**Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment**

**Child Safeguarding Statement**

St Mary’s NS is a primary school providing primary education to pupils from Junior Infants to Sixth Class.

In accordance with the requirements of the [Children First Act 2015](http://www.irishstatutebook.ie/eli/2015/act/36/enacted/en/pdf), [Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children 2017](https://assets.gov.ie/25844/b90aafa55804462f84d05f87f0ca2bf6.pdf), [the Addendum to Children First (2019)](https://assets.gov.ie/25819/c9744b64dfd6447985eeffa5c0d71bbb.pdf), the [Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools 2017](https://www.gov.ie/pdf/?file=https://assets.gov.ie/45063/2d4b5b3d781e4ec1ab4f3e5d198717d9.pdf#page=1) and [Tusla Guidance on the preparation of Child Safeguarding Statements](https://www.tusla.ie/uploads/content/4214-TUSLA_Guidance_on_Developing_a_CSS_LR.PDF), the Board of Management of St Mary’s NS 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 Jane Kirwan
3. The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is Aedín Flynn
4. 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.

1. 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 2017 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](https://revisedacts.lawreform.ie/eli/2012/act/47/revised/en/pdf) 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 2017, 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 abovenamed 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.

**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.

1. 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.
2. 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 reviewed by the Board of Management on 21st Sept 2022.

Signed: Margaret Dobinson Signed: Jane Kirwan

Chairperson of Board of Management Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

**Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment**

**St Mary’s National 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 2017*, the following is the Written Risk Assessment of [name of school].

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| 1. **List of school activities** | 1. **The school has identified the following risk of harm in respect of its activities –** | 1. **The school has the following procedures in place to address the risks of harm identified in this assessment -** |
| 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 attended PDST face to face training  All Staff to view Túsla training module & any other online training offered by PDST  BOM to view Tusla training module  BOM records all records of staff and board training |
| One to one teaching | Harm by school personnel | Doors have glass windows  Table between pupil and teacher where possible |
| Care of Children with special needs, including intimate care needs | Harm by school personnel | Policy on Intimate Care |
| Toilet areas | Inappropriate behaviour | Code of Behaviour  Classroom door to toilets to remain open if more than 1 person using the toilets |
| Care of children with special needs | Inappropriate behaviour by other pupils | Children never left unsupervised  Adults working with SEN children aware of possibility of inappropriate behaviour by a pupil |
| Curricular Provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay safe. | Non-teaching of same | School implements SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe in full.  Recorded in Cuntas Miosúil |
| Use of video/photography/other media to record school events | Exposure of child on social media without parental consent | Permission has been received from parents  Request for parents not to upload photos of other children to social media  Acceptable Use Policy |
| Student teachers undertaking training placement in school | Harm not recognised or reported promptly  Harm by teacher | Students never to be left alone with children  Vetting Procedures |
| Students participating in work experience in the school | Harm not recognised or reported promptly  Harm by student | Students never to be left alone with children  Vetting Procedures |
| Use of ICT by pupils in school | Exposure to inappropriate material  Bullying | Anti-bullying Policy  Code of Behaviour  Acceptable Use Policy  Screens visible by adults  Webwise/ SPHE Policy  Information Evening for Parents – Local Garda station to inform school when this is taking place.  Limited access to teacher’s laptop  Internet blockages in place for pupils on chromebooks |
| Care of pupils with specific vulnerabilities/ needs such as  •Pupils from ethnic minorities/migrants  •Members of the Traveller community  •Pupils of minority religious faiths | Bullying | Anti-bullying Policy  Code of Behaviour  SPHE Policy – Stay Safe  Celebrating Diversity – Whole School Cultural Day – to link in with Friendship Week in Feb 2022 |
| Bullying amongst students | Bullying | Anti-bullying Policy  Code of Behaviour  SPHE Policy – Stay Safe  Friendship Week – Feb 2022  Amber Flag 2018 |
| Administration of First Aid | Harm by school personnel | Children treated in hallway/ visible to others  Accident Book  First Aid Training every 3 years  First Aid Policy |
| Administration of Medicine | Harm by school personnel | First Aid Policy  Administration of inhalers by pupils themselves |
| Recruitment of school personnel including -  Teachers  SNAs  Caretaker  Secretary  Cleaners | Harm not recognised properly or promptly reported | Child Safeguarding Statement & DES procedures made available to all staff  Staff to view Tusla training module & any other online training offered by PDST etc  Vetting Procedures in place |
| External Sports coaches  External Guest Speakers  Volunteers/Parents in school activities  Visitors/contractors present in school during school hours  Visitors/contractors present during after school activities | Harm not recognised properly or promptly reported | Visiting coaches/ speakers etc never left on their own with the children  Vetting Procedures |
| Management of challenging behaviour amongst pupils, including appropriate use of restraint where required | Harm by student  Harm by school personnel | Code of Behaviour  Restrictive Practice Policy  Manual Handling Training – MAPA – for staff in the ASD classes |
| Daily arrival of pupils | Harm by student  Harm by stranger on school property | Supervision from 8:50 – 9am every day by staff member  Adults not allowed on school yard |
| Daily dismissal of pupils | Harm by student  Neglect | Class teacher waits until all pupils picked up. Parents called if more than 10 minutes late.  Parents give consent in advance if children are allowed walk home alone. |
| Break/ lunch time for pupils | Harm by student | DFL  Adequate supervision (5 adults)  Incident Report Book |
| Pupils using bathrooms during break/lunch time | Harm by student  Inappropriate behaviour | Pupils not allowed to use bathroom during breaks unless in Room 1/3.  Brought by trusted older school member.  1 adult on yard in charge of toilet to monitor who goes in |
| School Tours | Harm by student  Harm by stranger | DFL  Extra staff go on tours  Children never out of staff member’s sight |
| Sports Day | Harm by student  Harm by stranger  Harm by parent | DFL  Adequate supervision by school staff  Adults not permitted to use toilets inside school  Parents not allowed administer First Aid on children unless it’s their own child |
| Fundraising events involving pupils | Harm by student  Harm by stranger | All PA members are vetted  Adequate supervision |
| Use of off-site facilities for school activities | Harm by student  Harm by school personnel | Always 2+ adults  Children never left unattended  DFL  Stay Safe (SPHE)  Vetting Procedures where applicable |
| School transport arrangements | Harm by driver  Harm by student | DFL  Adequate staff supervision, 2+ |
| Bus escorts/ driver | Harm by escort | Garda Vetted  Never alone with child – driver and escort always present |
| Sensory Room | Harm by school personnel | Observation window  2:1 ratio children:adult |
| Swimming | Inappropriate behaviour  Harm by student | Code of Behaviour  School staff always present in changing rooms  Stay Safe lessons taught  Parental consent giving permission to go swimming |

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| **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 2017* |

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.