

St. Munchin's College

Child Safeguarding Statement & Risk Assessment



School Profile

St. Munchin's College is a Catholic Voluntary Secondary School for boys only, operating under the Patronage of the Roman Catholic Bishop of Limerick. As such it supports the religious and educational philosophy of the Catholic Church and provides post-primary education to students from first year to sixth year. The school offers the Junior Cycle Programme, Transition Year, Leaving Certificate Programme and the Leaving Certificate Applied Programme.

The school is managed by a Board of Management, is funded by the Department of Education and Skills and operates within the regulations and guidelines set down from time to time by that Department. The school has a very active Parents' Council.

The school enhances the curriculum with a wide variety of curricular, co-curricular and extra-curricular activities both on-campus and off-campus. Some activities involve travel away from school and may also include overnight accommodation.

Number of staff

- 54 teaching staff
- 1 Chaplain
- 4 SNAs
- 13 ancillary staff (two secretaries, two caretakers, four contract cleaners, three canteen & cleaning staff, two study supervisors).

Number of students

- 680 post-primary students.

Child Safeguarding Statement

St. Munchin's 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 \(2019\)](#), the [Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools \(revised 2023\)](#) and [Tusla Guidance on the preparation of Child Safeguarding Statements](#), the Board of Management of St. Munchin's College has agreed the Child Safeguarding Statement set out in this document.

- 1 The Board of Management has adopted and will implement fully and without modification the Department's *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools (revised 2023)* as part of this overall Child Safeguarding Statement
- 2 The Designated Liaison Person (DLP) is **Shane FitzGerald (Principal)**
- 3 The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is **Lorraine Shiels (Deputy Principal)**

4 The Relevant Person is **Shane FitzGerald (Principal)**

(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. This person can also be the DLP)

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.

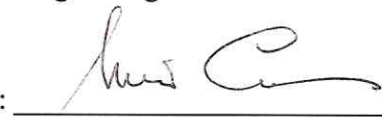
- All registered teachers employed by the school are mandated persons under the Children First Act 2015.
- In accordance with the Children First Act 2015 and the Addendum to Children First (2019), the Board has carried out an assessment of any potential for harm to a child while attending the school 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.

- 7 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.
- 8 This Child Safeguarding Statement will be reviewed annually or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which this statement refers.

This Child Safeguarding Statement was adopted by the Board of Management on 2nd September, 2024

This Child Safeguarding Statement was reviewed by the Board of Management on 2nd September, 2024

Signed: 

Chairperson of Board of Management

Signed: 2nd September, 2024

Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Date: 

Date: 2nd September, 2024

[Checklist for Review of the Child Safeguarding Statement](#)



The *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools (revised 2023)* require the Board of Management must undertake a review of its Child Safeguarding Statement and that the following checklist shall be used for this purpose. The review must be completed every year or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which the Child Safeguarding Statement refers. Undertaking an annual review will also ensure that a school also meets its statutory obligation under section 11(8) of the Children First Act 2015, to review its Child Safeguarding Statement every two years.

The checklist is designed as an aid to conducting this review and is not intended as an exhaustive list of the issues to be considered. Individual Boards of Management shall include other items in the checklist that are of relevance to the school in question.

As part of the overall review process, Boards of Management should also assess relevant school policies, procedures, practices and activities vis a vis their adherence to the principles of best practice in child protection and welfare as set out in the school's Child Safeguarding Statement, the Children First Act 2015 and the *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools (revised 2023)*.

	Yes/No
1. Has the Board formally adopted a Child Safeguarding Statement in accordance with the 'Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools 2017'?	Yes
2. As part of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement, has the Board formally adopted, without modification, the 'Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools 2017'?	Yes
3. Does the school's Child Safeguarding Statement include a written assessment of risk as required under the Children First Act 2015?	Yes
4. Has the Board reviewed and updated where necessary the written assessment of risk as part of this overall review?	Yes
5. Has the DLP attended available child protection training?	Yes
6. Has the Deputy DLP attended available child protection training?	Yes
7. Have any members of the Board attended child protection training?	Yes
8. Are there both a DLP and a Deputy DLP currently appointed?	Yes
9. Are the relevant contact details (Tusla and An Garda Síochána) to hand?	Yes
10. Has the Board arrangements in place to communicate the school's Child Safeguarding Statement to new school personnel?	Yes
11. Is the Board satisfied that all school personnel have been made aware of their responsibilities under the 'Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools 2017' and the Children First Act 2015?	Yes
12. Has the Board received a Principal's Child Protection Oversight Report at each Board meeting held since the last review was undertaken?	Yes
13. Since the Board's last review, was the Board informed of any child protection reports made to Tusla/An Garda Síochána by the DLP?	Yes
14. Since the Board's last review, was the Board informed of any cases where the DLP sought advice from Tusla/and as a result of this advice, no report to the HSE was made?	Yes
15. Since the Board's last review, was the Board informed of any cases where an allegation of abuse or neglect was made against any member of school personnel?	Yes
16. Has the Board been provided with and reviewed all documents relevant to the Principal's Child Protection Oversight Report?	Yes
17. Is the Board satisfied that the child protection procedures in relation to the making of reports to Tusla/An Garda Síochána were appropriately followed in each case reviewed?	Yes
18. Is the Board satisfied that, since the last review, all appropriate actions are being or have been taken in respect of any member of school personnel against whom an allegation of abuse or neglect has been made?	N/A

	Yes/No
19. Were child protection matters reported to the Board appropriately recorded in the Board minutes?	Yes
20. Is the Board satisfied that all records relating to child protection are appropriately filed and stored securely?	Yes
21. Has the Board been notified by any parent in relation to that parent not receiving the standard notification required under section 5.6 of the 'Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools 2017'	No
22. In relation to any cases identified at question 21 above, has the Board ensured that any notifications required section 5.6 of the 'Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools 2017' were subsequently issued by the DLP?	N/A
23. Has the Board ensured that the Parents' Association (if any), has been provided with the school's Child Safeguarding Statement?	Yes
24. Has the Board ensured that the patron has been provided with the school's Child Safeguarding Statement?	Yes
25. Has the Board ensured that the school's Child Safeguarding Statement is available to parents on request?	Yes
26. Has the Board ensured that the Stay Safe programme is implemented in full in the school? (applies to primary schools)	N/A
27. Has the Board ensured that the Wellbeing Programme for Junior Cycle students is implemented in full in the school? (applies to post- primary schools)	Yes
28. Has the Board ensured that the SPHE curriculum is implemented in full in the school?	Yes
29. Is the Board satisfied that the statutory requirements for Garda Vetting have been met in respect of all school personnel (employees and volunteers)? *	Yes
30. Is the Board satisfied that the Department's requirements in relation to the provision of a child protection related statutory declaration and associated form of undertaking have been met in respect of persons appointed to teaching and non-teaching positions?*	Yes
31. Is the Board satisfied that, from a child protection perspective, thorough recruitment and selection procedures are applied by the school in relation to all school personnel (employees and volunteers)?*	Yes
32. Has the Board considered and addressed any complaints or suggestions for improvements regarding the school's Child Safeguarding Statement?	Yes
33. Has the Board sought the feedback of parents in relation to the school's compliance with the requirements of the child safeguarding requirements of the 'Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools 2017'	Yes
34. Has the Board sought the feedback of pupils in relation to the school's child safeguarding arrangements?	Yes
35. Is the Board satisfied that the 'Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools 2017' are being fully and adequately implemented by the school?	Yes
36. Has the Board identified any aspects of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement and/or its implementation that require further improvement?	No
37. Has the Board put in place an action plan containing appropriate timelines to address those aspects of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement and/or its implementation that have been identified as requiring further improvement ?	N/A
38. Has the Board ensured that any areas for improvement that that were identified in any previous review of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement have been adequately addressed?	Yes
39. Has the Board identified any aspects of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement and/or its implementation that require further improvement?	No
40. Has the Board put in place an action plan containing appropriate timelines to address those aspects of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement and/or its implementation that have been identified as requiring further improvement?	N/A

	Yes/No
41. Has the Board ensured that any areas for improvement that were identified in any previous review of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement have been adequately addressed?	Yes

Signed _____ Date 2nd September, 2024
 Chairperson, Board of Management

Signed  _____ Date 2nd September, 2024
 Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment: Written Assessment of Risk of St. Munchin's College

In accordance with section 11 of the Children First Act 2015 and with the requirements 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. Munchin's College.

1. List of school activities

- | |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Daily arrival and dismissal of students • Late drop off, early pick up • Attendance and leaving school without permission • Break time for students • Classroom teaching |
|--|

- One-to-one teaching
- One-to-one counselling
- One-to-one meetings
- Classroom substitution
- Teaching/ giving extra classes outside normal school hours
- Withdrawal of individuals from class
- Students leaving class ill or injured
- Outdoor teaching activities
- Sporting activities
- School outings
- Schools musicals and dramas
- School trips involving overnight stay
- Schools trips involving foreign travel
- Use of toilet/ changing/ shower areas in school
- Sports Day
- Fundraising events involving students
- Use of off-site facilities for school activities
- School transport arrangements including use of bus escorts
- Care of students with Special Educational Needs
- Administration of Medicine
- Written communication and use of social media
- Use of video/ photography and other media to record school events
- Administration of First Aid
- HSE Vaccinations
- Curricular provision in respect of SPHE and RSE.
- Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst students
- Training of school personnel to supplement curriculum
- Use of school premises by outside organisations/ groups
- Use of external personnel to support sports and other extra-curricular activities
- Care of pupils with specific vulnerabilities/ needs such as
 - Pupils from ethnic minorities
 - Gay, bisexual or transgender (LGBT) students
 - Pupils of minority religious faiths
- Recruitments of school personnel including
 - Teachers/ SNA's
 - Caretaker/ Secretary/ Cleaners
- External Tutors/ Guest Speakers
- Volunteers/ Parents in school activities
- Visitors/ contractors present in school during school hours
- Visitors/ contractors present during after school activities
- Participation by pupils in religious ceremonies/ religious instruction external to the school
- Use of Information and Communication Technology by pupils in the school
- Application of sanctions under the schools Code of Behaviour including the detention of pupils and confiscation of phones
- Students from the school participating in work experience elsewhere
- Student teachers undertaking training placement in school
- Use of video/ photography/ other media to record school events
- Use of school premises by other organisation during school day
- Homework club, after school and night study, study during school holidays

2. The school has identified the following risk of harm in respect of its activities –

- Risk of harm not being recognised by school personnel
- Risk of harm not being reported properly and promptly by school personnel
- Risk of student being harmed in the school by a member of school personnel
- Risk of student being harmed in the school by another student Risk of student being harmed in the school by volunteer or visitor to the school
- Risk of student being harmed by member of school personnel, a member of staff of another organisation or other person while student participating in out of school activities e.g. school trip, swimming lessons
- Risk of harm due to bullying of student
- Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children in school
- Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children while attending out of school activities
- Risk of harm due to inappropriate relationship/ communications between student and another student or adult
- Risk of harm due to children inappropriately accessing/ using computers, social media, phones and other devices while at school
- Risk of harm to students with SEN who have particular vulnerabilities
- Risk of harm due to inadequate code of behaviour
- Risk of harm in one-to-one teaching, counselling, coaching situation
- Risk of harm caused by member of school personnel communicating with pupils inappropriate manner via social media, texting, digital device or other manner
- Risk of harm caused by member of school personnel accessing/ circulating inappropriate material via social media, texting, digital device or other manner

3. The school has the following procedures in place to address the risks of harm identified in this assessment –


- All school personnel are provided with a copy of the schools *Child Safeguarding Statement*
- The *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools (revised 2023)* are made available to all school personnel
- School Personnel are required to adhere to the *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools (revised 2023)* and all registered teaching staff are required to adhere to the *Children's First Act 2015*
- The school implements in full the SPHE curriculum and RSE to both Junior and Senior Cycle students
- The school implements in full the Wellbeing Programme at Junior Cycle
- The school has an Anti-Bullying Policy which fully adheres to the requirements of the Department's *Anti-Bullying Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools*.
- The school has a supervision rota to ensure appropriate supervision of students during arrival, dismissal and breaks.
- The school has supervision in respect of specific areas such as toilets, changing rooms.

- The school has procedures for students who leave class due to illness.
- The school has in place clear procedures in respect of 1 day school outings/ trips/ tours.
- The school has procedures for injury or accidents
- The school has a School Tour Policy
- The school has a Health and Safety Policy
- The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda Vetting legislation and relevant DES circulars in relation to recruitment and Garda vetting
- The school has Codes for Conduct for school personnel (teaching and non-teaching staff)
- The school complies with the agreed disciplinary procedures for teaching staff
- The school has Special Educational Needs policy
- The school has in place procedures for the administration of medication to pupils
- The school
 - Has provided each member of the school staff with a copy of the schools Child Safeguarding Statement
 - Ensures all new staff are provided with a copy of the schools Child Safeguarding Statement
 - Encourages staff to avail of relevant training
 - Encourages board of management members to avail of relevant training
 - Maintains records of all staff and board member training
- The school have personnel who are qualified to administer first aid
- The school has in place a Code of Behaviour for pupils
- The school has in place an ICT Policy in respect of usage of ICT by pupils
- The school has in place a Mobile Phone Policy in respect of usage of mobile phones by pupils
- The school has in place a Critical Incident Management Plan Policy
- The school has draft procedures on CCTV
- The school has in place draft procedures for the use of external sports coaches
- The school has in place draft procedures for one-on-one teaching activities, counselling and meetings
- The school has in place draft procedures in respect of student teacher placements
- The school has in place a policy in respect of transition year pupils of the school undertaking work experience in external organisations

Important Note: It should be noted that risk in the context of this risk assessment is the risk of “harm” as defined in the Children First Act 2015 and not general health and safety risk. The definition of harm is set out in Chapter 4 of the *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools (revised 2023)*

In undertaking this risk assessment, the Board of Management has endeavoured to identify as far as possible the risks of harm that are relevant to this school and to ensure that adequate procedures are in place to manage all risks identified. While it is not possible to foresee and remove all risk of harm, the school has in place the procedures listed in this risk assessment to manage and reduce risk to the greatest possible extent.

The risk assessment has been completed by the Board of Management on Monday 2nd September, 2024. It shall be reviewed as part of the school’s annual review of its Student Safeguarding Statement.

Signed 
Chairperson, Board of Management

Date 2nd September, 2024

Signed Doree Gifford
Principal/ Secretary to the Board of Management

Date 2nd September, 2024



St Munchin's College notification regarding the Board of Management's review of the Child Safeguarding Statement


To: Parents/Guardians and members of the School Community

The Board of Management of St Munchin's College, Corbally, Limerick wishes to inform you that:

- The Board of Management's annual review of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement was completed at the Board meeting of 2nd September 2024
- This review was conducted in accordance with the "Checklist for Review of the Child Safeguarding Statement" published on the [gov.ie](https://www.gov.ie) website

Signed Doree Gifford Date 2nd September, 2024

Chairperson, Board of Management

Signed  Date 2nd September, 2024

Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

