An Roinn Oideachais agus Óige
Department of Education and Youth

Child Protection and Safeguarding Inspection

REPORT

Ainm na scoile/School name	Stratford College
Seoladh na scoile/School address	1 Zion Road Rathgar Dublin 6
Uimhir rolla/Roll number	61020A
Dáta na cigireachta/ Date of evaluation	14/05/2026
Dáta eisiúna na tuairisce/Date of issue of report	02/11/2026

What is a child protection and safeguarding inspection?

A Child Protection and Safeguarding Inspection (CPSI) is a focused inspection of the implementation of the *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools (revised 2023)* or the *Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025*. These procedures provide direction and guidance to school authorities and to school personnel in relation to meeting their statutory obligations under the Children First Act 2015. They also provide direction and guidance in relation to the continued implementation of the best practice, non-statutory guidance in Children First National Guidance 2017. The inspection examines the implementation of the procedures through undertaking six checks and administering surveys to parents and students.

The inspection process consists of a single-day inspection, with follow-up activity where full compliance was not achieved. The follow-up activity is carried out in a relatively short timeframe.

What happens during a Child Protection and Safeguarding Inspection?

During a CPSI, inspectors:

- Hold meetings with:
  - Designated Liaison Person (DLP) and deputy DLP
  - Chairperson of board of management
  - Sample of school personnel
- Review the following documents:
  - Board of management minutes
  - Child safeguarding statement and risk assessment
  - Annual review documents, notifications, and vetting
- Review child protection casefile records.

How to read this report

The first section of the report indicates the school's compliance with each of the checks conducted by indicating whether the school was:

- **Compliant**
- **Not yet compliant**
- **Not applicable**

Some of the checks may not be relevant to a particular school, for example, a school that has no child protection casefiles. In such instances, the report indicates that the school had no child protection casefiles, and the check does not apply.

It should be noted that the term 'school personnel' is used as a generic term to cover all adults who are involved in the operation of the school. It covers employees such as teachers, special needs assistants, caretakers, secretaries, cleaners, voluntary workers in the school, paid or voluntary tutors, and parent association members when they are working in the school.

Where a school is *not yet compliant* with a particular requirement, the report sets out the *actions required* for the school to achieve compliance.

A Guide to Child Protection and Safeguarding Inspections can be accessed at www.gov.ie. This guide sets out how CPSIs are conducted and provides the framework used by inspectors in arriving at judgements about a school's compliance with the aspects of the procedures that are checked during the inspection. The board of management was given an opportunity to comment in writing on the findings and recommendations of the report; a response was not received from the board.

Actions of the school in creating a school culture that prevents and addresses bullying behaviour

During the inspection visit, the following checks in relation to the school's anti-bullying procedures were conducted:
1. The school has developed an anti-bullying policy using Appendix A of Bí Cineálta, it is reviewed annually (or earlier if required) and includes a student/pupil friendly version that is displayed where students/pupils and the school community can see it. 2. The school's anti-bullying policy is published on its website and/or is readily accessible to board of management members, staff, parents and pupils/students. 3. The board of management minutes record that the principal provides an update to the board at each ordinary board meeting that meets the requirements of Bí Cineálta 4. The school has appropriate initiatives in place to promote a positive and inclusive school culture and environment. 5. All staff visited report that they have read the school's Bí Cineálta policy and that they are aware of their roles and responsibilities in preventing and addressing bullying behaviour.

The school met the requirements in relation to each of the anti-bullying checks above.

Child protection and safeguarding inspection report

The checks detailed below derive from the procedures which are designed to ensure that schools provide a safe and secure environment for all our children.

The table below confirms that on **11/09/2026** the school was compliant with all the checks conducted.

On the next page there is an outline of where the school was *not yet compliant* following the child protection and safeguarding inspection on **14/05/2026** and the actions which were required to achieve compliance.

The school was compliant with all the checks conducted

Checks	Compliant Not yet compliant Not applicable
1. The school had developed and reviewed its child safeguarding statement, which includes the risk assessment, in line with the procedures.	**Compliant**
2. The school had communicated the required aspects of the procedures to relevant stakeholders.	**Compliant**
3. School leaders, school personnel and members of the board of management undertook child protection training, as necessary, and were aware of their responsibilities.	**Compliant**
4. Correct reporting and record keeping practices were implemented in the case files examined.	**Compliant**
5. The board carried out its oversight role as set out in the procedures.	**Compliant**
6. The principal and chairperson of the board of management reported that they are aware of their responsibilities in relation to the vetting of all school personnel and they discharge these responsibilities.	**Compliant**

Findings from the surveys of students and parents

As part of this inspection, surveys were conducted to gather parents' and pupils' views about the school's culture and safeguarding measures. The following is a summary of the outcomes of the surveys.

In the parents' survey, all parents agreed that the school was welcoming, their child mattered in the school and were satisfied with the steps the school had taken to promote a positive school climate. Almost all parents agreed that they knew who to approach if they had a child protection or bullying concern, and they were satisfied with the steps the school had taken to prevent bullying. There was almost full agreement that the school had clear expectations about behaviour and that their child was safe and well looked after in the school. Almost all parents were confident that the school would respond promptly and effectively to any child protection or bullying concerns.

In response to the students' survey, most agreed that there was at least one adult they could talk to if they needed help or advice, and they understood the school's expectations not to hurt others by what they say or do. The majority of students agreed that staff help to stop bullying. Most students agreed that they felt safe in classrooms, arriving to and leaving school, and on the school corridors and yard. The majority felt safe in toilets. Half of the students surveyed agree that their opinions were listened to and valued, while the remaining students were either not sure or disagreed. This finding warrants further exploration with a view to, if necessary, enhancing how student voice is sought and responded to in the school.

Child protection and safeguarding inspection - interim advice note

The checks detailed below derive from the procedures which are designed to ensure that schools provide a safe and secure environment for all our children. The table provides an outline of where the school was *not yet compliant* following the child protection and safeguarding inspection on **14/05/2026** and the actions which are required to achieve compliance.

Responsibility for ensuring the school is *compliant* with these checks rests with the board of management. In cases where the school is *not yet compliant* with the checks, the Inspectorate will engage with the school until the school becomes *compliant.*

Checks	Compliant Not yet compliant Not applicable
1. The school had developed and reviewed its child safeguarding statement, which includes the risk assessment, in line with the procedures.	**Not yet compliant**
Actions required to achieve compliance: • The child safeguarding statement, including the risk assessment, should be in the format currently published by the Department.	
2. The school had communicated the required aspects of the procedures to relevant stakeholders.	**Compliant**
3. School leaders, school personnel and members of the board of management undertook child protection training, as necessary, and were aware of their responsibilities.	**Compliant**
4. Correct reporting and record keeping practices were implemented in the case files examined.	**Not yet compliant**
Actions required to achieve compliance: • All files should be assigned a case file number, and where cases require oversight by the board, all relevant parties referenced in the file should be assigned a unique code or serial number. • The school should ensure that a copy of the report submitted to Tusla was maintained in casefiles which were reported to Tusla. • In all cases where the advice of Tusla was sought, a record should be maintained which includes the date, the name of the Tusla official and the advice given. • All casefiles should contain original records which were not anonymised. Where applicable, a copy of the redacted records presented to the board should also be maintained on the file.	
5. The board carried out its oversight role as set out in the procedures.	**Not yet compliant**
Actions required to achieve compliance: • Where there are child protection cases which required oversight by the board, redacted copies of all the documents specified in the procedures in respect of each such case should be provided to the board. • The board should ensure that the minutes of board meetings refer to case file numbers where oversight of the case files was required.	

6. The principal and chairperson of the board of management reported that they are aware of their responsibilities in relation to the vetting of all school personnel and they discharge these responsibilities.	**Compliant**