

## Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment 2024 - 25

### Child Safeguarding Statement – Central Model Senior School 2024 -25

Central Model Senior school is a primary school providing primary education to pupils from 2<sup>nd</sup> Class 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 \(Revised 2023\)](#) and [Tusla Guidance on the preparation of Child Safeguarding Statements](#), the Board of Management of Central Model Senior School 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 Deirdre Gartland
- 3 The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is Gillian Gerrard
- 4 Store Street Garda Station: phone (01) 6668000
- 5 HSE Duty Social Worker: phone (01) 8566856
- 6 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.

7. 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 DE 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 DE 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.
- 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 schools 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 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 DE website or will be made available on request by the school.

8 This statement has been published on the school's website and has been provided to all members of school personnel 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.

9 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 3/12/2024

Signed: Paul Brady

Chairperson of Board of Management

Date: 03/12/24

Signed: Deirdre Gartland

Principal to the Board of Management

Date: 03/12/2024

## **Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment 2024 - 25**

### **Written Assessment of Risk of Central Model Senior School**

In accordance with section 11 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 Central Model Senior 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	Harm not recognised or reported promptly	Child Safeguarding Statement & DES procedures made available to all staff DLP& DDLP have completed both eLearning modules on Child Protection Procedures 2017. The child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools revised 2023 are made available to all school personnel. School Personnel are required to adhere to the Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary schools revised 2023 and all registered teaching staff are required to adhere to the Children First Act 2015.
One to one teaching	Low	Harm by school personnel	One to One Teaching Policy (2018) Open doors School staff are always present when visiting coaches are working with the children.
Care of Children with special needs, including intimate care needs	Low	Harm by school personnel	Intimate Care Policy (2020)
Toilet areas	Low	Inappropriate behaviour	Supervision Policy (review June 2025)
Curricular Provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay safe.	Med	Non-teaching of same	School implements SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe in full. A record of all modules taught is filed in the office.
LGBT Children/Pupils perceived to be LGBT	Low	Bullying	Anti-Bullying Policy 2019 (To be reviewed following implementation of Bì Cineálta 2024) Code of Behaviour 2018 (To be reviewed following implementation of Bì Cineálta 2024)

List of School Activities		The School has identified the following Risk of Harm	The School has the following Procedures in place to address risk identified in this assessment
Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils. The school is situated beside a lane way where antisocial activity has taken place.	Med	Risk of child being harmed before/after school.	Arrival and dismissal supervised by Teachers and SNAs Daily supervision rota for arrival and dispersal.
Managing of challenging behaviour amongst pupils	High	Injury to pupils and staff	Anti-Bullying Policy 2019 (To be reviewed following implementation of Bi Cineálta 2024) Code of Behaviour 2018 (To be reviewed following implementation of Bi Cineálta 2024) Health & Safety Policy 2018
Sports Coaches	Med	Harm to pupils	Visitor and External Personnel Policy 2018
Students participating in work experience, students completing teacher placement.	Low	Harm by student	Work Experience Policy 2020 Student Teacher Policy 2018
Recreation breaks for pupils	High	Risk of harm by child by other child, risk of harm due to bullying, risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children, risk of harm to children with SEN with particular vulnerabilities	Health and Safety Policy 2018 Code of Behaviour 2018 Anti-Bullying Policy 2019 (To be reviewed following implementation of Bi Cineálta 2024) Code of Behaviour 2018 (To be reviewed following implementation of Bi Cineálta 2024) Supervision Policy (review June 2025) SEN Policy 2024
Classroom teaching	Low	Risk of harm by child by other child, risk of harm due to bullying, risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children, risk of harm to children with SEN with particular vulnerabilities	Health and Safety Policy 2018 Code of Behaviour 2018 Anti-Bullying Policy 2019 (To be reviewed following implementation of Bi Cineálta 2024) Code of Behaviour 2018 (To be reviewed following implementation of Bi Cineálta 2024) SEN Policy 2024
Outdoor teaching activities	Med	Risk of harm by other children, risk of harm due to bullying, risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children, risk of harm to children with SEN with particular vulnerabilities	Health and Safety Policy 2018 Code of Behaviour 2018 Supervision Policy Anti Bullying Policy 2019 SEN Policy 2024

List of School Activities		The School has identified the following Risk of Harm	The School has the following Procedures in place to address risk identified in this assessment
Homework club/School Completion Programme/Summer Camp	Med	Risk of harm by other children, risk of harm due to bullying, risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children, risk of harm to children with SEN with particular vulnerabilities	Health and Safety Policy 2018 Code of Behaviour Supervision Policy Anti Bullying Policy 2019 SEN Policy 2024
Breakfast club	Low	Risk of harm by other children, harm from external personnel	Garda vetting of external personnel Class teacher present at all times.
School outings/ Outings during Summer Camp	High	Traffic accidents, children injuring themselves, children getting lost, inadequate supervision, bullying of a child by another child, contact with public, inappropriate interactions between a child and another child or adult	Adequate supervision Supervision Policy School Outing Policy 2018 Use of accredited venues, transport companies and personnel
Use of toilet/changing	Low	Inadequate supervision Slipping/Falling	Individual toilets School implements the Stay Safe Programme Supervision Policy Monitoring by all school personnel of toilets Intimate Care Policy 2020
Annual Sports Day	Med	Risk of harm by other children, risk of harm due to bullying, risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children, risk of harm to children with SEN with particular vulnerabilities, risk of injury due to variety of activities and apparatus, sunburn	Garda Vetting of all volunteers Thorough supervision and well-structured timetable Parents advised on appropriate dress and sun cream use Health and Safety Policy 2018
Fundraising events involving pupils	Low	Inadequate supervision	Limited to onsite events
Use of off-site facilities for school activities	Med	Traffic accidents, children injuring themselves, children getting lost, inadequate supervision, bullying of a child by another child, contact with public, inappropriate interactions between a child and another child or adult	Adequate supervision Supervision Policy School Outing Policy 2018 Use of accredited transport companies and personnel

<b>List of School Activities</b>		<b>The School has identified the following Risk of Harm</b>	<b>The School has the following Procedures in place to address risk identified in this assessment</b>
Management of challenging behaviour amongst pupils, including appropriate use of restraint where required	Low	Harm to child and school staff	Code of Behaviour First Aid Policy 2018 Administration of Medicine Policy 2018 Physical Intervention Policy 2018
Administration of Medicine Administration of First Aid	Low	Harm to child while a child is receiving care, misuse of medicine	Administration of Medicine Policy 2018 First Aid Policy 2018
Curricular provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe	Low	Lack of awareness amongst school personnel of their responsibilities	Curriculum updated regularly. Policies updated regularly. All school personnel are provided with relevant policies. Record of all RSE/Stay Safe lessons taught in office.
Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst pupils	High	Risk of harm due to bullying of children	Student surveys Code of Behaviour 2018 (To be reviewed following implementation of Bì Cineálta 2024) Implementation of the SPHE curriculum (Stay Safe, Walk Tall, etc.) Anti-Bullying Policy (To be reviewed following implementation of Bì Cineálta 2024) Bubble Time Appropriate use of ICT Mobile phone policy/social media Regular communication with parents Implementation of Restorative Practice
Training of school personnel in child protection matters	Low	Not all personnel trained/non attendance	All school personnel provided with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement, The Child Protection Procedures for Primary Schools (revised 2023) are provided to all school personnel. Online training for mandated personnel completed (OIDE)
Use of external personnel to supplement curriculum	Low	Harm from one child to another, harm from external personnel	Garda vetting of external personnel, adequate supervision of students by class teacher. Class teacher remains in class.

<b>List of School Activities</b>		<b>The School has identified the following Risk of Harm</b>	<b>The School has the following Procedures in place to address risk identified in this assessment</b>
Care of pupils with specific vulnerabilities/ needs such as <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pupils from ethnic minorities/migrants</li> <li>• Members of the Traveller/Roma community</li> <li>• Lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender (LGBT) children</li> <li>• Pupils perceived to be LGBT</li> <li>• Pupils of minority religious faiths</li> <li>• Children in care</li> <li>• Children on Child Protection Notification System</li> </ul>	Med	Risk of harm by other children or members of staff.	The School's Anti Bullying Policy 2019 fully adheres to the requirements of the department's Anti-Bullying Procedures for Primary Schools. Awareness training for staff of prejudice.
Use of school premises by other organisations during school day and after school	Med	Harm to children.	Organisations using our school are responsible for Garda vetting of their own personnel. All external personnel provided with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement, the Child Protection Procedures for Primary Schools (revised 2023) are made available to all personnel. All external personnel to adhere to the procedures.
<b>List of School Activities</b>		<b>The School has identified the following Risk of Harm</b>	<b>The School has the following Procedures in place to address risk identified in this assessment</b>
Use of Information and Communication Technology by pupils in school	High	Bullying, pupils accessing inappropriate content, circulating inappropriate material.	Internet - Acceptable Usage Policy 2018 Anti-Bullying Policy 2019 (to be reviewed) Code of Behaviour 2018 Mobile Phone Policy 2018 Supervision Policy
Use of video/photography/other media to record school events	Med	Inappropriate use of media	Internet - Acceptable Usage Policy 2018 Anti-Bullying Policy 2019 Code of Behaviour Mobile Phone Policy 2018 Supervision Policy



**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)*

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- 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

This risk assessment has been completed by the Board of Management in November 2024. It will be reviewed as part of the school’s annual review of its Child Safeguarding Statement.

Signed: Paul Brady  
Chairperson, Board of Management

Date: 3/12/2024

Signed: Deirdre Gartland  
Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Date: 3/12/2024



