

St. Columba's College Stranorlar



Child Safeguarding Statement & Risk Assessment

February 2026

CSS1

Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment

For:	St. Columba's College, Stranorlar	(School Name)
At:	Drumboe Avenue, Stranorlar, Co. Donegal	(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):

Ms. Jennifer Kelly

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

Ms. Georgina White

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

Name of Relevant Person

Ms. Jennifer Kelly

(In schools this person is the DLP)

Relevant Person can be contacted on:

074 91 31246

jkelly@stcolumbasstranorlar.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:

Mr. P.J. Mc Gowan

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 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 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 Statement & Risk Assessment

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.

Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
1.	Classroom Teaching.	Risk of harm not being recognised by school personnel. Risk of the child being harmed in the school by another child. Risk of harm due to racism, gender, disability, religious beliefs. Risk of harm to children with SEN who have particular vulnerabilities including medical vulnerabilities.	All school personnel are provided with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment. The school's code of behaviour that students are made aware of and sign at the start of the school year. The school undertakes anti-racism awareness initiatives. The school SEN policy, Policy for administration of medication to pupils.
2.	Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils.	The child is a flight risk, or could walk out in front of traffic. Risk of bullying/fighting/inappropriate behaviour. Risk of encountering strangers. Fireworks.	Advise students on dangers in relation to traffic and acceptable behaviour on busses and/or making their way to and from school, including movement to and from the old St. Mary's National School building. Ensure supervision is in place at the school when students arrive and depart in the evenings. The supervision is extended to the front gate, canteen, corridors, locker and toilet areas. Put in place a reporting structure for any incidents that may arise on school busses.
3.	Homework club/evening study.	More risk of harm being done with less staff present. Getting home after the activity. Bad Behaviour, mobile phones, walking home late in evening, child hungry / thirsty	Ensure collection and transport has been prearranged and confirmed. Code of behaviour, letter to parents to sign before commencing the evening study, snack/food provided before it starts, supervised by a teacher, school must be aware of how child is getting home - organised prior to evening study starting, phones received after finished. Supervision continues until all students are collected.
4.	List of toilet / changing facilities areas in the school.	Slipping on wet floor. Asthma from aerosol cans. Other students taking photos. Exposure to harmful chemicals. Cleaning material left behind. Toilets broken. Risk of child being bullied by another child. Risk of child being injured. Inadequate supervision of children in school.	Appropriate signage when cleaning is in progress. Appropriate cleaning products and their storage to ensure health and safety protocols are up to date. Clear map of the toilets. Sign diaries when children are using toilets to monitor use. Ensure any issues with the toilets are reported promptly. Code of behaviour in place. Supervision of toilets and changing facilities.
5.	Management of the provision of food and drink.	Serious harm due to allergies, scalding, choking and hygiene.	List of possible allergens on menus. First Aid / CPR training for canteen staff and school First Aiders.
6.	Recreation and breaks.	Injury from inappropriate physical behaviour and other bullying type behaviours.	Staff supervision during breaks to ensure safety of students. Presence around the school. Supervision of break time activities i.e. clubs. Staff supervision outside toilets/lockers.

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
7.	Students using Canteen facilities.	Trip or falls. Hurting themselves with equipment. Allergies / reaction. Cleaning equipment. Hot water burns from toilets in canteen. Slips on condensation. Risk of burn against Bain Marie.	Supervision and proper signage. Correct chemical and equipment storage in canteen. Bins managed. Labelling of chemicals.
8.	Care of any vulnerable adult students.	Risk of injury to vulnerable adults where appropriate procedures not in place. Risk of injury to staff by vulnerable adults sometimes arising from lack of adequate training.	Adequate training for staff. Use of appropriate adults. Sharing of appropriate and necessary information. Upkeep of student support plans and materials being used by adult student.
9.	Care of children with special educational needs including intimate care where needed.	Child being harmed by staff member. Incorrect procedures being followed.	Policy in place. Training and vetting of staff. Transparency. Shared folder where information can be found. Lists of children with SEN. Regular communication with parents.
10.	Care of pupils with specific vulnerabilities/needs	Potential risk of harm to the student or by the student.	Support and information sharing. Policy, SEN and Pastoral Care Team. Specific training provided as needed.
11.	Children on Tulsa's Child Protection Notification System.	Risk of child being harmed.	Policies. Supervision and vigilance. Awareness of staff. DLP and DDLP. Information sharing.
12.	Curricular provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe.	Sensitive nature of the topics. Potential for disclosures from students.	Following the curriculum as outlined in the SPHE and RSE policies. Adhering to the Stay Safe program. Training for staff.
13.	Dealing with members of travelling community and other minority groups.	Prejudice/exclusion or bullying.	Promotion of inclusion and diversity. Monitoring of student interactions. Social inclusion training for school personnel.
14.	One-to-one counselling.	Potential for allegations against staff. Risk of student feeling uncomfortable or unsafe.	Adherence to Policy on One-to-One Counselling with regards to visibility (door with window). Clear communication with parents. Professional training.
15.	One-to-one learning support.	Potential for allegations against staff. Risk of student feeling uncomfortable or unsafe.	Adherence to Policy on One-to-One Support with regards to visibility (door with window). Clear communication with parents. Professional training.
16.	One-to-one teaching.	Harm to student and staff. Potential for allegations to be made if no witnesses and staff member is alone in a confined space.	Adherence to Policy on One-to-One Teaching with regards to visibility (door with window). Clear communication with parents. Professional training.

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
17.	Pupils from ethnic minorities/migrants.	Discrimination. Exclusion. Language barriers.	Anti-bullying policy. Inclusion initiatives. Language support. Social inclusion Training for school personnel. Translation service.
18.	Annual Sports Day.	Risk of child being harmed by one of the visitors or students. Risk of injury.	Vetting for all volunteers. Supervision. First aid present. Risk assessment for the event.
19.	Field Trips.	Risk of child being harmed. Risk of injury, lack of supervision.	Supervision. Risk assessment. First aid kits. Communication.
20.	Sport Activities.	Injury. Bullying. Lack of supervision. Harm through emotional abuse. External coaches. Privacy risks in communal changing facilities (e.g. swimming and water-based activities).	Trained coaches. Supervision and Garda Vetting. Code of conduct for sports. First Aid. Risk assessment. Supervision by trained and vetted staff. Code of behaviour applies. Parental consent obtained. Staff do not change with students and supervise in a manner that respects privacy. Lifeguard present where required. First Aid available.
21.	School Trips.	Risk of injury. Child getting lost. Child being harmed by a member of the public or school personnel.	Risk assessment. Supervision. Clear instructions. Code of conduct. Contact details. Communication with parents & guardians.
22.	School transport arrangements including bus escorts.	Risk of child being harmed on the bus or during pick-up/drop-off.	Vetting for bus drivers and escorts. Supervision. Code of conduct.
23.	School trip involving foreign travel.	Risk of injury. Child getting lost. Personal belongings being lost or stolen. Child being harmed by a member of the public or school personnel.	Risk assessment. Supervision. Buddy/Small Group system in place. Clear instructions for all. Code of conduct. Contact details. Vetting for all adults involved, communication with parents & guardians.
24.	Students from the school participating in work experience elsewhere.	Risk of child being harmed in the workplace without adequate instruction, supervision and proper training of staff	Vetting for workplace. Supervision. Communication with workplace. Clear instructions for students & workplace, communication with parents & guardians.
25.	Use of offsite facilities for school activities.	The child getting hurt. Getting left behind. Road safety.	Accurate roll call. Supervision. Training.
26.	School outings.	Risk of injury. Child getting lost. Child being harmed.	Accurate roll call. Supervision. Risk assessment. Contact details. Communication with parents & guardians.
27.	School trip involving overnight stay.	Risk of child being harmed during the night or during activities.	Vetting for all adults. Supervision. Clear rules and code of conduct for all. Risk assessment provided by activity centre or the travel company.

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
28.	Online Teaching and Remote Learning.	Online grooming. Inappropriate content. Cyberbullying.	Acceptable Use Policy (AUP). Training for staff and students. Monitoring. Clear guidance given regarding appropriate spaces that are used, appropriate dress code.
29.	Use of Information and Communication by pupils in school including social media.	Cyberbullying. Grooming. Access to inappropriate content.	Acceptable Use Policy (AUP). Filtering Software. Supervision. Training.
30.	Use of photography/videos to record school events.	Potential for inappropriate use of images.	Consent from parents & guardians. Policy on use of images. AUP.
31.	After-school use of school premises by other organisations.	Risk of child being harmed by external personnel.	Vetting for external personnel. Clear policy on use of premises.
32.	External Tutors/ Guest Speakers/Visitors.	Risk of child being harmed in the school by a volunteers or visitors to the school. Risk of child being harmed by a member of school personnel, a member of staff of another organisation or other person while a child is participating in out-in-school activities.	Garda vetting. Share the safeguarding policy and AUP (in relation to photographs). Letting the visitor know who the DLP is. Training is appropriate and up to date. Supervision by school personnel.
33.	Student teachers undertaking training placement in school.	Risk of child being harmed by student teacher.	Vetting for student teachers. Supervision. Training on child protection. Policy and procedures in place in respect of student teachers.
34.	Use of external personnel to supplement curriculum.	Vetting concerns, Lack of awareness of policies and procedures, Lack of awareness of DLP / DDLP, Inappropriate content	Ensure proper vetting, Ensure content appropriate, Induction and proper training Supervision by school personnel where appropriate. Written procedures agreed and signed by external providers.
35.	Use of school premises by other organisations during the school day.	Risk of child being harmed by external personnel.	Vetting for external personnel. Clear policy on use of premises. Supervision by school personnel where appropriate. Written procedures agreed and signed by external providers.
36.	Visitors/contractors in school after school activity.	Risk of student being harmed by unsafe environment during setting up and taking down/removing of equipment. No named Procedures.	Ensuring supervision. Sign-in/out procedures. Vetting where necessary. Written procedures agreed and signed by visitors/contractors Supervision by school personnel.
37.	Visitors/contractors in school during school hours.	Child coming into contact with an unvetted adult/person.	Ensuring a member of staff is with the visitor/contractor.

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
38.	Volunteers/Parents in school activities.	Risk of child being harmed by one of the volunteers; volunteers do not know policies.	Show policies to parents and volunteers; ensure member of staff present at all times; point of poster for DLP Written procedures agreed and signed by volunteers.
39.	Awareness Activities.	Lack of awareness (mental health, digital safety etc.) among staff and students.	Regular training and awareness sessions. Posters and information sharing.
40.	Fundraising Events involving Pupils.	Risk of child being harmed. Risk of injury. Possible fraud/stealing.	Supervision. Risk assessment. Vetting for volunteers. Written procedures agreed and signed by volunteers.
41.	Retreat, Mass and Carol Service.	Risk of child being harmed during the event.	Supervision. Risk assessment. Clear instructions for all.
42.	Participation by pupils in religious ceremonies/ religious instruction external to the school.	Risk of child being harmed during external activities.	Supervision. Risk assessment. Vetting for external personnel. Written procedures agreed and signed by volunteers & external personnel.
43.	Administration of First Aid.	Risk of harm where members of school have not received appropriate training. Delaying proper medical attention. Other complications	List of trained personnel in First Aid & displayed in school for all. Lists of relevant numbers for emergency situations & displayed in school for all. Basic First Aid equipment in the infirmary and staff room. Upskilling in First Aid.
44.	Administration of medicine.	Incorrect dosage. Medication falling into wrong hands. Members of school have not received appropriate training.	Policy on administration of medicine. Clear records. Safe storage. Appropriate training.
45.	Managing challenging behaviour.	Risk of injury to child or staff.	Code of behaviour. Appropriate and specific (if needed) training for school personnel. Individual student support plans.
46.	Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst students.	Risk of emotional or physical harm.	Anti-bullying policy. Awareness initiatives. Supervision & Appropriate training
47.	Recruitment of school personnel including teachers/SNAs, caretakers/secretaries/cleaners and sport coaches.	Risk of hiring someone who is a risk to children.	Vetting. Reference checks by school management. Clear recruitment policy.
48.	Students attending boarding school/ living away from home.	Risk of harm in the boarding environment.	Supervision. Vetting for all staff. Clear policies and procedures. Training for staff.

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
49.	Training of school personnel in child protection matters.	Incidents go unreported, Breaches of confidentiality, Incorrect dealing with disclosures / reporting procedures, Put themselves at risk.	Up to date Staff training, Safeguarding statements / documentation

This Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment was reviewed by the board of management on **20th August 2026.**

Signed: *	<i>P. Mc Gowan</i>	Date:	<i>20/8/26</i>
-----------	--------------------	-------	----------------

Chairperson of the board of management

Signed: *	<i>Jennifer Kelly</i>	Date:	<i>20/8/26</i>
-----------	-----------------------	-------	----------------

Principal/Secretary to the board of management

This Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment is expected to be reviewed again on **5th February 2027.**

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.

Relevant documentation and links to other resources are available on the school website in the "Child Safeguarding" section, and updated every year.

A hard copy can also be found outside Mr. Rowan's office, where the child safeguarding statement is displayed.