CSS1

Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment

For:	**St. Thomas' Senior National School**
At:	**Jobstown, Tallaght, Dublin 24**

This school is a: ☒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):

John Rennick (Principal)

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

Matthew Campbell (Deputy Principal)

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

Name of Relevant Person

John Rennick

(In schools this person is the DLP)

Relevant Person can be contacted on:

01 452 6555	john@stthomas.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:

Mary Dalton

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 Tulsa and the department if requested.

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

Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
1.	Training of school personnel in Child Protection matters New Child Protection guidelines training	Risk of harm not being recognised by school personnel Risk of harm not being reported properly and promptly by school personnel	Child Safeguarding Statement & DES Child Protection procedures made available to all staff All new staff are provided with copy of Child Safeguarding Statement DLP& DDLP to attend PDST face to face training All Staff to view Tusla training module & any other online training offered by PDST New Child Protection Guidelines Training BOM members to avail of relevant training Maintains records of all staff and board training
2.	Recruitment of school personnel	Harm by school personnel	School adheres to requirements of Garda Vetting legislation and relevant DES circulars in relation to recruitment and Garda Vetting
3.	Curricular Provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay safe programme.	Non-teaching of SPHE programme or not teaching programmes in full	School implements in full the SPHE curriculum including the RSE and Stay Safe in full Reminders at staff meetings, newsletters and weekly memo

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
4.	Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils	Harm from other pupils, unknown adults on the playground	Arrival and dismissal policy & procedures Supervision policy Health & safety policy
5.	Recreation breaks for pupil	Injury to pupils / Bí Cineálta Anti-Bullying Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of pupils in school Risk of harm due to inadequate code of behaviour Harm not recognised or properly or promptly reported	Policy & Procedures in place Supervision rota Health & safety policy Code of Behaviour Anti-Bullying policy/ Bí Cineálta policy Accident Report Forms Following up of incidents on yard
6.	Classroom teaching	Risks around adults in classrooms including teaching staff	● All adults are vetted as appropriate. ● Everyone is given access to the CSS and relevant DEY procedures. ● 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 ● A written protocol is in place when immediate suspension of a staff member is warranted
7.	Outdoor teaching activities	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of pupils in school	Supervision policy – adult supervision at all times Code of Behaviour / Health and Safety policy SNA access for identified pupils School outings Risk Assessment form

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
8.	Managing of challenging behaviour amongst pupils, including appropriate use of restraint where required	Risk of harm due to inadequate code of behaviour Injury to pupils and staff	Code of Behaviour Health & Safety policy Anti-Bullying policy / Bí Cineálta policy Teacher awareness training from SESS, NCSE Staff Training
9.	Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst pupils	Risk of harm due to bullying of a child	Anti-bullying policy / Bí Cineálta policy Circles in classroom Restorative Practice procedures Emotion Coaching
10.	Use of mobile phones amongst pupils.	Risk of harm due to cyber bullying of a child	Mobile phone policy in respect of usage of mobile phones Code of Behaviour Internet policy Acceptable Use Policy
11.	1:1 Teaching and counselling/SLT/SNA alone with child	Risk of harm to pupils in one to one teaching, counselling, or supervising situation	Policy and procedures in place for 1:1 teaching activity Inform parents Open doors / or have glass in window Table between teacher and pupil
12.	1:1 supervision by SNAs	Risk of harm to pupils in one to one supervising situation	Policy and procedures in place Don't be in a closed classroom Primary Care needs 1:2 (Toilet)

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
13.	External personnel working with pupils on 1:1 (NEPS/ISPCC/NEWB/Art Therapy)	Risk of harm to pupils in one to one teaching, counselling, coaching situation	Policy & procedures in place Policy and Procedures in respect of working on 1:1 basis in place
14.	External Tutors /Guest Speakers	Risk of harm to pupils by visitor to school	Vetting procedures in place Policy and procedures in place for use of external personnel
15.	Use of external personnel to supplement curriculum	Harm to pupils	Vetting Procedures in place Policy and procedures in place
16.	Use of external personnel to support sports and other extracurricular activities	Harm to pupils	Vetting procedures in place Policy and procedures in place for use of external sports coaches
17.	Volunteers/Parents involved in school activities	Harm to pupils by volunteers in school	Vetting procedures in place Policy for Parents/Volunteers
18.	Students participating in work experience in the school	Harm to pupils to pupils by	Vetting procedures in place Policy and procedures in place in respect of students undertaking work experience in the school
19.	Student teachers undertaking training placement in school	Risk of harm to pupils	Vetting procedures in place Policy and procedures in place in respect of student teacher placements
20.	Visitors / Contractors present during school day	Risk of harm to pupils while visitors are in the school	Supervision policy Policy and procedures in place

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
21.	Visitors invited to the school - Annual Christmas Show / Grandparent's Day / Graduations	Risk of harm to pupils while visitors are in the school	Policy and procedures in place
22.	Care of pupils with specific vulnerabilities/ needs such as: ● Pupils with Special Educational Needs ● Pupils from ethnic minorities/migrants ● Members of the Traveller community ● Lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender (LGBT) children ● Pupils perceived to be LGBT ● Pupils of minority religious faiths ● Children in care ● Children on CPNS	Risk of harm to pupils who may be particularly vulnerable to bullying	Special Educational Needs Policy Anti-bullying policy / Bí Cineálta policy Code of Behaviour Additional teaching of SPHE programme as necessary to pupils with SEN as necessary Access to support teacher Art Therapy
23.	Swimming	Risk of harm to pupils by member of school personnel, member of staff of another organisation, or other person while child participating in swimming	Supervision Child protection procedures
24.	Sporting Activities	Risk of harm to pupils by member of school personnel, member of staff of another organisation, or other person while child participating in sporting activities	Supervision Child protection procedures Vetting procedures

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
25.	School Tours	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision while on school tour Risk of harm by member of school personnel, member of staff of another organisation, or other person while child participating in school tours	Supervision Procedures in place Critical incident policy Child protection procedures
26.	Use of off-site facilities for school activities	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision while attending out of school activities	Policy and procedures in place Critical incident policy Supervision policy
27.	School transport arrangements - swimming / trips / matches/outings	Harm to pupils Harm not recognised or properly or promptly reported	Supervision procedures – two staff members on the bus Pupils will never be unsupervised by school staff while on bus School outings RA
28.	Administration of First Aid	Lack of training of staff	Policy and procedures in place for administration of First Aid to pupils First Aid training every two years
29.	Administration of Medicine	Risk of harm to pupils by being in possession of medicines	Policy and procedures in place for administration of Medication to pupils
30.	Use of video/photography/other media to record school events	Risk of harm to pupils through inappropriate use of images / video footage	Policy and procedures in place Staff AUP policy
31.	Use of Information and Communication Technology by pupils in school	Risk of harm to pupils inappropriately accessing/using computers, social media, phones and other devices while at school	Acceptable Use Policy and Digital Learning policy Anti-bullying policy Code of Behaviour Health and safety policy

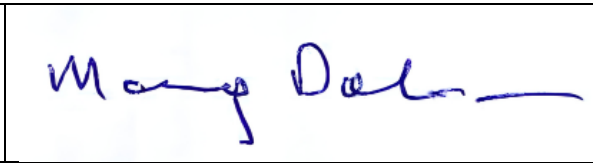
	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
		Risk of harm caused by member of school personnel communicating with pupils inappropriately via social media, texting, digital device or other manner Risk of harm caused by members of school personnel accessing/circulating inappropriate material via social media texting, digital device or other manner Staff not following policies & procedures	
32.	Online teaching and learning	Risk of harm due to inappropriate use of online remote teaching and learning platforms	Acceptable Use Policy and Digital Learning policy The school has an Acceptable Use Policy in place which includes provision for online teaching and learning remotely
33.	Use of tablet devices and smartphones in the classroom and in the course of the school day	Risk of harm associated with misuse, abuse of devices and the various associated technologies	The school has a whole school policy in place covering the use of tablet devices and smartphones in the classroom and during the school day as outlined in Circular 0038/2018
34.	People gaining access to school during the day	Harm to pupils	Policy and procedures in place Health and safety policy Sign in policy in front office External doors locked during day
35.	People gaining access to school grounds during the day	Harm from other pupils, unknown adults on the playground	School gates at back of school locked at 9.30- 2.30 Fence around perimeter of school Back gates locked after all staff have left Security form 3pm onwards and at weekends
36.	Usage of Breakfast Club	Harm to pupils due to inadequate supervision of pupils on way to and from Breakfast Club	Supervision policy Staff are vetted appropriately Staff are provided with copies of the CSS and Risk assessment

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
			Staff attended Oide Child Protection training The co-ordinator is a mandated person and is included on the list of mandated people Staff are made aware of their responsibility to report matters of concern to the DLP of the school
37.	After/Before school activities	Risk of harm to pupils due to inadequate supervision of pupils while attending out of school activities Risk of harm to pupils by member of school personnel, member of staff of another organisation, or other person while child participating in activities	Policy and procedures in place Supervision policy
38.	Holiday Provision	Risk of harm to pupils due to inadequate supervision of pupils while attending out of school activities Risk of harm to pupils by member of school personnel, member of staff of another organisation, or other person while child participating in activities	Policy and procedures in place Supervision policy

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 **5th November 2026**.

Signed:		**Date**: 5th November 2026

Mary Dalton – *Chairperson of the Board of Management*

Signed:		**Date**: 5th November 2026

John Rennick – *Principal / Secretary of the Board of Management*

This Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment is expected to be reviewed again in **October 2027.**

** 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.

Department of Education and Youth: www.gov.ie/childprotectionschools

School Website: www.stthomas.ie/parents/school-policies/

Hard copy is available from the office

Hard copy is displayed in the school reception area

Hard copy has been given to all staff members