



St. Mary's National School

Child Safeguarding Statement

DLP: Mr. Thomas Gallagher

DDL: Ms. Lorna Mc Auley



Child Safeguarding Statement

St. Mary's National School 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](#), [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 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 (revised 2023)* as part of this overall Child Safeguarding Statement
- 2 **The Designated Liaison Person (DLP) is Thomas Gallagher.**
- 3 **The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is**
- 4 **The Relevant Person is Thomas Gallagher.**
- 5 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.

6 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 gov.ie 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 gov.ie 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.
- 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 gov.ie 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.

- 7 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.
- 8 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 _____(date).

Signed:

Chairperson of Board of Management

Signed:

Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Date:



Written Assessment of St. Mary's National School - 19981U

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

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's 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*.

Risk Identified

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
Recruitment and training of school personnel in Child Protection matters <ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ Teachers □ Special Needs Assistants □ Caretaker\Secretary\Cleaners 	High	Harm not recognised or reported promptly	Child Safeguarding Statement & DES procedures made available to all staff. All school personnel are required to adhere to the Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2023. DLP& DDLP have attended PDST face to face training All Staff have completed eLearning Module on Child Protection Procedures 2017 BOM records all records of staff and board training. BOM follows procedures in relation to oversight of referrals.
Classroom Teaching	Low	Risk of harm by school personnel	Teacher is present with students at all times or has organised supervision otherwise. The class teacher is always present with trainee teachers. Best practice is encouraged at all times. School Policy on Anti- bullying School Code of Behaviour. Teaching Council Code of Conduct for teachers.
One to one teaching	High	Harm by school personnel	School has policy in place for one to one teaching School SET Policy Open doors Table between teacher and pupil

Care of children with special needs, including intimate care needs	High	Harm by school personnel	Policy on intimate care
Toilet areas	High	Inappropriate behaviour	Usage and supervision policy Infants brought as a group until toilet etiquette is learned. One student at a time leaves classroom to use toilet during the day. Toilet pass system for yard time
Curricular Provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay safe.	Low	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	Health & Safety Policy Code Of Behaviour
Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils	Med	Harm from other pupils, unknown adults on the playground	Arrival and dismissal procedures outlined in Attendance Policy Supervision Policy , Communication Policy Health & Safety Policy
Recreation breaks for pupils	High	Injury to pupils/Bullying Harm not recognised or properly or promptly reported	Yard/playground Supervision Policy & Procedures in place Health & Safety Policy Code Of Behaviour Anti-Bullying Policy
Outdoor teaching activities	Low	Injury to pupils Harm not recognised or promptly reported	Adequate supervision of 15:1 if leaving the school grounds (Nature walks etc) Guidelines for Substitute Teachers
Sporting Activities	Low	Harm to pupils	As for classroom teaching. <u>Use of Disabled access toilet only by students when coming in from activities. Students come in pairs and wait in foyer</u>
After school clubs\School Completion Activities, e.g. Easter Camps\any Summer Programmes such as DEIS Literacy and Numeracy Camps	Low	Harm to pupils	Appropriate recruitment and selection procedures for all staff members. Numbers in activities are limited. Extra teacher on site if needed.

			Two adults with groups if on a trip or at away matches.
Annual Open Days, e.g. Sports Day	Med	Harm to pupils\harm due to inadequate supervision	Child Safeguarding Statement Code of Conduct for Parents\Visitors Communication Policy <u>Use of Disabled access toilet only by students when coming in from activities. Students come in pairs and wait in foyer.</u>
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
Play Therapy \One to one Counselling	Med	Harm to pupils	Procedures and Protocols in place
Room 4/Sensory Room /Activity Room	Med	Harm to pupils	Teacher is present with students at all times or has organised supervision otherwise. Best practice is encouraged at all times. Pupil/teacher/SNA ratio is followed at all time SET Policy School Policy on Intimate Care School Code of Behaviour. Teaching Council Code of Conduct for teachers.
Sports Coaches	Low	Harm to pupils	Child Safeguarding Statement & DES procedures made available to all staff Vetting Requirements External personnel only deliver programmes in presence of class teacher
Students participating in work experience in the school	Low	Harm to pupils	Vetting requirements Child Safeguarding Statement & DES procedures made available to all Work Experience Policy TY student shadows teacher\SNA at all time

Student teachers undertaking training placement in school	Low	Harm to pupils	Vetting Requirements Child Safeguarding Statement & DES procedures made available to all student teachers Teaching Placement is completed under the supervision of class teacher
Educational Trips/Matches	Med	Harm to pupils\ inadequate supervision\	School Tour Policy in place
Use of toilet	High	Inappropriate Behaviour	Usage and supervision policy
Changing for sport activities	High	Inappropriate Behaviour	Usage and supervision policy Teacher present on corridor
Cycle Training	Low	Harm to pupils	Child Safeguarding Statement & DES procedures made available to all staff Policy & Procedures in place External personnel only deliver programmes in presence of class teacher\HSCL
Use of off-site facilities for school activities	Med	Harm to pupils	Educational Tours Policy Adequate pupil teacher ratio Code of Behaviour and Conduct
Parents participating in HSCL activities	Med	Harm to pupils	Policy for Parents participating in HSCL activities Code of Conduct for Parents\Visitors
Management of challenging behaviour amongst pupils, including appropriate use of restraint where required	Med	Harm to pupils	Code of Behaviour and Conduct
Administration of First Aid	Low	Harm to pupils	First Aid Policy- Teachers on Supervision Duty administer basic First Aid at benches. More serious aid administered in the office with the class teacher.

Administration of Medicine	Low	Harm to pupils	Administration of Medicine Policy
Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst pupils	Med	Harm to pupils-bullying	School implements Stay Safe, SPHE\RSE policies in full Anti-bullying Policy Code of Behaviour Small group work in Social and Emotional Learning Implementation of 'Fun Friends' and 'Friends for Life' Programmes twice in the school cycle
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 (LGBT) children • Pupils perceived to be LGBT • Pupils of minority religious faiths • Children in care • Children on CPNS 	Med	Harm to pupil -Bullying	Special Education Policy Intercultural Policy School implements Stay Safe, SPHE\RSE policies in full Small group work in Social and Emotional Learning Implementation of 'Fun Friends' and 'Friends for Life' Programmes twice in the school cycle Code of Behaviour and Conduct for Pupils Anti-Bullying Policy
Use of video/photography/other media to record school events	Med	Harm to pupils	Acceptable Use Policy Code of Conduct for Parents, Visitors
Use of Information and Communication Technology by pupils in school	High	Bullying Staff not following policies & procedures Inadequate supervision Risk of inappropriately accessing\using computers or other devices while at school.	ICT policy Anti-Bullying Policy Code of Behaviour Mobile phone policy Critical Incident Management Plan AUP All of the above

Online safety of students when working remotely.		All the above while the student is at home. Risk of excessive exposure to inappropriate online material, due to lack of school structure.	Regular communication between teacher and adult supervisor at home. Online school rules
Application of sanctions under the school's Code of Behaviour including detention of pupils, confiscation of phones etc.	Low	Harm due to code not being followed	Regular review of school's Code of Behaviour and Conduct for all Pupils\ Anti-Bullying Policy (Staff meetings) AUP

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 reviewed by the Board of Management in _____2023. It will continue to be reviewed as part of the school's annual review of its Child Safeguarding Statement.

Signed:

Chairperson of Board of Management

Signed:

Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Date:

