Child Safeguarding Statement

St. Francis Xavier Junior National School

St. Francis Xavier Junior National School is a primary school providing primary education to pupils from Junior Infants to Second 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 (revised 2023) and Tusla Guidance on the preparation of Child Safeguarding Statements, the Board of Management of St. Francis Xavier Junior JNS 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 (revised 2023)* as part of this overall Child Safeguarding Statement

2 The Designated Liaison Person (DLP) is: **Olivia Barrett**

3 The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is: **Órla Bríd Cobbe**

4 The Relevant Person is: **Olivia Barrett**
(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 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 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 the 29th September 2026.

This Child Safeguarding Statement was reviewed by the Board of Management on the 29th September 2026.

Signed: Ian Cherry

Chairperson of Board of Management

Date: 29/09/26

Signed: Gloria Bassett

Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Date: 29/09/2026

Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment

Assessment of Risk of St. Francis Xavier Junior National School

In accordance with section 11 of the Children First Act 2015 and with the requirements of Chapter 8 of the *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools (revised 2023)*, the following is the Written Risk Assessment of [name of school].

Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment

Written Assessment of Risk of St Francis Xavier Junior National School

In accordance with section 11 of the Children First Act 2015 and with the requirements 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. Francis Xavier Junior National School.

List of School Activities	Risk Level	The School has identified the following Risk of Harm	The School has the following Procedures in place to address risk identified in this assessment
Training of school personnel in Child Protection matters	High	Risk of harm not recognised or reported promptly Risk of harm by school personnel Risk of harm by school another child	Child Safeguarding Statement & DES procedures made available to all staff Ensures all new staff are provided with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement Principal Report to BoM contains Oversight Report DLP& DDLP name in prominent position in front reception

			DLP& DDLP attended PDST training Drumcondra Ed Centre Oct 2025 All Staff trained in Túsla Children First training module September 2026 BOM records contain all records of staff and board training
One to one teaching	Med	Risk of harm by school personnel	School has agreed practice in place for one to one teaching/ Open doors /Table between teacher and pupil/ Glass in window, where possible The school adheres to Garda Vetting legislation and relevant DE circulars The school has a Code of Conduct in place
Care of Children with special needs, including intimate care needs	High	Risk of harm by school personnel Risk of harm to child while a child is receiving intimate care Risk of harm by school another child Risk of harm due to bullying of child Risk of harm due to lack of adequate supervision in school	Policy on intimate care in respect of students who require such care and two staff members to complete changes Special Educational Needs Policy The school has a Code of Behaviour The school has a Bí Cineálta policy
Children displaying Behaviours of Concern	High	Risk of harm to another child Risk of harm to the child displaying the behaviours Risk of harm to school personnel	Investigating CP training NCSE Relate Training Relate Discovery School Procedures for de-escalation BoC reporting in place
Toilet areas	High	Risk of harm by school personnel Risk of harm by another child by inappropriate behaviour	Usage and supervision policy Teachers closely monitor bathroom use – one boy and one girl at a time Card or sign in/out in some classes

Curricular Provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe.	Med	Risk of harm by school personnel Risk of harm by another child Risk of harm due to non-teaching of same	School implements SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe in full Parent information on Stay Safe programme disseminated annually with note to parents Post holder Stay Safe; annual date of completion recorded
Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils	Med	Risk of harm from older pupils, unknown adults on the playground Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision on yard	Arrival and dismissal supervised by Teachers and Parents Late arrivals noted on Aladdin and have to check in through main entrance if consistently late Supervision policy/timetable in place Minimum of four teachers on yard at all times plus SNA's
Managing of challenging behaviour amongst pupils, including appropriate use of restraint	High	Risk of harm to pupils due to injury Risk of harm to staff due to injury Risk of harm due to lack of training	Health & Safety Policy Relate NCSE Code of Behaviour /Red card system Behaviours of Concern policy June 2024 Staff meeting (all staff) outlined how to record incidents 'yellow page'
Sports Coaches & Sporting Activities	Med	Risk of harm to pupils Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children Risk of child being harmed by another child	Supervision Policy in place - children not left alone with 3rd party visiting coach GAA Garda vetting in place Swimming Policy Bí Cineálta Policy
Students participating in teacher training placement in school and TY work experience in the school	Low	Risk of harm to pupils by student	Work Experience Policy Child Safeguarding Statement. Teacher training colleges GV procedure
Recreation breaks for pupils	High	Risk of harm to pupils by another child Risk of harm to another adult	Yard and supervision Policy/Health & Safety Statement / Good maintenance of outdoor area and gates installed 2018/2019 Additional gate at tower to be completed 2024/2025/2026
Classroom teaching	Med	Risk of harm to pupils by another child	The school adheres to Garda Vetting legislation and relevant DE circulars. Child Safeguarding in place

		Risk of harm to the pupils by school personnel	Another adult on room
School transport arrangements including use of bus escorts	High	Risk of harm to vulnerable students	GV of bus escort Requirement to complete Children First Preferably known to school
Outdoor teaching activities School outings Use of off-site facilities for school activities	Med	Risk of harm to pupils by school personnel Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children in school Risk of child being harmed by another child	School tours policy Bus Safety Policy The school adheres to Garda Vetting legislation and relevant DE circulars. Code of Conduct Appropriate supervision/inc. personnel Children given clear outline of activities and expected behaviours
Fundraising events involving pupils and Parents Association including: Sports Day, Fun Run Day, Christmas Fair, First Communion	Med	Risk of harm to pupils by outside personnel Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children in school Risk of child being harmed by another child	All active Parents Association committee members Garda Vetted. PA aware of Child Protection Procedures and DLP and DDLP Administration of First Aid The school has a Code of Behaviour
Administration of Medicine Administration of First Aid	Med	Risk of harm to pupils	Administration of Medicine policy Anaphylaxis policy Administration of First Aid procedures 10-12 Staff certified with First Aid Training Training was updated school year 2025/2026
Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst pupils	Med	Risk of harm to pupils	Bí Cineálta (June 2024) *Procedures to Prevent and Address Bullying Behaviour for Primary Schools* Bí Cineálta policy 2025 'SIT' = Stop, **I** don't like it, **T**ell Blue Shield for Anti Bullying Kindness monitors Stay Safe Anti bullying lessons

			Code of Behaviour (RP) Principal Report contains Oversight Report Positivity (friendship) week
Use of external personnel to supplement curriculum	High	Risk of harm to pupils	All guest speakers must provide evidence of Garda Vetting / be vetted for SFX JNS if regularly involved
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	Low	Risk of harm to pupils Risk of harm due to bullying Risk of harm due to racism	Interpreters sought, if required Anti Bullying Policy – 'SIT' = Stop, I don't like it, Tell Bí Cineálta policy in place Blue Shield Flag for Anti Bullying Kindness monitors Stay Safe / Anti bullying lessons Code of Behaviour DIFFERENT FAMILIES SAME LOVE Principal Report contains Oversight Report INTO resources – Different families, same love Positivity (friendship) week Contact with Túsla, Social Workers NEPS
Recruitment of school personnel including:Teachers/SNA's /Caretaker/Secretary/Cleaners Visitors/contractors present in school during school hours	High	Risk of harm to pupils Risk of harm due to bullying	The school adheres to Garda Vetting legislation and relevant DE circulars. Child Safeguarding in place Policy of Parents / Volunteers being vetted Caretaker accompanies contractors
Use of school premises by Tigers and afterschool clubs	Med	Risk of harm to pupils by outside personnel	Tigers/outside clubs provide evidence that they have complied with New Children First and CP Guidelines and have completed Tusla training Garda Vetting procedures in place
Use of Information and Communication Technology by pupils in school	Low	Risk of harm to pupils by content	AUP policy Bí Cineálta Policy Code of Behaviour

			Zeeko – Internet safety workshops for students, staff and parents annually (March 2026)
Management and provision of food and drinks- Allergies	Med	Risk of harm to pupils by inadequate supervision of children	School lunches are labelled individually Aladdin database is regularly updated Children are coded by colour (red) At risk children are on display in staffroom and in teachers class folders for substitutes
Use of video/photography/other media to record school events	Med	Risk of harm to pupils by parents sharing images on social media Risk of harm to pupils by viewing inappropriate content	It is communicated with parents at main school events not to share Acceptable Use Policy Permissions requested in September via Aladdin Teacher continually monitoring when iPads are being used and one app only in use at any time by whole class
After school use of school premises by other organisations	Med	Risk of harm to pupils by inadequate supervision of children Risk of harm by school personnel Risk of harm by another child	Tigers and Scouts provide Safety Statements to BoM Teaching staff are GV, doors remain open, maximum limit to numbers

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).*

Signed Ian Cherry **Date: 29th September 2026**

Chairperson, Board of Management

Signed Olivia Bassett **Date: 29th September 2026**

Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management