

Mandatory Template 1: Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment **2022-2023**

Child Safeguarding Statement

St. Mary's National School is a primary/special/post-primary school providing primary/post-primary education to pupils from Junior Infants 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 2017](#) and [Tusla Guidance on the preparation of Child Safeguarding Statements](#), the Board of Management of St. Mary's National 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 Valerie Daly
- 3 The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is Ashton O'Rourke
- 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.

- 5 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 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.

- 6 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.
- 7 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 _____ [date].

This Child Safeguarding Statement was reviewed by the Board of Management on ___[most recent review date].

Signed: _____

Chairperson of Board of Management

Date: _____

Signed: _____

Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Date: _____

Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment

Written Assessment of Risk of St. Mary's 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 2017*, the following is the Written Risk Assessment of St. Mary's National School

1. List of school activities

1. Not recognising signs of harm
2. Failure to report harm.
3. Entering and leaving playground.
4. 5th and 6th class pupils escorting children to and from the playground to toilets or to assist if injured
5. Injury during break times.
6. Any activities involving staff/volunteers/coaches/work experience students/ Homework Club Assistant etc.
7. Inappropriate behaviour during toilet breaks.
8. Unannounced visitors entering the school grounds.
9. Child leaving the school playground unaccompanied.
10. External contractors working in the school grounds.
11. Inappropriate use of ICT.
12. Challenging behaviour.
13. Inappropriate use of digital media to record school events.
14. Movement between the mainstream classroom and SET classroom

2. The school has identified the following risk of harm in respect of its activities -

1. Risk of Harm to pupils/children Adults in school not recognising signs of abuse
2. Risk of Harm to pupils/children due to non reporting of signs of abuse
3. Risk of injury /harm to children while moving to and from the yard due to non adherence to policies.
4. Risk of harm/injury to child helping another child (5th /6th class pupil accompanying infants to toilets or injured/sick child to the office)
5. Risk of harm to pupils/children during play time.
6. Risk to adults (Staff/volunteers/coaches/work experience students/Homework Club Assistant etc) of allegation of inappropriate behaviour by pupil when helping an injured child or carrying out intimate care for SEN pupils.
7. Risk of harm or injury to child due to inappropriate behaviour during toilet breaks: outside classroom and within classroom.
8. Risk of harm to pupils or staff due to unannounced visitors getting access to school.
9. Risk of harm or injury to child due to child being dismissed from school yard.
10. Risk of harm or injury to children due to external contractors working on school premises.
11. Risk of harm to child due to gaining access to inappropriate material while using school ICT or internet while unsupervised.
12. Risk of harm to child/staff/public due to challenging behaviour of a child, staff member or the public
13. Risk of harm to children due to inappropriate use of digital media to record school events.
14. Risk of harm to children while going from classroom to SET classroom.

3. The school has the following procedures in place to address the risks of harm identified in this assessment -

1. Child Safeguarding Statement & DES procedures in place. DLP and DDLP have attended face to face training provided by PDST. DLP and DDLP have completed online training provided by PDST. Staff have completed Tusla online training on the Children First Guidelines. BoM maintains all records of staff and board training.
Whole staff, in school, Child Protection Training 24/04/2018.
DLP and DDLP CPSMA training 14/03/2018. DDLP training 26/09/2018
DLP Child Protection Safeguarding Inspections seminar 24/01/2019
2. Policies and procedures the same as point 1.
3. A Teacher is on supervision duty in the yard at all times when children are in it. Supervision Policy Health and Safety Policy. Code of Behaviour. Supervision Policy reviewed, updated and ratified 04/12/2018.
4. One buddy escorts two children at a given time. Pupils must ask permission to leave the yard and must report back to the teacher when he/she returns to the yard. Boys accompany boys and girls accompany girls. Supervision Policy. Accident/Injury Policy.
5. The play areas are divided into two sections for each classroom. One section is for football/ basketball, the other section is for non-ball games. Only one ball allowed per classroom. Code of Behaviour and Supervision Policy.
6. Adult never attends to a child alone. Child removes own clothing on injured area in the company of another child. Open-door policy. Accident/Injury Policy. Supervision policy. Teacher present at all times during coaching sessions. Garda Vetting in place for all staff & volunteers.
Development of Intimate Care Policy by 31st May 2023.
7. Child must ask permission to use toilet. One child only may use toilet at a time. Infants must be accompanied by a pupil from the “Buddy System” during break times only. Supervision Policy. Requirement for toilets in all class rooms when funds are available.
8. Child safeguarding statement and DES procedures in place. Supervision Policy. Controlled access system put in place, funded by the Parents Association. Additional secretarial hours in place to manage access during school hours.
9. Supervision Policy. Teachers escort their class to and from the playground. Controlled access system put in place, funded by the Parents Association. Additional secretarial hours in place to manage access during school hours.
10. Child Safeguarding Statement & DES procedures in place. If urgent repairs required during the school day supervision will be carried out by Principal or Classroom teacher or Caretaker.
Supervision Policy
11. Supervision Policy, Acceptable Use Policy, Child Safeguarding Statement, Anti-Bullying Policy, Code of Behaviour, SPHE Policy.
12. Child Safeguarding Statement & DES procedures. Anti-Bullying policy. Code of Behaviour. Supervision Policy. Dignity at Work Policy. Complaints Procedure. Health & Safety Policy. Review Policy for Physical Intervention by June 2023. Consider Specific Training in Managing Challenging Behaviour for staff by December 2024.
13. Child Safeguarding Statement & DES procedures. Anti-Bullying policy. Code of Behaviour in Place. Internet Acceptable Use Policy. Parental consent required for inclusion in use of images online or in the media. Mobile Phone Policy. Data Protection Policy. Written Third Party Service Agreement. School Website Privacy Statement
14. 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 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.