CSS 1

Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment

For: Saint Attracta's Senior National School

At: Meadowbrook, Dublin 16

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):

Shane Maguire

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

Fergus Coughlan

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

Name of Relevant Person

Shane Maguire

(In schools this person is the DLP)

Relevant Person can be contacted on:

M: 0872702409

E: priomhoide@sasns.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:

Yvonne Lane

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 cooperate 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 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.

Note: The procedures and measures in place outlined above, are not intended as an 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, the patron and parents. A copy of this statement and risk assessment will be made available to Tusla and the department if requested.

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

Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
1.	Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils	Risk of unsupervised children; unauthorised collection; road traffic accidents.	Supervision schedule; clear policy for arrival and dismissal of pupils; designated entry/exit points; sign-in/out for early collection; school halla open from 8:30am with staff supervision on wet days; Regular communication to parents re illegal parking; lollipop ladies on Broadford and Ludford Rd entrances
2.	Recreation breaks for pupils	Bullying; accidents; inadequate supervision.	Yard supervision rota; zoning of play areas; anti-bullying procedures.
3.	Classroom teaching	Inappropriate behaviour; inadequate supervision; physical contact.	Open-door policy; glass panels in doors; adherence to Code of Behaviour; child protection training for all staff.
4.	One-to-one teaching/learning support/ANA support/counselling	Allegations of misconduct; isolation risk.	Conduct in visible area; door open or glass panel; parental consent where relevant.
5.	Outdoor teaching activities	Accidents; absconding; weather exposure.	Risk assessment per outing; supervision ratios; emergency contact list; safety briefing; emergency medication brought
6.	Online/remote learning	Cyberbullying; exposure to inappropriate content; misinformation	Use school-approved platforms; acceptable use policy (AUP); Electronic Device Policy; supervision by parents; schools broadband and content filtering; online safety education- Cyber Safe Kids
7.	Matches, training, changing for sporting activities	Injury; inappropriate supervision; privacy issues.	First aid available; appropriate supervision; supervision ratios; parental consent; Emergency medication brought for children with serious medical needs
8.	School tours/excursions	Missing pupils; accidents; misconduct.	Tour risk assessment; consent forms; buddy system; adequate supervision; contact plan; Emergency medication brought for children with serious medical needs

9.	Toilet/changing/shower areas in school	Inappropriate behaviour; privacy concerns.	Supervision outside cubicles and shower areas only; teach appropriate behaviour; no staff alone with pupils.
10.	Annual Sports Day	Injury; unauthorised visitors.	Safety briefing; first aid; parent information.
11.	Fundraising events involving pupils	Overcrowding; safeguarding issues.	Staff supervision; parental consent; clear roles for volunteers.
12.	Use of off-site facilities for school activities	Transport risks; unknown environments.	Pre-visit checks; adequate supervision; emergency contacts.
13.	Care of children with AEN/intimate care	Risk of inappropriate contact or allegation.	Two adults where possible; intimate care plan; parental consent; records kept.
14.	Management of challenging behaviour, including appropriate use of restraint where required	Injury to pupil/staff; inappropriate restraint.	Positive Behaviour Plan; staff training in safe handling where physically challenging behaviour is present (MAPA/TEAM-Teach); debriefing procedures.
15.	Provision of food/hot school meals	Allergic reactions; hygiene issues.	Allergy list displayed; trained school meal operatives; hygiene standards; promotion of allergy aware school; medical protocols.
16.	Administration of medicine	Incorrect dosage; lack of consent.	Written parental consent; staff training; record of administration; designated drawers for medicine and equipment
17.	Administration of First Aid	Cross-infection; errors.	PPE use; record incidents; First Aid Training for staff; Staff awareness for contacting emergency/ambulance services
18.	Curricular provision in respect of SPHE/RSE/Stay Safe	Sensitive content; parental concerns.	Approved curriculum; parental information; opt-out procedure; all pupils to be present for mandatory Stay Safe lessons; Online safety programme-Cyber Safe Kids
19.	Bullying prevention	Emotional harm.	Bí Cineálta Policy; incident recording; pupil support structures.
20.	Training of school personnel in child protection matters	Inconsistent knowledge of reporting.	Annual Tusla/Department training; Designated Liaison Person (DLP) visible to all staff.
21.	Use of external personnel to support curriculum	Unvetted individuals; inappropriate contact.	Garda vetting; supervision by school staff; Guidelines for outlining safeguarding expectations.
22.	Pupils with vulnerabilities (ethnic minorities, LGBT children or pupils perceived	Discrimination, exclusion, bullying.	Inclusive education; SPHE focus; staff awareness; reporting pathways.

	to be LGBT, religious minorities, members of the Traveller community etc.)		
23.	Children in care on Tusla's Child Protection Notice System (CPNS)/with medical needs	Safeguarding risk; neglect indicators.	Liaise with Tusla; Individual Care Plans; DLP monitoring.
24.	Recruitment of staff	Unvetted individuals.	Garda vetting; reference checks; induction on Child Protection.
25.	Health & Safety	Slips/falls; fire hazards.	Safety audits; fire drills; maintenance logs.
26.	Library/PE equipment room/Cool Room	Injury; unsupervised access, misuse of equipment	Access supervised by staff; clear walkways; equipment checked regularly; pupils not allowed without supervision; regular tidy-up of space
27.	Swimming Lessons	Drowning, injury, changing room supervision issues, inappropriate contact	Qualified lifeguard/instructor; staff supervision in changing areas (outside only); parental consent; risk assessment of facility.
28.	Cycle Training	Road traffic accidents, falls, lack of protective gear	Use off-road safe area if possible; helmets compulsory; qualified instructor; high-visibility clothing; parental consent, safety protocol for final lesson off-site
29.	Incursion into school/classroom by outsiders	Stranger danger, child abduction, theft, harm	Secure entry system; visitor sign-in procedure; staff challenge unknown persons; CCTV monitoring; locked external doors; emergency red card on inside of classroom door in each class
30.	Open plan school yard	Pupils absconding, collisions, poor visibility	Staff positioned strategically; clear boundaries; safe zones marked; supervision schedule; deterrent signs in relation to walking dogs through school grounds
31.	Flight risk – children with additional educational needs (AEN)	Child leaving premises, injury, emotional distress	Designated safe areas; assigned staff; gates secure in special class play area; emergency contact plan.
32.	Children being collected from school	Abduction, unauthorized pickup, confusion	Sign-out system for early leavers at office; staff present at classroom exits.
33.	Children doing jobs / student council / wellbeing ambassadors	Leaving class unsupervised, injury, misuse of role	Clear duties; teacher permission to leave class
34.	External tutors / guest speakers	Unvetted individuals, inappropriate content or conduct	Garda vetting required; staff always present; content pre-approved by school management.

35.	Volunteers / parents in school activities	Boundary issues, lack of supervision, unvetted contact	Garda vetting; clear volunteer roles; staff supervision; briefing on safeguarding policy.
36.	Visitors / contractors during school hours	Unsupervised contact with pupils, safety hazards	Sign-in and ID badges; restricted access to pupil areas; work scheduled outside pupil hours where possible.
37.	Visitors / contractors after school activities	Safety risks to pupils using building; lack of supervision	After-school supervisor present; designated entry/exit; contractors informed of child protection policy
38.	Religious ceremonies	Inadequate supervision, inappropriate content	Parental consent obtained; supervision by school staff; risk assessment of venue; clear communication with organisers.
39.	Use of ICT by pupils/staff (including online teaching)	Cyberbullying, inappropriate material, privacy/data breaches	Acceptable Use Policy (AUP); monitored access; restricted websites; safeguarding training; parental awareness; reporting procedure.
40.	Application of Code of Behaviour sanctions	Unfair treatment, emotional harm, allegations	Procedures documented; transparency in sanctions; two adults present for serious sanctions; parental notification.
41.	Transition Year students / ANAs participating in work experience in the school	Boundary issues, unprofessional behaviour	Induction and code of conduct; staff supervision; Garda vetting (if 16+); no unsupervised pupil contact.
42.	Student teachers on placement	Lack of awareness of child protection rules, boundary issues	Pre-placement briefing; Garda vetting; supervision by class teacher; adherence to school safeguarding policy.
43.	Use of video/photography/media for events	Misuse of images, breaches of consent	Written parental consent; no tagging/names online; AUP Policy
44.	Extra-curricular activities	Inadequate supervision, injury, bullying	Supervision ratios; Garda-vetted coaches; emergency contacts accessible.
45.	Afterschool use of premises by other organisations	Lack of school oversight, child safety risk	Agreement/School hire Rental Policy in place; Garda vetting for organisers and employees; insurance verified.
46.	Breakfast club	Choking, allergy risk, lack of supervision	Staff present; allergy awareness; supervision during meals; hygiene maintained.
47.	Homework club	Bullying, unsupervised contact, safety	Supervised by staff; roll call; safe dismissal procedure; clear behaviour expectations.
48.	Children living away from home (e.g. Rockbrook students)	Isolation, emotional distress, lack of guardian contact	Designated pastoral and link support; regular check-ins; communication with guardians; access to counselling.

Risk in the context of this Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment is the risk of "harm" as defined in the Children First Act 2015 and not general health and safety risk. The definition of harm is set out in the Children First Act 2015: "harm" means, in relation to a child— (a) assault, ill treatment or neglect of the child in a manner that seriously affects or is likely to seriously affect the child's health, development or welfare, or (b) sexual abuse of the child, whether caused by a single act, omission or circumstance or a series or combination of acts, omissions or circumstances, or otherwise.

In accordance with Section 11 of the Children First Act 2015 and with the requirements of Chapter 9 of the *Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025*, the following is the written Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment.

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

This Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment was reviewed by the board of management on 30/09/2026 *(most recent review date).*

Signed* Yvonne Lane Date: 30/09/2026

Chairperson of the Board of Management

Signed* Shane Maguire Date: 30/09/2026

Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

This Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment is expected to be reviewed again in September 2027 *(expected review date).*

Yvonne Lane Shane Maguire

* Document to be printed and signed with original signatures