. Mobile Phone use is covered by our AUP. i) The school has guidelines for students undertaking work experience in an external organisation. Transition Year / LCVP coordinator will communicate same to pupils involved.

		j) The school has a Special Educational Needs policy (Whole School Inclusion Policy). k) The school is implementing in full the Wellbeing Programme at Junior Cycle. l) The school has a RE policy to cater for the needs of all students.
• Pastoral Care • One-to-one counselling • School outings • School trips involving overnight stay • School trips involving foreign travel • Care of students with special educational needs, including intimate care where needed • Management of challenging behaviour amongst students. • Administration of Medicine • Administration of First Aid • Curricular provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe • Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst students. • Care of students with specific vulnerabilities/ needs such as:- Students from ethnic minorities/migrants • Members of the Traveller community • Lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender (LGBT) students • Students perceived to be LGBT • Students of minority religious faiths	**Potential Risks Associated (Pastoral care)** a) Risk of harm in one-to-one counselling situation b) Risk of harm not being recognised by school personnel c) Risk of harm not being reported properly and promptly by school personnel d) Risk of harm to students through bullying when away from home on school trips e) Risk of mishandling of students with challenging behaviour f) Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of student g) Risk of harm to students through lack of understanding of specific needs, including sexual identity, religious and ethnic background h) Risk of harm caused by one student to another via inappropriate social media contact, texting, digital device or other i) Risk of harm to students by the use of inappropriate or over-harsh sanctions for bullying/misuse of social media j) Risk of bullying	**Mitigation of Risks (Pastoral Care)** a) All staff have been provided with the Child Safeguarding Statement and have had appropriate training. b) School Personnel are required to adhere to the Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2025 and all registered teaching staff are required to adhere to the Children First Act 2015, Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children 2017, the Addendum to Children First (2019) the Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools (revised 2023) Training of school personnel in child protection matters. The school has recruited teachers with Special Education Needs training and qualifications and actively encourages ongoing CPD in this area. The school appoints qualified SNA's where deemed necessary and funded by the DES c) As Above (b) d) School Trip / Tour policy is in place which covers protocols for overnight stays. Facilitators for school retreats and school outings must be Garda Vetted, as per our Vetting Policy. e) The school has a Health and Safety policy and a Code of Responsibility and Behaviour for students. Staff had training from Mason Hayes and Curran Sept 2024 on Behaviours of Concern. f) Appropriate supervision is provided before, during and after school tuition times. A supervision rota is prepared by the DPs annually and shared with all staff. All staff are mandated persons and have completed the TUSLA online Child Protection Course. All staff have been provided with the Child Safeguarding Statement and have had

• Students in care • Students on CPNS (Child Protection Notification System TUSLA) • Supporting students involved in misuse of Social Media • School Retreats / School Outings	k) Risk to students from non-teaching staff l) Risk to students with Special Educational Needs m) Risk to students with special medical needs including allergies	appropriate training. A register of same is compiled annually by the principal. All staff are Garda Vetted, and the School has a current Vetting Policy. g) The school has appointed two qualified Guidance teachers. The school has an active Care Team with particular understanding of the needs of the students in its care, including their background. h) The school has in place an Acceptable Use policy in respect of usage of all Computers, Internet and Social Media. i) Teachers are required to follow the Teaching Council Code of Professional Conduct for Teachers. j) The school has an Anti-bullying/Bí Cinéalta policy and procedures in place which have been explained to the whole school community. k) The school has a Special Educational Needs policy (Whole School Inclusion Policy) l) The school will adopt procedures in relation to the administration of Medication.
Recruitment • Principal • Deputy Principal(s) • Teachers • SNA's • Administration staff • Caretaking Staff • Housekeeping Staff • Cleaning Staff • Short or long-term Contractors	**Potential Risks Associated (Recruitment)** a) Risk of harm to students by personnel who are not qualified b) Risk of harm to students from personnel who have a history of unacceptable practices in previous employment c) Risk of harm to students from a member of personnel with a history of abuse d) Risk of harm to a student by a member of personnel unwilling to commit to the expected standards of the school e) Risk of harm to students from newly appointed staff	**Mitigation of Risks (Recruitment)** a) The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation and relevant DES circulars in relation to recruitment and Garda vetting b) The School has a Vetting Policy. c) As above in (b). When appointing, detailed references are sought. d) The school has a rigorous interview process. e) The school has an Induction Programme for school personnel. All NQT, (Newly Qualified Teachers) must partake in the Droichead training programme. The Nationally Mandated Teacher Induction programme. St. Joseph's Patrician College has a Newly Qualified teacher (NQT) Procedure.

Sporting Activities Extra Curricular	Potential Risks Associated (Sporting Activity)	Mitigation of Risks (Sporting Activities)
• Travelling to matches • Changing in school's changing room • Changing in the changing rooms of other schools • School trips involving overnight stay • Administration of First Aid following a sports injury • Use of external personnel to support sports and other extra-curricular activities • Sports coaches • Volunteers/Parents in sports activities • Student PE teachers • Use of social media to record and comment on sporting events	a) Risk of a student being harmed by a member of school personnel, a member of staff of another organisation or other person while participating in sporting activities b) Risk of harm to student while student is receiving First Aid treatment. c) Risk of harm due to inadequate Code of Responsibility and Behaviour d) Risk of harm in one-to-one coaching situation e) Risk of harm to student due to lack of experience of Student PE teachers f) Risk of harm caused by member of school personnel communicating with pupils in an inappropriate manner via social media, texting, digital device or other manner g) Risk of harm caused by member of school personnel or a student circulating inappropriate material in relation to sporting activities via social media, texting, digital device or other manner h) Risk to students, health and safety while attending sporting and/or extra curricular events i) Risk to students on overnight events	a) All staff and volunteers involved in "Teaching, Coaching, Counselling, Mentoring and Training" are Garda Vetted through the JMB. All staff have been provided with the Child Safeguarding Statement and have had appropriate training. Available on staff MS Team. b) Coaching Staff should be trained in First Aid and training will be funded by the BOM. c) The School has a Code of Responsibility and Behaviour, drafted in consultation with all stakeholders. d) School sports personnel are required to adhere to the Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2025 and to adhere to the Children First Act 2015 the Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools (revised 2023) e) The school has a policy and procedures in respect of student teacher placements. The school will compile a protocol for teachers involved in supervising pupils in a sporting situation f) The school has an Acceptable Use Policy in relation to the use of digital media. The school has in place an Acceptable Use policy in respect of mobile phones by pupils. g) As above (f). The school is implementing in full the Wellbeing Programme at Junior Cycle, incorporating PE, SPHE and CSPE. h) A supervision plan is drawn up for all major events. A protocol template / risk assessment will be established. A supervision protocol for transport to and from all activities (as part of supervision plan / risk assessment transport supervision will be an integral part) i) The school has a Tour/ Trip policy which covers protocols for overnight stays.

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).*

This Risk Assessment was conducted by the Board of Management on **15th September 2026.** It shall be reviewed as part of the school's annual review of its Child Safeguarding Statement no later than 15th September 2027.

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.