



Child Safeguarding Statement & Risk Assessment

St Vincent's is a special school providing education to pupils with moderate or severe and profound general learning disabilities, with or without autism from 4 to 18 years old.

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. Vincent's School 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 Brid Ann O'Callaghan
- 3 The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is Mary O'Carroll
- 4 The Relevant Person is Brid Ann O'Callaghan

(The relevant person is one who can provide information in respect of how the child safeguarding statement was developed and will be able to provide the statement on request. In a school setting the relevant person shall be the designated liaison person.)

- 5 The Board of Management recognises that child protection and welfare considerations permeate all aspects of school life and must be reflected in all of the school's policies, procedures, practices and activities. In its policies, procedures, practices and activities, the school will adhere to the following principles of best practice in child protection and welfare:

The school will:

- recognise that the protection and welfare of children is of paramount importance, regardless of all other considerations;
- fully comply with its statutory obligations under the Children First Act 2015 and other relevant legislation relating to the protection and welfare of children;
- fully co-operate with the relevant statutory authorities in relation to child protection and welfare matters;
- adopt safe practices to minimise the possibility of harm or accidents happening to children and protect workers from the necessity to take unnecessary risks that may leave themselves open to accusations of abuse or neglect;
- develop a practice of openness with parents and encourage parental involvement in the education of their children; and
- fully respect confidentiality requirements in dealing with child protection matters.

The school will also adhere to the above principles in relation to any adult pupil with a special vulnerability.

- 6 The following procedures/measures are in place:

- In relation to any member of staff who is the subject of any investigation (howsoever described) in respect of any act, omission or circumstance in respect of a child attending the school, the school adheres to the relevant procedures set out in Chapter 7 of the *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools (revised 2023)* and to the relevant agreed disciplinary procedures for school staff which are published on the gov.ie website.
- In relation to the selection or recruitment of staff and their suitability to work with children, the school adheres to the statutory vetting requirements of the [National Vetting Bureau \(Children and Vulnerable Persons\) Acts 2012 to 2016](http://gov.ie) 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](https://www.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 25/10/23 [date].

This Child Safeguarding Statement was reviewed by the Board of Management on



Signed:

Chairperson of Board of Management

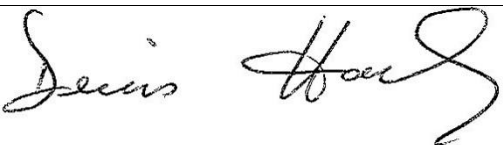


Signed:

Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Date: 16/9/2026

Date: 16/9/2026

<u>Annual Review Date for Child Safeguarding Statement</u>		
<i>Date</i>	<i>Signature of Chairperson</i>	<i>Signature of Principal</i>
25/10/23		
22/10/24		

25/11/25	Seamus Hagg	Barry O'Malley
16/9/26	Seamus Hagg	Barry O'Malley

Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment 2026/2027

Written Assessment of Risk of St. Vincent's School

In accordance with section 11 of the Children First Act 2015 and with the requirement of Chapter 8 of the *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools (revised 2023)*, the following is the Written Risk Assessment of St. Vincent's School

School activity / context	Risk of harm identified	Procedures / controls to manage the risk
Staff training / child protection awareness	Risk of harm not being recognised or reported by school personnel.	All school personnel are provided with the Child Safeguarding Statement and Child Protection Procedures; DLP/Deputy DLP arrangements; staff child-protection training; records of training; staff encouraged to access relevant training.
Care of pupils with special needs, including intimate care	Risk of harm due to compromised communication skills and/or vulnerability during care and support.	Individual care plans; Intimate Care Policy/Plans; appropriate supervision; total communication/AAC supports; staff training; safeguarding procedures.
En-suite bathrooms / toilets / changing / showers	Risk of harm to pupils during intimate care, changing or personal-care routines.	Intimate Care Policy/Plans; appropriate supervision; individual care arrangements; privacy and dignity; safeguarding procedures.
Curricular provision: SPHE, RSE and Stay Safe	Risk of harm arising where pupils do not have appropriate opportunities to understand safety, relationships, boundaries and how to seek help.	Stay Safe Programme; SPHE curriculum appropriate to pupils' learning abilities; RSE provision; parent consent arrangements where applicable; age- and ability-appropriate safeguarding education.
Care of pupils with specific vulnerabilities / needs	Risk of harm to pupils who may have additional vulnerabilities, including communication, medical or other support needs.	Individual plans; communication supports; medical/intimate-care arrangements; supervision; staff awareness; safeguarding procedures.

Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils	Risk of harm during arrival/dismissal, including movement between transport and school.	Arrival/dismissal supervision by teachers and SNAs; transport arrangements; bus escort arrangements; appropriate supervision.
Break and lunch times	Risk of harm through inadequate supervision, bullying, inappropriate interactions or pupils becoming separated from staff.	Yard/playground supervision arrangements; designated supervision; behaviour procedures; individual support arrangements.
Recreation breaks	Risk of harm through inadequate supervision or inappropriate interactions during less structured times.	Supervision Policy/arrangements; staff awareness; individual support; behaviour and anti-bullying procedures.
Classroom teaching	Risk of harm due to compromised communication skills, inappropriate adult/pupil interactions or inadequate supervision.	Classroom supervision; Child Safeguarding Statement; Code of Behaviour; staff training; appropriate communication supports; reporting procedures.
One-to-one teaching	Risk of harm in one-to-one teaching situations.	One-to-one supervision arrangements; Child Safeguarding Statement; Garda vetting; appropriate room/door arrangements; staff training; reporting procedures.
One-to-one support by specialist clinicians / therapists	Risk of harm in one-to-one clinical or therapeutic situations.	External personnel/therapy arrangements; Garda vetting where required; supervision; safeguarding procedures; individual care/support plans.
Therapy rooms	Risk of harm due to one-to-one or small-group work and potential inappropriate contact or inadequate supervision.	Supervision arrangements; Garda vetting; safeguarding procedures; individual plans; appropriate access and use of rooms.
Sensory room	Risk of harm due to pupils being in a less visible specialist environment, including inappropriate contact or inadequate supervision.	Supervision; room-use arrangements; individual support plans; safeguarding procedures.

Soft play / gym	Risk of harm during physical activities, including inappropriate contact, inadequate supervision or inappropriate behaviour management.	Supervision; risk assessed; approved behaviour-support approaches; staff training; safeguarding procedures.
Hydrotherapy / swimming	Risk of harm during hydrotherapy, swimming, changing and associated transitions.	Hydrotherapy/swimming procedures; supervision; risk assessment; intimate-care arrangements; individual plans; trained staff.
Outdoor teaching / gardening / physical education	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision, separation from staff or inappropriate interactions in outdoor settings.	Outdoor activity procedures; supervision; appropriate staffing; individual risk assessed, communication arrangements.
School outings / community activities	Risk of harm while pupils are away from the school, including inadequate supervision, separation, public contact or transport-related risks.	School outing procedures; risk assessed, supervision; consent; transport arrangements; individual communication/support plans.
School trips involving public transport	Risk of harm during public transport journeys and interactions with members of the public.	Outing and transport procedures; supervision; bus/transport arrangements; individual pupil supports; risk assessed
Going on river walk / walking to shop or playground	Risk of harm due to pupils being in the community, traffic/public contact, separation or inadequate supervision.	Community outing risk assessed; supervision; agreed routes/procedures; communication supports; staff allocation.
Use of off-site facilities / school campus facilities	Risk of harm while pupils use facilities outside their usual classroom environment.	Risk assessed, supervision; agreed access arrangements; safeguarding procedures.
Sports activities / annual Sports Day	Risk of harm during sports activities due to physical contact, supervision or interaction with external personnel.	Supervision; activity risk assessed, appropriate staffing; external-personnel safeguards; behaviour procedures.
Sports coaches / visitors	Risk of harm through contact between pupils and external coaches, visitors or other adults.	Visitor/contractor procedures; supervision; Garda vetting where required; safeguarding induction; agreed protocols.

Volunteers / parents in school activities	Risk of harm through contact between pupils and volunteers or parents participating in school activities.	Supervision; visitor/volunteer procedures; safeguarding requirements; clear staff responsibility.
Visitors / contractors during or outside school hours	Risk of harm due to unauthorised or inappropriate contact with pupils.	Visitor/contractor procedures; controlled access; sign-in arrangements; supervision; safeguarding requirements.
External personnel / tutors / guest speakers	Risk of harm through contact with pupils by external personnel.	Engagement procedures; Garda vetting where required; supervision; safeguarding requirements; DLP reporting procedures.
Student teachers / clinicians on placement	Risk of harm through contact with pupils by personnel undertaking training or placement.	Placement procedures; Garda vetting; safeguarding induction; supervision; restricted access where appropriate.
Fundraising events involving pupils	Risk of harm arising from increased contact with members of the public and unfamiliar environments.	Event-specific risk assessed,; supervision; agreed adult roles; safeguarding procedures.
Inter-school activities / Fast Friends	Risk of harm arising from contact with pupils and adults/young people from other settings.	Activity risk assessed,; supervision; agreed safeguarding arrangements; transport and consent procedures.
Off-site projects / Science Fairs and similar activities	Risk of harm during off-site projects and events involving members of the public or other organisations.	Activity-specific risk assessed, supervision; transport arrangements; safeguarding procedures.
Religious ceremonies / instruction external to school	Risk of harm while pupils participate in activities outside the school involving external personnel or venues.	Out-of-school activity procedures; supervision; consent; safeguarding requirements for external personnel.
Use of Information and Communication Technology by pupils	Risk of harm through inappropriate access to or use of computers, phones, social media or other devices.	Acceptable Use Policy; supervision; school device arrangements; safeguarding procedures; staff guidance.

Online / remote teaching and learning	Risk of harm through unauthorised access, inappropriate online communication/content or inadequate supervision.	Secure online platforms; online-learning procedures; supervision; Acceptable Use Policy; staff guidance.
Photography / video / digital media	Risk of harm through inappropriate recording, storage, sharing or circulation of images or videos.	Parental consent; photography/video procedures; school-device arrangements; secure storage; restrictions on personal devices.
Staff communicating with pupils	Risk of harm due to offensive language, inappropriate communication, inappropriate discussion of sensitive matters or failure to respect pupil dignity.	Staff guidance; Dignity and Respect arrangements; Child Safeguarding Statement; appropriate communication practices; reporting procedures.
Staff physical contact with pupils	Risk of harm due to inappropriate physical contact.	Staff guidance; individual care/support plans; appropriate supervision; approved training; safeguarding procedures.
Management of challenging behaviour	Risk of harm through inappropriate management of challenging behaviour.	Code of Behaviour; Individual Behaviour Support Plans; approved staff training; supervision; recording and review.
Physical intervention	Risk of harm through inappropriate, unnecessary or disproportionate physical intervention.	Approved physical-intervention training; Behaviour Policy; Individual Behaviour Support Plans; recording/review; safeguarding procedures.
Disengagement strategies	Risk of harm through inappropriate use of disengagement strategies.	Approved training; behaviour policy; individual behaviour plans; supervision; recording/review.
Bullying	Risk of harm due to bullying between pupils or inappropriate behaviour by adults.	Anti-Bullying Policy; Code of Behaviour; supervision; reporting/investigation procedures.
Racism / discriminatory behaviour	Risk of harm due to racist or discriminatory behaviour.	Anti-racism awareness initiatives; Anti-Bullying Policy; Code of Behaviour; supervision and reporting procedures.
Administration of medication	Risk of harm to pupils through inappropriate administration or handling of medication.	Medication Policy/procedures; trained staff; individual medical plans; secure storage; appropriate records.

Administration of first aid	Risk of harm arising from inappropriate or inadequate first-aid response.	First Aid Policy/procedures; trained staff; first-aid equipment; appropriate records.
Feeding / eating support	Risk of harm to pupils during feeding/eating, including pupils requiring additional support.	Individual feeding plans where required; trained staff; supervision; appropriate food preparation; medical/intimate-care procedures.
School transport / bus escorts	Risk of harm during transport or while pupils are being escorted.	Transport arrangements; bus escort procedures; supervision; Garda vetting where required; communication between school and transport personnel.
Toileting / intimate care / hygiene / independent skills	Risk of harm while pupils receive personal care or support to develop independence.	Intimate Care Policy/Plans; individual care arrangements; appropriate staffing and supervision; dignity and privacy.
Access to school buildings / grounds	Risk of harm due to unauthorised access or inadequate control of areas used by pupils.	Visitor procedures; controlled access; supervision; staff awareness; site procedures.
Application of sanctions / behaviour procedures	Risk of harm through inappropriate or disproportionate sanctions or behaviour-management practices.	Code of Behaviour; agreed procedures; staff training; oversight and review.
Use of campus facilities by others	Risk of harm through contact with other organisations or adults using school facilities.	Access arrangements; supervision; safeguarding requirements for external organisations; agreed protocols.
Children accessing / using computers, social media, phones and devices	Risk of harm through inappropriate digital content, communication or contact.	Acceptable Use Policy; supervision; digital safeguarding arrangements; staff guidance; reporting procedures.
Pupils with medical vulnerabilities	Risk of harm to pupils whose medical needs increase their vulnerability.	Individual medical plans; trained staff; medication/first-aid procedures; appropriate supervision.
Inappropriate relationship between child and adult or child and child	Risk of harm through inappropriate relationships or communications.	Child Protection Procedures; Code of Behaviour; supervision; safeguarding education; DLP reporting procedures.

Inappropriate material accessed or circulated by staff	Risk of harm through staff accessing/circulating inappropriate material via social media, texting or digital devices.	Acceptable Use Policy; staff guidance; Child Protection Procedures; disciplinary procedures; reporting to DLP where appropriate.
Use of external personnel to supplement curriculum	Risk of harm through contact with external personnel working with pupils.	Engagement procedures; Garda vetting where required; supervision; safeguarding requirements.
Recording of behaviours / school events	Risk of harm through inappropriate recording or sharing of photographs, videos or other media.	Consent arrangements; school photography/video procedures; secure storage; access restrictions.

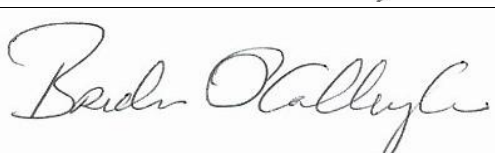
Risk Assessment – HOME ECONOMICS ROOM – 2026/2027

HAZARDS	What is the risk?	Risk rating H=High M=Medium L=Low	CONTROLS (When all controls are in place, risk will be reduced)
Obstructed access	Slips, trips and falls	H	Walkway and fire exit route kept free from obstruction
Inadequate first aid provision	Delayed treatment of injury	M	Appropriately stocked First Aid Kit. Also, to contain list of emergency contact numbers
Exposure to hazardous cleaning chemicals	Dermatitis/Allergy	H	Chemicals stored in a locked press. Emergency poisons number to be displayed
Fire	Burns/smoke inhalation/death	H	Fire blanket located near cooker and toasters. Fire alarm in place Fire drill procedure clearly displayed. Pupils informed about evacuation procedure from the Home Economics room
Poor kitchen hygiene	Food poisoning	M	Fridge temp. Below 5 ° Frozen food at -18° Foods stored correctly & hygienically. Kitchen surfaces kept clean.

Sharp objects	Cuts	H	Store sharp knives in separate press Discuss dangers of sharp items with pupils Display picture resources to show what a cut looks like Pupils supervised when using sharp equipment
Choking	Swallowing inappropriate item Choking on food	H	Familiarise myself(teacher) with Abdominal Thrust (formally HeimLich) manoeuvre Keep list of pupils with history of issues of choking Ensure food is appropriately cut up. Supervise during eating. Keep kitchen as clear as possible
Hot equipment	Burn	M	Supervise pupils around hot items Discuss dangers of heat with pupils on a regular basis Discuss precautions and first aid for same on a regular basis
Falling object	Pupils may be injured from falling object	M	Ensure any items store at a height are stored carefully
ALLERGIC REACTION	Pupil with an allergy may come in contact with potential allergen and may have an allergic reaction	H	Avoid carrying out lessons using the potential allergen if it is known that a pupil has an allergy to that ingredient. Store potential allergens in a sealed container. If known allergen is used with other groups, wipe down working area thoroughly.

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.

<u>Annual Review Dates for Risk Assessment</u>		
<i>Date</i>	<i>Signature</i>	<i>Comment</i>
25/10/23		Highlighted areas will have to be reviewed in 24/25
18/10/24		Highlighted policies will be reviewed as part of policy review plan for year
24/11/25		Review throughout the year
16/9/2026		Review until commencement of new Policy in Dec 26