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Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment

For:	Gardiner Street Primary School	*(School Name)*
At:	Belvedere Court, Dublin 1, D01H9C5	*(School Address)*

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):

Eoin Murphy

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

Elizabeth Cox

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

Name of Relevant Person

Eoin Murphy

(In schools this person is the DLP)

Relevant Person can be contacted on:

(01) 8722894	principal@gardinerstreetschool.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:

Caroline Garrett

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, available on the gov.ie website and as outlined in Chapter 10 of the procedures.

~ A written protocol is in place authorising immediate action for cases which require an employee to be immediately absented from school for child safeguarding reasons.

> Procedure for Provision of and Access to Child Safeguarding Training and Information, Including the Identification of the Occurrence of Harm

~ The school provides information and training to members of school personnel in relation to the identification of the occurrence of harm (as defined in the 2015 Act) as follows:

~ The school has provided each member of school personnel, including any new members of school personnel, (employees and volunteers, Board of Management members, student teachers and those on work experience) with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment.

~ The school ensures that members of school personnel have availed of relevant training and completed child protection training.

~ The school encourages Board of Management members to avail of any relevant training and complete child protection training.

~ The board of management ensures that records of all staff and Board member child protection training are maintained.

> Procedure for the Reporting of Child Protection or Welfare Concerns to Tusla

~ All members of school personnel are required to adhere to the procedures set out in the *Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025*, in relation to reporting of child protection concerns to Tusla. Mandated reporting applies to all registered teachers and any other mandated person who may be employed by the school, for example a

chaplain or nurse. A full list of those people who are mandated persons is set out in Appendix 1 procedures.

> Procedure for Maintaining a List of the Persons (if any) in the Relevant Service Who Are Mandated Persons

~ There is a procedure in place to maintain a list of mandated persons. Schools may on occasion employ additional staff who are mandated by virtue of their profession. This list will include all registered teachers and identify additional employees that are not registered teachers.

> Procedure for Appointing a Relevant Person (In schools this person is the DLP)

~ There is a procedure in place for appointing a relevant person.

The various procedures referred to in this Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment can be accessed via the school's website, the gov.ie website or will be made available on request by the school.

In accordance with the Children First Act 2015, the Addendum to Children First 2019 and 2025, and the *Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025,* the Board of Management carried out an assessment of any potential for harm to a child while attending the school or participating in school activities. A written assessment setting out the areas of risk identified and the school's procedures for managing those risks, is included with the Child Safeguarding Statement.

Note: The procedures and measures in place outlined above, are not intended as 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 (if any), 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 harm not being recognised by school personnel. Risk of harm not being reported properly and promptly. Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision. Risk of harm due to bullying or racism.	Yard supervision policy includes appropriate supervision during assembly and dismissal. Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment provided to school personnel. Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025 available to all personnel. Code of Behaviour and Bí Cineálta procedures in place. Anti-racism awareness initiatives undertaken.
2.	Yard / recreation breaks	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision. Risk of child being harmed by another child. Risk of harm due to bullying. Risk of harm due to racism. Risk of harm due to an inadequate Code of Behaviour.	Yard supervision policy, Code of Behaviour, Bí Cineálta procedures to prevent and address bullying. Anti-racism awareness initiatives. Child Protection Procedures followed by school personnel.
3.	One-to-one learning support withdrawal	Risk of child being harmed by a member of school personnel. Risk of harm in a one-to-one teaching situation. Risk of inappropriate relationship or communication between a child and an adult.	Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment provided to personnel. Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025 available to personnel. Written protocol for immediately absenting an employee where required for safeguarding reasons. Policy and clear procedures for one-to-one teaching activities. Code of Conduct for school personnel.

4.	One-to-one counselling	Risk of child being harmed by a member of school personnel. Risk of harm in a one-to-one counselling situation. Risk of inappropriate relationship or communication between a child and an adult.	Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment provided to personnel. Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025. Written protocol for immediately absenting an employee where required. Policy and procedures for one-to-one counselling. Code of Conduct for school personnel.
5.	Sporting activities: on-site	Risk of child being harmed by another child. Risk of child being harmed by a member of school personnel or external coach. Risk of inadequate supervision. Risk of bullying or racism. Risk of inappropriate relationship/communications between a child and adult.	Appropriate supervision arrangements. Code of Behaviour and Bí Cineálta procedures. Code of Conduct for school personnel. Policy/procedures for external sports coaches where applicable. Garda vetting requirements adhered to. Anti-racism awareness initiatives.
6.	Sporting activities: Belvedere College and grounds	Risk of a child being harmed by school personnel, staff of another organisation or another person while participating in an out-of-school activity. Risk of inadequate supervision during an out-of-school activity. Risk of bullying or racism. Risk of inappropriate relationship/communications.	School Outings Policy.. Appropriate supervision arrangements. Code of Behaviour and Bí Cineálta procedures. Procedures for external sports coaches/personnel. Garda vetting requirements where applicable. Code of Conduct for school personnel.

7.	Sporting activities: off-site	Risk of child being harmed by school personnel, staff of another organisation or another person. Risk of inadequate supervision while attending an out-of-school activity. Risk of bullying/racism. Risk of inappropriate relationship/communications.	School Outings Policy. Appropriate supervision. Code of Behaviour/Bí Cineálta procedures. External sports coach procedures. Garda vetting requirements where applicable.
8.	Use of toilets in school	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision. Risk of child being harmed by another child. Risk of bullying. Risk of harm to children with particular vulnerabilities. Risk of harm during intimate care where applicable.	Yard supervision policy includes procedures in respect of toilets/changing areas. Code of Behaviour and Bí Cineálta procedures. SEN policy. Individual care plan where required.
9.	Skipathon	Risk of inadequate supervision. Risk of harm by another child. Risk of bullying. Risk of harm to children with particular medical or other vulnerabilities.	Appropriate supervision arrangements. Code of Behaviour and Bí Cineálta procedures. Procedures relating to medication and First Aid where required.
10.	Care of children with Special Educational Needs, including intimate care, where needed	Risk of harm to children with SEN who have particular vulnerabilities, including medical vulnerabilities. Risk of harm while a child is receiving intimate care. Risk of child being harmed by school personnel.	SEN policy. Individual intimate care plan. Medication policy, where relevant. First Aid procedures. Child Protection Procedures. Code of Conduct for school personnel.
11.	Management of challenging behaviour, including appropriate use of restraint where required	Risk of child being harmed by another child. Risk of harm due to an inadequate Code of Behaviour. Risk of harm to children with particular vulnerabilities.	Code of Behaviour. School compliance with Department guidance on Understanding Behaviours of Concern and Responding to Crisis Situations. SEN policy. Appropriate staff training. Child Protection Procedures.

12.	Management of provision of food and drink	Risk of harm to children with particular vulnerabilities, including medical vulnerabilities. Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision.	Appropriate supervision. SEN policy where applicable. Procedures for administration of medication and First Aid. Health and Safety Policy.
13.	Administration of medicine	Risk of harm to children with medical vulnerabilities. Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision or care.	Policy and procedures for administration of medication to pupils. Relevant individual care plans. SEN policy where appropriate. First Aid procedures.
14.	Administration of First Aid	Risk of harm to children with medical vulnerabilities. Risk of harm arising where appropriate care is not provided. Risk associated with one-to-one adult/child situations, where these arise.	Policy and procedures for administration of First Aid. Appropriate supervision and recording procedures. Child Protection Procedures and Code of Conduct for personnel.
15.	Curricular provision in respect of SPHE, RSE and Stay Safe	Risk of harm not being recognised. Risk of harm not being reported properly and promptly.	School implements the Stay Safe Programme in full. School implements the SPHE curriculum in full. Appropriate planning and delivery of RSE. Child Protection Procedures made available to personnel.
16.	Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst pupils	Risk of harm due to bullying. Risk of harm due to racism. Risk of child being harmed by another child. Risk of harm due to an inadequate Code of Behaviour.	Code of Behaviour. Anti-bullying policy/procedures in accordance with Bí Cineálta. Anti-racism awareness initiatives. Appropriate supervision procedures.

17.	Training of school personnel in child protection matters	Risk of harm not being recognised. Risk of harm not being reported properly and promptly. Risk where school personnel have not received appropriate training.	Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment provided to all personnel, including new personnel. Relevant child protection training completed. Training encouraged for Board members. Records of staff and Board child protection training maintained.
18.	Use of external personnel to supplement curriculum	Risk of child being harmed by a volunteer, visitor or external person. Risk of inappropriate relationship/communication. Risk of inadequate supervision.	Garda vetting requirements adhered to where applicable. Appropriate supervision. Code of Conduct.
19.	Use of external personnel to support students and extra-curricular activities	Risk of child being harmed by external personnel. Risk of inappropriate relationship/communication. Risk of inadequate supervision.	Procedures governing external personnel and external sports coaches. Garda vetting requirements where applicable. Appropriate supervision. Code of Conduct.
20.	Care of pupils with specific vulnerabilities/needs	Risk of harm to pupils with particular vulnerabilities, including medical vulnerabilities. Risk of bullying. Risk of harm not being recognised or reported.	SEN policy where applicable. Child Protection Procedures. Appropriate supervision. Code of Behaviour/Bí Cineálta procedures. Medication, First Aid and intimate care procedures, where appropriate.
21.	Pupils from ethnic minorities/migrants	Risk of harm due to racism. Risk of bullying. Risk of child being harmed by another child.	Anti-racism awareness initiatives. Code of Behaviour. Bí Cineálta procedures. Appropriate supervision. SPHE provision.

22.	Members of the Traveller community	Risk of harm due to racism. Risk of bullying. Risk of child being harmed by another child.	Anti-racism awareness initiatives. Code of Behaviour. Bí Cineálta procedures. Appropriate supervision. SPHE provision.
23.	Lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender (LGBT) children	Risk of harm due to bullying. Risk of child being harmed by another child. Risk of harm due to an inadequate Code of Behaviour.	Code of Behaviour. Bí Cineálta procedures. Appropriate supervision. SPHE/RSE provision.
24.	Pupils perceived to be LGBT	Risk of bullying. Risk of child being harmed by another child. Risk associated with an inadequate Code of Behaviour.	Code of Behaviour. Bí Cineálta procedures. Appropriate supervision. SPHE/RSE provision.
25.	Pupils of minority religious faiths	Risk of bullying. Risk of child being harmed by another child. Risk of harm due to inadequate Code of Behaviour.	Code of Behaviour. Bí Cineálta procedures. Appropriate supervision. SPHE provision.
26.	Children in care	Risk of harm not being recognised. Risk of harm not being reported properly and promptly. Risk arising from particular vulnerabilities.	Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025. Staff child protection training. Appropriate communication with DLP. Relevant school support/SEN procedures where applicable.
27.	Children on Tusla's Child Protection Notification System (CPNS)	Risk of harm not being recognised. Risk of harm not being reported properly and promptly.	Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025 followed. DLP reporting procedures followed. Appropriate child protection training for personnel. Child protection records securely maintained.
28.	Children with medical needs	Risk of harm to children with medical vulnerabilities. Risk of inadequate supervision.	Medication policy and procedures. First Aid policy and procedures. SEN policy where relevant. Appropriate supervision and individual care arrangements.

29.	Recruitment of school personnel including teachers/SNAs, caretakers, secretaries, cleaners and sports coaches	Risk of child being harmed by a member of school personnel.	Statutory Garda vetting requirements complied with. Relevant Department recruitment circulars followed. Thorough recruitment and selection procedures. Statutory declarations/forms of undertaking completed where required. Code of Conduct for school personnel.
30.	Guest speakers / external tutors	Risk of child being harmed by a visitor/external person. Risk of inappropriate relationship/communications between a child and an adult. Risk of inadequate supervision.	Procedures for use of external persons to supplement curriculum. Appropriate supervision. Vetting requirements applied where relevant. Code of Conduct.
31.	Volunteers/parents in school activities	Risk of child being harmed by a volunteer or visitor. Risk of inappropriate relationship/communication. Risk of inadequate supervision.	Garda vetting requirements where applicable. Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment provided where appropriate. Appropriate supervision. Child Protection Procedures.
32.	Visitors/contractors present during school hours	Risk of child being harmed by a visitor or contractor. Risk of inappropriate relationship/communication. Risk of inadequate supervision.	Appropriate supervision and school procedures governing visitors/contractors. Child Protection Procedures. Code of Conduct/safe practices where applicable.
33.	Visitors/contractors present during after-school activities	Risk of child being harmed by a visitor/contractor. Risk of inadequate supervision. Risk of inappropriate relationship/communications.	Appropriate supervision arrangements. Child Protection Procedures. Relevant arrangements for use of premises by external organisations.

34.	Participation by pupils in religious ceremonies/religious instruction external to school	Risk of child being harmed by school personnel, staff of another organisation or another person during an out-of-school activity. Risk of inadequate supervision. Risk of inappropriate relationship/communications.	School outings procedures. Appropriate supervision. Code of Conduct. Garda vetting requirements where applicable.
35.	Use of ICT by pupils in school, including social media	Risk of children inappropriately accessing/using computers, social media, phones or other devices. Risk of inappropriate staff-pupil communication through social media/texting/digital devices. Risk of inappropriate material being accessed or circulated.	Acceptable Use Policy, including provision for online learning. Policy governing smartphones/tablet devices. Child Protection Procedures. Appropriate supervision.
36.	Application of sanctions under the Code of Behaviour, including detention/confiscation of phones etc.	Risk of harm due to an inadequate Code of Behaviour. Risk of inappropriate relationship/communications in one-to-one situations.	Code of Behaviour. Child Protection Procedures. Code of Conduct for school personnel. Appropriate supervision arrangements.
37.	Students participating in work experience in the school	Risk of child being harmed by a student/visitor. Risk of inappropriate relationship/communication. Risk of inadequate supervision.	Policy and procedures in respect of work experience placements in the school. Appropriate supervision. Garda vetting requirements where applicable. Child Safeguarding Statement/Risk Assessment provided as appropriate.
38.	Student teachers undertaking training placement in school	Risk of child being harmed by a student teacher. Risk of inappropriate relationship/communication. Risk of inadequate supervision.	Policy and procedures for student teacher placements. Garda vetting requirements. Appropriate supervision. Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment provided to student teachers.

39.	Use of video/photography/other media to record school events	Risk of inappropriate use/access/circulation of digital material. Risk of inappropriate use of devices or social media.	Acceptable Use Policy. Policy governing smartphones/tablet devices. Mobile-phone Policy. Child Protection Procedures. Relevant school procedures governing photographs/video.
40.	After-school use of school premises by other organisations	Risk of child being harmed by a member of staff of another organisation or another person. Risk of inadequate supervision. Risk of inappropriate relationship/communication.	Clear arrangements governing use of school premises. Appropriate supervision. Vetting requirements where relevant. Child safeguarding requirements communicated to relevant organisations.
41.	Use of school premises by other organisations during the school day	Risk of child being harmed by a member of another organisation or visitor. Risk of inadequate supervision. Risk of inappropriate relationship/communications.	Appropriate supervision. Visitor/external personnel procedures. Garda vetting where applicable. Child Protection Procedures.
42.	After-school clubs run by school personnel	Risk of child being harmed by school personnel or another child. Risk of inadequate supervision. Risk of bullying. Risk of inappropriate relationship/communication, including one-to-one situations.	Appropriate supervision arrangements. Code of Conduct for school personnel. Code of Behaviour and Bí Cineálta procedures. Child Protection Procedures. One-to-one procedures where relevant.

Examples of Activities, Risks and Procedures

The examples listed in this document are provided to assist schools in undertaking their risk assessment under the Children First Act, 2015. Schools should note that this list of examples is not intended to be exhaustive, and that the inclusion of an example of a policy or procedure on these lists does not make it mandatory. It is the responsibility of each school to ensure, as far as possible, that any other risks and procedures that are relevant to its own particular

circumstances are identified and specified in the written risk assessment and that adequate procedures are in place to address all risks identified.

It is acknowledged that schools already have in place a range of policies, practices and procedures to mitigate the risk of harm to children while they are participating in the activities of the school and that some school activities will carry low or minimal risks of harm compared to others. In the context of the risk assessment that must be undertaken by schools, the Children First Act, 2015 refers to risk as 'any potential for harm'.

Therefore, it is important that, as part of its risk assessment process, each school lists and reviews all of its various activities (which shall include identifying those that may carry low risk of harm as well as those that carry higher risks of harm). Doing so will help the school to:

- Identify, as required under the Children First Act, 2015, any risks of harm that may exist in respect of the school's activities.
- Identify and assess the adequacy of the various procedures already in place to manage those risks of harm.
- Identify and put in place any such additional procedures as are considered necessary to manage any risk identified.

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.

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 20/10/26 *(most recent review date)*

Signed:*		**Date:** 20/10/26.

Chairperson of ~~the board~~ of management

Signed:*	Eoin Murphy	**Date:** 20/10/26

Principal/Secretary to the board of management

This Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment is expected to be reviewed again on September '27 *(expected review date)*

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

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

This may be in the form of specifying the online location for the procedures (Department of Education and Youth website www.gov.ie/childprotectionschools and/or the school website), providing a link to the Children First National Guidance 2017 Children_First_National_Guidance_2017.pdf, and stating the number and location of hard copies of these procedures available in the school.

The school has two hard copies of *Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025,* one is stored in the principal's office and the other in the staff room.

Staff can access the digital version of *Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025* on the Department of Education Youth website: www.gov.ie/childprotectionschools.

Additionally, the Children First National Guidance 2027 can be accessed here: Children_First_National_Guidance_2017.pdf.