

Child Safeguarding Statement -

St. Mary's College Junior School

St. Mary's College is an Independent Junior school providing primary education to pupils from Second to Sixth Class. We share a campus with our Secondary 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 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 College Junior School has agreed the Child Safeguarding Statement 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 Primary and Post Primary Schools 2017 as part of this overall Child Safeguarding Statement

The Designated Liaison Person (DLP) is Mrs. Mary O'Donnell

The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is Ms. Fiona Murray

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 these policies, 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 pupil with a special vulnerability.

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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 set out in employment contracts.

- 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 DES and available on the DES 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; and
 - 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 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 child safeguarding statement.

- All teachers employed by the school are mandated persons under the Children First Act 2015.

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- All teachers and secretary have completed the “Introduction to Children First” Elearning Programme.
 - In accordance with the Children First Act 2015, 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 attached as an appendix to these procedures.
 - The various procedures referred to in this Statement can be accessed via the school’s website, or will be made available on request by the school.
- 2 This statement has been published on the school’s website and has been provided to all members of school personnel, the Parents’ Association and the patron. It is readily accessible to parents and guardians on request. A copy of this Statement will be made available to Tusla , if requested.
- 3 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

February 22nd 2018

and will be reviewed on

March 2019

Signed: _____

Chairperson of Board of Management

Signed: _____

Principal

Date: _____

Date: _____

Date of next review: March 2019

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Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment (of any potential harm)

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 Garda Vetting not in place	Child Safeguarding Statement & DES procedures made available to all staff DLP& DDLP to attend PDST face to face training All Staff to view Tusla training module & any other online training offered by PDST BOM records all records of staff and board training
One to one teaching	Med	Harm by school personnel	School has policy in place for one to one teaching e.g. Open doors Table between teacher and pupil Glass in window
Care of children with special needs, including intimate care needs	High	N/A at the moment	Policy on intimate care. Training needs to be initiated if required.
Toilet areas	High	Inappropriate behaviour School personnel working alone	supervision policy
Curricular Provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay safe.	Med	Non-teaching of same	School implements SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe in full
Managing of challenging behaviour amongst pupils, including appropriate use of restraint	High	Injury to pupils and staff Lack of training in restraint	Health & Safety Policy Code Of Behaviour Anti bullying policy Restraint training put in place.
Library visits in Senior School	Med	Behaviour on stairs and corridor risk of physical injury	Collaboration with Senior School policy Supervision policy in place Teachers with boys at all times.

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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
Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils	Med	Harm from other pupils, unknown adults on the playground Traffic on avenue Inappropriate behaviour	Arrival and dismissal Policy & Procedures Teachers do not leave before pupils Supervision Policy Teachers/SNAs Traffic Management Procedures in place Health & Safety Policy
Recreation breaks for pupils	High	Injury to pupils/Bullying Teachers not in yard on time Harm not recognised or properly or promptly reported	Policy & Procedures in place Health & Safety Policy Code Of Behaviour/ Anti-bullying policy Supervision policy
Classroom teaching	Med	Bullying by teachers/ pupils	Anti bullying policy
Outdoor teaching activities	Med	Lack of proper supervision Teacher leaving post	Code of behaviour and supervision policy Garda vetting Space and materials used deemed safe for class
Sporting Activities	High	Lack of proper supervision Visiting personnel from other schools Not vetted	Code of behaviour and supervision policy Garda Vetting required
Choir / Annual Musical	Low	Lack of appropriate personnel	Above policies
Orchestra	Low	Lack of appropriate personnel	Above Policies
Sports Coaches	Med	Harm to pupils Unsupervised one to one	Policy & Procedures in place Garda Vetting
Students participating in work experience	Low	Harm by student to pupils	Work experience Policy required Child Safeguarding Statement.

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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
Educational Trips/Matches	High	Lack of vetting and experience bullying	Garda Vetting and appropriate training in place Code of behaviour and anti-bullying policy in place
Use of toilet	High	Inappropriate Behaviour unsupervised	Usage and supervision policy Code of behaviour
Changing for sport activities	High	Inappropriate behaviour Rough play/ bullying	Supervision by no less than 2 personnel
Annual Sports Day	High	Lack of proper supervision in private areas i.e. changing areas/ toilets	School staff vetted only will supervise
Use of off-site facilities for school activities	High	Lack of school personnel leading to harm not recognised or reported promptly	Educational Trips Policy within Code of Behaviour policy
School transport arrangements	Med	Harm to pupils Harm not recognised properly or promptly reported	Teachers and vetted parents only will travel
Volunteers/Parents	Med	Harm to pupils Lack of Garda vetting	Vetting Procedures Policy for Parents/Volunteers
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
Management of challenging behaviour amongst pupils, including appropriate use of restraint where required	High	Harm when restraining	Training on restraint procedures

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Administration of First Aid	High	Lack of knowledge/skill	Regular first-aid training and updates
Administration of Medicine	High	Lack of training leading to wrongful administration of medicines	Training/policy in place for extreme cases where urgent administration is required
Curricular provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe	Med	Staff Answering questions inappropriately	In-Service in differing age groups
Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst pupils	high	Classroom yard gym	Anti-bullying policy in-service training in recognising signs when a child is suffering Frequent lessons/assemblies and guest speakers For pupils
Training of school personnel in child protection matters	Low	Children not involved	Yearly in-service in child Protection procedures
Use of external personnel to supplement curriculum	Med	Lack of experience	Garda vetting policy in place Training Proof required
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
Care of pupils with specific vulnerabilities/needs such as <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pupils from ethnic minorities/migrants • Members of the Traveller community • Lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender 		Bullying Non-acceptance within the peer group Lack of understanding Isolation	Training in what may be deemed to be sensitive areas as required Code of behaviour policy Anti- bullying policy School Motto "We are all different but equal" frequently referred to

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(LGBT) children			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pupils perceived to be LGBT • Pupils of minority religious faiths • Children in care • Children on CPNS 			
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
Use of Information and Communication Technology by pupils in school	High	Bullying Staff not following policies & procedures	ICT policy Anti-Bullying Policy Code of Behaviour
Application of sanctions under the school's Code of Behaviour including detention of pupils, confiscation of phones etc.	Low	Lack of supervision	Supervised at all times Detention policy in place
Student teachers undertaking training placement in school	Low	Lack of supervision and training	Supervise at all time
Use of video/photography/other media to record school events	Med	Lack of parental permission Posted online without knowledge or permission.	Policy on Social media Policy on written parental permission

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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.

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

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Signed _____
Chairperson, Board of Management

Date _____

Signed _____
Principal/Secretary Board of Management

Date _____