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Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment

For:	Springdale National School
At:	Lough Derg Road, Raheny, Dublin 5, D05E954

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):

Lesley Cahill

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

Kate Hogan

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

Name of Relevant Person

Lesley Cahill

(In schools this person is the DLP)

Relevant Person can be contacted on:

*(01)*8317149	lesleycahill@springdale.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:

Liz Kirk

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 of the 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 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.	Training of school personnel in Child Protection matters	• If not trained, risk of harm not being recognised by school personnel • If not trained, risk of harm not being reported properly and promptly by school personnel	• All school personnel are provided with a copy of the school's *Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment* • The *Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025* are made available to all school personnel • School personnel are required to adhere to the *Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025* and all registered teaching staff are required to adhere to the *Children First Act 2015* as well as supporting the continued implementation of the best practice guidance set out in *Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children 2017* and its addenda, including *the Addendum to Children First 2019* and *2025* • The school encourages personnel to avail of relevant training • The school encourages board of management members to avail of relevant training • The school maintains records of all personnel and board member training
2.	Curricular Provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay safe	• If not provided, risk of harm due to non-teaching of the SPHE, RSE & Stay safe programmes	• The school implements in full the SPHE curriculum. • The school implements in full the RSE & Stay Safe programmes
3.	Care of children with special educational needs	• Risk of harm to children with SEN who have particular vulnerabilities, including medical vulnerabilities	• The school has a Special Educational Needs Policy in place

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
4.	One-to-one teaching	• Risk of child being harmed by a member of school personnel in one-to-one teaching, coaching situation	• There is glass in all classroom doors
5.	Classroom teaching	• Risk of child being harmed in the school by a member of school personnel.	• There is glass in all classroom doors • 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*
6.	Attending to toileting and intimate care needs	• Risk of child being harmed while in receipt of intimate care	• The school has an intimate care policy in respect of students who require such care
7.	Use of communal toilet areas	• Risk of harm due to bullying of a child due to inadequate supervision	• The school has a supervision policy in place to cover communal toilet areas.
8.	Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils	• Risk of harm not being recognised by school personnel. • Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children at arrival and dismissal times.	• There are clear procedures in place regarding arrival and dismissal of pupils
9.	Management of challenging behaviour amongst pupils, including appropriate use of restraint where required	• Risk of harm to dysregulated child being harmed by an adult using restraint • Risk of harm to other children being intimidated/injured by dysregulated child	• The school has complied with the *Understanding Behaviours of Concern and Responding to Crisis Situations* developed by the Department of Education and Youth to address uncertainty for staff on how to respond when facing crisis situations where there are

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
			concerns regarding physical safety • School personnel are currently engaged in Relate training.
10.	Cover provided by substitute teachers/SNAs	• Risk of child being harmed by a substitute SNA/teacher	• All school personnel are provided with a copy of the school's *Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment.* It is also on display in the school lobby and is highlighted to all substitute teachers/SNAs • The *Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025* are made available to all school personnel, including substitute teachers/SNAs
11.	Students participating in work experience	• Risk of child being harmed by a student on work experience	• There are procedures in place in respect of students undertaking work experience
12.	Student teachers/SNAs undertaking a training placement in school	• Risk of child being harmed by student teachers/trainee SNAs	• There is a Visitors' Policy in place which includes procedures in place for student teachers/ SNAs undertaking a training placement in the school, external sports coaches & persons to supplement delivery of the curriculum
13.	Recreation breaks for pupils	• Risk of harm due to inadequate code of behaviour • Risk of child being harmed at break by another child	• There is a Supervision Policy in place to ensure appropriate supervision of children during assembly, dismissal and breaks and in respect of specific areas such as toilets, corridors, etc.
14.	Sporting activities	• Risk of child being harmed by a member of school personnel, a member of staff of another organisation or other person while a child is participating in sporting activities	• There is a Supervision Policy in place which covers supervision in respect of sporting activities

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
15.	School outings	• Risk of child being harmed by a member of school personnel, a member of staff of another organisation or other person while a child is participating in out-of-school activities, e.g. school trip, sports tournament	• There is a Supervision Policy in place which covers supervision in respect of school outings (including bus journeys)
16.	Annual Sports Day	• Risk of harm by parents/ guardians involved in school activities	• The school has very clear procedures in place regarding our Annual Sports Day
17.	Administration of First Aid	• Risk of child being harmed by a member of school personnel	• The school has procedures in place for the administration of First Aid
18.	Administration of medicine	• Risk of child being harmed by a member of school personnel	• The school has a policy and procedures in place for the administration of medication to pupils
19.	Prevention of and dealing with bullying amongst pupils	• Risk of harm due to bullying • Risk of harm due to cyber bullying • Risk of harm due to racism	• School authorities have a code of behaviour and an anti-bullying policy in place in accordance with the department's "Bí Cineálta" procedures to prevent and address bullying in schools and as outlined in *Circular 55/2024*
20.	Use of off-site facilities for school events, e.g., the church grounds for sports day, the church for carol services and end of year services	• Risk of child being harmed by a member of school personnel, a member of staff of another organisation or other person while a child is participating in an event off-site	• The school has very clear procedures in place when using off-site facilities for school events.
21.	Use of volunteers/ parents to help with supervision during school trips and/or delivery of the curriculum	• Risk of child being harmed by volunteer or visitor to the school	• There is a Visitors' Policy in place which includes procedures in place for volunteers/parents helping with supervision during school trips and/or delivery of the curriculum
22.	Recruitment of school personnel, including teachers/	• Risk of child being harmed by a member of school	• The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda Vetting legislation

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
	SNA's, caretaker, secretary, cleaners, external coaches, external tutors and guest speakers	personnel or external coaches, external • tutors and guest speakers	
23.	Visitors/contractors present during after school hours	• Risk of child being harmed by visitor to the school	• There is a Visitor's Policy in place which includes procedures in place for visitors/contractors present during and after school hours
24.	Care of pupils with specific vulnerabilities/ needs, including medical needs	• Risk of harm to child while in receipt of care due to additional vulnerabilities/ needs, including medical needs	• The school has a Special Educational Needs Policy • The school has a policy and procedures in place for the administration of medication to pupils with specific medical needs
25.	Care of pupils from minority groups, e.g., 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 Tusla's Child Protection Notification System (CPNS) , children with medical needs	• Risk of harm due to inadequate code of behaviour • Risk of harm due to inadequate Bí Cineálta policy	• The school has complied with the *Understanding Behaviours of Concern and Responding to Crisis Situations* developed by the Department of Education and Youth to address uncertainty for staff on how to respond when facing crisis situations where there are concerns regarding physical safety • The school undertakes anti-prejudice awareness initiatives
26.	Use of Information and Communication Technology by pupils in school, including social media (including use of mobile phones and other Smart Devices)	• Risk of harm caused by a pupil accessing/ circulating inappropriate material via social media, texting, digital device • Risk of harm due to children inappropriately accessing/using computers, social media,	• The school has an ICT Acceptable Use Policy in place and has communicated this policy to parents • The school has clear procedures in place regarding mobile phones and other smart devices being brought to school

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
		phones and other devices while at school • Risk of harm caused by a child communicating with other children in an inappropriate manner via social media, texting, digital device or other manner • Risk of pupils taking and sharing photos of others	
27.	Use of Information and Communication Technology by members of school personnel, including social media (including use of mobile phones and other Smart Devices)	• Risk of harm caused by a member of school personnel communicating with pupils in an inappropriate manner via social media, texting, digital device, or other manner • Risk of harm caused by a member of school personnel accessing/circulating inappropriate material via social media, texting, digital device or other manner	• The school adheres to the *Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025,* including Chapter 7, regarding school employees • The school has a code of conduct for school personnel. • Teaching staff adhere to the Teaching Council's *Code of Professional Conduct (2016)*
28.	Use of video/ photography/ other media to record school events	• Risk of harm due to inappropriate use of recorded material	• There are clear procedures in place regarding parents photographing/recording school events • There are clear procedures in place regarding storage of videos/photographs of children
29.	School transport arrangements	• Risk of child being harmed by school personnel, a member of a bus company or other person while being transported to a school event.	• Parents of children preparing for Confirmation and Communion in lessons external to the school deal directly with the relevant church and arrange transport for their own children to and from lessons, masses, practices, etc. • Public transport will be used when possible • Mini buses/coaches will be hired to transport students

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			to events such as Santry Sports when feasible • Alternative arrangements will be made when inclement weather prevents children from walking to All Saints Church/St. John's Church for various services
30.	Fundraising events involving pupils, e.g., Mad Hair Day Walk, coffee mornings & Christmas/ Easter Raffle	• Risk of child being harmed by a member of school personnel, a volunteer or a visitor to the school while participating in fundraising events.	• The school has very clear procedures in place regarding fundraising events involving pupils.
31.	Use of external personnel to supplement curriculum	• Risk of child being harmed by a member of external personnel while visiting the school to supplement curriculum	• There is a Visitors' Policy in place which includes procedures in place for external personnel engaged by the school to supplement the curriculum

Online Safety

The *Addendum to Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children 2017* published in January 2019 clarifies that organisations providing relevant services to children should consider the specific issue of online safety when carrying out their risk assessment and preparing their Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment.

The Guidance on Continuity of Schooling for primary and post-primary schools (April 2020) advises of the importance of teachers maintaining the safe and ethical use of the internet during distance learning and assisting parents and guardians to be aware of their role also. Schools should ensure that their Acceptable Use Policy (AUP) informs and guides remote or distance learning activity.

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 20th October 2026.

Signed:*	Liz Lewis	**Date**: 20/10/2026

Chairperson of the board of management

Signed:*	Lesley Caldwell	**Date**: 20/10/2026

Principal/Secretary to the board of management

This Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment is expected to be reviewed again in 12th October 2027.

** Document to be printed and signed with original signatures*

Appendix - Location of copies of the Child Protection Procedures and Children First Guidance

- Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025
- Children_First_National_Guidance_2017.pdf,
- Two hard copies available in Springdale NS: one in the staffroom and one in the Principal's office