CSS 1

Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment

St. Oliver's NS

Ballycasheen, Killarney, Co. Kerry V93W594

This school is a primary 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):

Colm Ó Súilleabháin

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

Sandra Chute

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

Name of Relevant Person

Colm Ó Súilleabháin

Relevant Person can be contacted on:

087 6290649

colmosuill@stolivers.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:

Sheila Casey

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 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 employ additional staff who are mandated by virtue of their profession. This list will include all registered teachers and identify additional employees that are not registered teachers.

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

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

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

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

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.

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

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

Signed: _____ **Signed:** _____ **Date:** 22/10/26

Chairperson Principal/Secretary to the Board

ST. OLIVER'S
PRIMARY SCHOOL

Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment

Written Assessment of Risk in this school

In accordance with section11 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 this school.

1. List of School Activities	2. The School has identified the following risk of harm in respect of its activities -	3. The School has the following procedures in place to address risk identified in this assessment -
School Staff		
Training of school personnel in Child Protection matters	Harm not recognised or reported promptly	Child Safeguarding Statement & DES procedures made available to all staff DLP& DDLP to attend OIDE face to face training All Staff to view Túsla training module & any other online training offered by OIDE BOM records all records of staff and board training
Classroom teaching	Harm by school personnel	Child Safeguarding Statement All teachers Garda Vetted Teachers are advised not to speak to a pupil alone
One to one teaching	Harm by school personnel	Table between teacher and pupil Glass in door and or window through which teacher and pupils are visible Another member of staff knows where the pupil is at all times
Substitute/Temporary Teachers covering for teachers on sick leave, maternity leave, parental leave or other type of leave	Harm to pupils	Child Safeguarding Statement made available to the substitute teacher All substitute teachers Garda Vetted and have a statutory declaration. References are checked if appropriate. Substitute teachers are advised not to speak to a pupil alone
Pupils in the office with an adult	Harm to pupils	Desk between adult and pupil Glass in window and door through which adult and pupil are visible
Transitions year and IT Students participating in work experience in school	Harm to pupils	Child Safeguarding Statement All students over 16 years are Garda Vetted by their organisation and there is a joint vetting agreement in place between the organisation and the school.

Student teachers participating in teaching practice in school	Harm to pupils	Child Safeguarding Statement All students are Garda Vetted by their organisation and there is a joint vetting agreement in place between the organisation and the school Class Teacher remains with the student teacher at all times
Nurses/Educational Psychologists	Harm to pupils	Garda vetted by HSE/NEPS Glass in window and door through which adults and pupils can be seen
Use of external personnel to support Sports and other curricular activities	Harm to pupils	Child Safeguarding Statement All coaches are Garda Vetted by their organisation and there is a joint vetting agreement in place between the organisation and the school Class Teacher remains with the sports coach at all times.
Use of external personnel to supplement the curriculum	Harm to pupils	Child Safeguarding Statement All personnel are Garda Vetted Class Teacher remains with the person at all times
Care of Children with special needs, including intimate care needs	Harm by school personnel	Regular review of pupil needs Pupil personal plans for pupils with intimate care needs Advice sought from special needs support service The school has an Intimate Care Policy in respect of students who require such care. The School has a Special Educational Needs Policy
Curricular Provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay safe.	Non-teaching of same	School implements SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe in full All teachers are reminded when Stay Safe is to be taught The School implements in full, the Stay Safe Programme and the SPHE Curriculum
Pupils outside of the Classroom		
Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils	Harm from older pupils, adults in the playground	Arrival and dismissal supervised by Teacher. At Arrival: Parents are asked to drop their children in the mornings to the correct entry door where pupils are met by a teacher from 08.40am. Teacher rota in place. All teachers furnished with a copy of the rota. At Dismissal: Parents are asked to collect from the correct door for pupils in classes Jnr.Inf to 1st Class – Classes 2nd to 6th leave the classrooms independently
School Transport Arrangements including role of Bus Escorts	Harm to pupils.	School personnel are required to adhere to all relevant and updated legislation in relation to Child Protection. All School personnel are provided with a copy of the School's Child Safeguarding Statement.

Recreational Breaks for Pupils	Adults entering the playground, harm by other pupils	Supervision at all break times by teachers and SNAs on each yard. Yard rules apply Our School has 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.
Toilet areas Use of Toilet and Changing Areas in Our School	Inappropriate behaviour, adult entering the toilet	Atmosphere of reporting inappropriateness is encouraged. Toilets are in all classrooms. Pupils are encouraged to use the toilets before recreational breaks There are specific toilets assigned to staff and visiting adults. The school has an Intimate Care Policy in respect of Students who receiving Intimate Care needs.
School Tours/Outings/Trips	Harm to pupil Venues /destinations are checked for appropriateness	Teachers and SNA's travel with each class on school tour/outings. Care is taken at all times that an adequate number of staff travel with the class.
Management of Pupils in School		
Management of provision of Food and Drink, including Breakfast Club	Harm to Pupil	The school has provided each member of school staff, including all new staff with a copy of the Child Safeguarding Statement,
Homework Club Infant Club	Harm to Pupil	The school has provided each member of school staff, including all new staff with a copy of the Child Safeguarding Statement.
Managing of challenging behaviour amongst pupils	Injury to pupils and staff	Health & Safety Policy Code Of Behaviour Anti Bullying Policy NEPS and other outside agencies behavioural intervention recommendations. Working with parents and all stakeholders.
Administration of Medicine Administration of First Aid	Harm to pupil	Administration of medicine policy Teacher, SNA, secretary not to administer First aid or medicine alone. Check with doctor if in doubt.
Prevention and dealing with bullying	Harm to pupil	Internet Acceptable Use Policy Anti-bullying policy Bí Cineálta Guidelines. Code of Behaviour CPD for all staff. Education of pupils, parents and all stakeholders to heighten awareness

Care of pupils with specific vulnerabilities/ needs such as - Pupils with Additional Learning Needs - 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/direct provision/On Tusla's System - Pupils in Multiple Disabilities Unit - Children with medical needs	Risk of harm to children with SEN who have vulnerabilities. Including medical	The School has a Special Educational Needs Policy
Use of information and Communication Technology by pupils in school including Social Media	Bullying Harm to pupil	Internet Acceptable Use Policy –. Code of Behaviour and Anti-bullying policy CPD for all staff. Education of pupils, parents and all stakeholders to heighten awareness. Bí Cineálta Guidelines. Use of Mobile Phones are not allowed in school by pupils.
Use of video/photography/other media to record school events	Bullying, harm to pupils	Internet Acceptable use Policy Data Protection policy Permission from parents to take and use photographs of their child. Parents are asked at concerts/events not to share those photos on social media but to use for their own personal family.

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*