



Sandpit N.S.
Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment
(of any potential harm)

Written Assessment of Risk of Sandpit N.S. In accordance with section 11 of the Children First Act 2015 and with the requirement of Chapter 8 of the Child and Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools 2017, the following is the Written Risk Assessment of Sandpit N.S			
List of School Activities	Risk Level		The School has the following Procedures in place to address risk identified in this assessment
Training of school personnel in Child Protection Matters	High	Harm not recognised or reported promptly	Child Safeguarding Statement & DES procedures made available to all staff DLP & DDLP Mrs Victory & Mr Reilly attended PDST face to face training in May 2018 BOM records all records of staff and board training
One to one teaching	Medium	Harm to school personnel	School has policy in place for one to one teaching Open doors - Learning support in prefab only for group lessons - 1 to 1 teaching done in main building - Glass in window
Online Teaching & Learning Remotely	Medium	Harm from possible dangers online	The children are taught in SPHE about dangers they may encounter online and how to keep themselves safe online. The school has an ICT Policy in place in respect of usage of ICT by children. We have a remote teaching and learning policy in place.
Care of Children with special needs including intimate care needs	High	Harm by school personnel	-SNA Policy was formulated by SN Muire gan Smál and is guided by the relevant legislation such as the



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			Education Welfare Act 2000 and the EPSEN Act 2004 and relevant DES Circulars. Children's care needs are agreed with parents at the beginning of the year. If an SNA needs extra help a second SNA will help out.
Curricular Provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe	Medium	Non-teaching of same	Mrs Victory takes responsibility for enduring these lessons are taught in accordance with the school's SPHE plan. Stay safe is taught every 2 years. The school implements SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe in full
Care of pupils with specific vulnerabilities/needs such as <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pupils from ethnic minorities/migrants - Members of the Traveller Community - LGBT Children/Pupils perceived to be LGBT - Pupils of minority religious faiths - Children in Care 	Low - Med	Bullying	<p>Anti-Bullying Policy applies for all children, the school adopt a reform not blame policy and actively manage reports of bullying</p> <p>An anti-bullying week is held annually</p> <p>Code of Behaviour is equality based and respects all children regardless of gender or sexual orientation or membership of religious community</p> <p>Staff are reminded regularly at staff meetings to be aware of vulnerable children including those from disadvantaged backgrounds</p> <p>Staff liaise with parents and/or care agencies where necessary</p>
Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils	Medium	Harm from older pupils, unknown adults on the playground	Arrival and dismissal of pupils is supervised by teachers. There is 1 teacher and 3 SNA rostered on for before school supervision from 8.45-9.00am and class teachers escort pupils to the door at home-



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			<p>time. Unknown adults who enter the playground will be approached immediately.</p> <p>Upon enrolment parents must inform the school in writing who has permission to drop and collect their child especially infants. Parents must notify the school of changes to collection arrangements. If a person who is not on the list is dropping a child to school, they should present themselves at the school office first.</p> <p>If a child is not collected they are supervised and then their parents are telephoned.</p> <p>During Covid Restrictions, children enter the building from 8.45 and are supervised in their rows. Dismissal is staged from 2.30pm to 2.42pm</p>
Managing challenging behaviour amongst pupils, including appropriate use of restraint	High	Injury to pupils and staff	<p>Individual positive handling plans will be devised for those pupils who are assessed as being at greatest risk of needing restrictive physical interventions.</p> <p>Incidents recorded</p> <p>See SNA Policy and Code of Behaviour</p> <p>CPD in this area is funded by the Board and organised when deemed necessary</p>
Sports coaches and sporting activities in and outside school eg. Swimming	Medium-High	Harm to pupils	All coaches must be Garda Vetted and a teacher is always present during coaching games and in dressing rooms at pool.
Students participating in work experience and student teachers	Low	Harm by student	Work experience students are not allowed to use their phones and must not be alone with pupils.



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			<p>Student teachers must present their Garda Vetting to the school</p> <p>Both groups should be mad aware of the school policies and procedures for child protection.</p>
Recreation breaks for pupils			<p>Children go the toilet individually and may use the G.P room toilet. Children must ask the class teacher's permission or the teacher on yard duty.</p> <p>First Aid is in the GP room in full view by an SNA, if a child needs to check a cut they do so themselves in the toilet cubicle privately or an older sibling may help. If a child needs help with removal of clothes a second adult can be sent for.</p>
Classroom teaching	Low		Classroom teachers must be aware of and follow all policies and procedures in relation to child protection
School Trips involving overnight stays or foreign trips	Medium-High	<p>Outside School Environment.</p> <p>Other people not belonging to our school.</p> <p>Overnight responsibility. Safety of teachers.</p>	<p>Children staying in groups in Gaeltacht houses.</p> <p>Children supervised by adults at all times.</p> <p>All adults Garda Vetted.</p>
Use of toilet/changing shower areas in school	Low		<p>Supervision policy. Toilets are just off each classroom so easy to supervise coming and going, one child at a time allowed to go. During break, toilets in GP room are used with permission of teacher on yard duty.</p> <p>SNA on first aid duty monitors coming and going.</p> <p>There are no showers or public changing areas in use in school.</p>



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			At swimming lessons there are both individual and shared cubicles and 2 staff attend and supervise jointly.
Annual Sports Day	Medium		As good practice all PTA committee will be Garda Vetted. Currently the annual sports day is held in the school grounds as part of a regular school day. We start with a beach walk. Many parents attend, but children are under teacher supervision at all times.
Fundraising Events			Parents will be reminded that at outside the school time events, that they are responsible for the supervision of their own children eg. Bazaar, children are not allowed in the kitchen and parents must be responsible for their children's safety at all times. Volunteer children will be supervised by Vetted Parents Council Members
After School Clubs			Teachers are never alone with pupils
School transport arrangements	High	Safety of children on bus	The bus driver & bus escort are Garda Vetted
School tours/trips	High		Teachers always present on buses and pupils are fully supervised on all school trips
Administration of Medicine	Low		All staff are certified in First Aid Training and Cardiac First Responder with courses held every 2 years. Parents must follow the administration of medicines policy.



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Children with Medical needs	High		SNA's undertake care of children with medical needs. Those with diabetes are treated discretely in class and records are made of all interventions. A written care plan has been agreed upon with the parents. For our child in a wheelchair, all hoisting, changing and flushing of peg is done with 2 SNAs present.
Risk of harm due to Racism	Medium		As part of SPHE awareness of the wrongs of racism are addressed in the school
Use of external personnel to supplement curriculum	Medium		Qualifies SNAs and teachers who are Garda vetted may be utilised where necessary. Principal will ensure they are award of school supervision policies and dealing with behaviour. One off visitors do not need to be vetted as teachers will remain in the room if a talk is taking place. Teachers or volunteers coming in regularly must be vetted.
School personnel including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Teachers - SNA's - Caretaker - Secretary - Cleaner - Sports Coaches - External Tutors - Guest Speakers - Volunteers - Parents in school activities 	Medium	Harm not recognised or properly or promptly reported	Child Safeguarding Statement, policy and procedures made available to all staff. Staff have viewed Tusla training module and will avail of online training by PDST. Vetting procedures see policy for teachers, sports coaches and external tutors. Regular parent curriculum volunteers and supervisors must be vetted. Once off guest speakers including parent speakers will not need to be vetted as long as teachers are present at all times.



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<p>- Visitors/Contractors present in school during school hours</p>			<p>Policy on Visitor Contractors- building Contractors will be allowed in communal areas with the permission of the principal eg. Locksmith, glaziers, alarm company, builders to deal with leak etc Teachers will accompany the children from the classroom where necessary. Where possible this should be kept to outside of school hours.</p>
<p>Use of school premises by other organisations during the school day</p>	<p>Medium</p>		<p>The board would ensure the person is vetted and has their own public liability insurance. After school activities are currently carried out by school teachers.</p>
<p>Use of information and communication technology by pupils in school</p>	<p>Low – Med</p>	<p>Bullying</p>	<p>Use of Technology Policy Anti-Bullying Policy Code of Behaviour Pupils are never left alone with laptops/devices All reports of the inappropriate use of technology are investigated and monitored. The schools Broadband programme provides an integrated set of services to our school which includes broadband connectivity, and hosted services including content filtering, webhosting-blogging and security services including anti-virus control and a centralised firewall.</p>
<p>Use of video/photography other media to record school events</p>	<p>Low</p>		<p>See INTO guidelines, permission is sought upon enrolment for the use of images and for the website. Where there is no harm to the child parents may</p>



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			record images – see INTO Guidelines Data Protection changes will be factored in and revised accordingly.
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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 2017.

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

The risk assessment has been completed by the Board of Management on _____. It will be reviewed as part of the school’s annual review of its Child Safeguarding Statement at the September meeting.

Signed: _____

Date: _____

Chairperson, Board of Management

Signed: _____

Date: _____

Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management



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Child Safeguarding Statement

Sandpit N.S is a primary school providing primary education to pupils from Junior Infants to Sixth Class.

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 2017 and Tusla Guidance on the preparation of Child Safeguarding Statements, the Board of Management of Sandpit N.S. 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 2017 as part of this overall Child Safeguarding Statement
- 2 The Designated Liaison Person (DLP) is **Edel Victory**
- 3 The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is **Shane Reilly**
- 4 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



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- 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.

5 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 2017 and to the relevant agreed disciplinary procedures for school staff which are published on the DES website.
- In relation to the selection or recruitment of staff and their suitability to work with children, the school adheres to the statutory vetting requirements of the National Vetting Bureau (Children and Vulnerable Persons) Acts 2012 to 2016 and to the wider duty of care guidance set out in relevant Garda vetting and recruitment circulars published by the DES and available on the DES 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



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- 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 2017, including in the case of registered teachers, those in relation to mandated reporting under the Children First Act 2015.
- In this school the Board has appointed the above named DLP as the “relevant person” (as defined in the Children First Act 2015) to be the first point of contact in respect of the child safeguarding statement.
- All registered teachers employed by the school are mandated persons under the Children First Act 2015.
- In accordance with the Children First Act 2015, 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 attached as an appendix to this statement.
- The various procedures referred to in this Statement can be accessed via the school’s website, the DES 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.

- 6 This statement has been published on the school’s website and has been provided to all members of school personnel, the Parents’ Association 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.



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- 7 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 01/12/2021

Signed: _____

Chairperson of Board of Management

Signed: _____

Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Date: _____

Date: _____