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Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment of St. Mary's National School

Child Safeguarding Statement (2025-26)

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 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 (revised 2023)* as part of this overall Child Safeguarding Statement
- 2 The Designated Liaison Person (DLP) is **Amy Moran**
- 3 The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is **Marita Keenan**
- 4 The Relevant Person is **Amy Moran**

(The relevant person is one who can provide information in respect of how the child safeguarding statement was developed and will be able to provide the statement on request. In a school setting the relevant person shall be the designated liaison person.)

- 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 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.

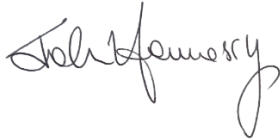
Note: The above is not intended as an exhaustive list. Individual Boards of Management shall also include in this section such other procedures/measures that are of relevance to the school in question.

- 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 and the Department if requested.

- 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 and reviewed by the Board of Management on 22 September 2025.



Signed _____

Chairperson of Board of Management

Date: 22/09/2025



Signed : _____

Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Date: 22/09/2025

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 requirement of Chapter 8 of the *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and PostPrimary Schools (revised 2023)*, the following is the Written Risk Assessment of St. Mary's National School.

1. List of school activities	2. The school has identified the following risk of harm in respect of its activities –	3. 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 to attend appropriate training • All staff completed Tusla training module & any other online training/face to face training offered • BOM records all certificates of staff and Board training
One to one teaching	Harm by school personnel	• Parents will be advised of child's involvement in this practice. • Glass panel in door. Where there is not a glass panel the door will be left ajar.
Care of children with special needs, including intimate care needs	Harm by school personnel	• Intimate Care Policy approved by BOM • Assault Policy • Crisis Prevention training completed by relevant staff members • Where possible another adult will be present and/or notified during intimate care needs • Classroom door and bathroom door will be left open at all times
Toilet areas	Inappropriate behaviour	• Supervision Policy • Children to access the toilet one child at a time
Lift to access upper floor in school building	Harm by school personnel	• Parents will be advised of this practice • A child will not travel on his/her own in a lift with only one adult. A third person will always be present in the lift – whether a child or an adult.

Curricular Provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay safe	Non-teaching of same	• Social, Personal and Health Education (SPHE), Relationships and Sexual Education (RSE) and Stay Safe Programmes are implemented in St. Mary's in accordance with DES guidelines
Pupils identifying as/perceived by others to be LGBTQ	Bullying	• Anti-Bullying Policy • Code of Behaviour • Bí Cineálta Policy • SPHE lessons • Teacher's awareness and observation
Daily dismissal of pupils	Harm from other pupils, unknown adults on the playground	• Dismissal of pupils supervised by teachers • Supervision Policy • Stay Safe Programme
Managing of challenging behaviour amongst pupils, including appropriate use of restraint	Injury to pupils	• Staff to be provided with appropriate handling training, if considered necessary. • Assault Policy • Crisis Prevention training completed by relevant staff members (restraint) • All incidents of use of restraint recording and reported appropriately • Code of Behaviour Policy
Sports Coaches	Harm to pupils	• All coaches are Garda vetted • Supervision Policy (teachers remain with class during coaching session).
Students participating in work experience	Harm by student	• Child Safeguarding Statement • TY work: confirmation sought from schools that TY students have been vetted where applicable
Recreation breaks for pupils	Harm to pupils	• Supervision Policy • Child Safeguarding Statement • Bí Cineálta Policy • Code of Behaviour
Classroom teaching	Harm to pupils	• Supervision Policy • Child Safeguarding Statement • Code of Behaviour • Bí Cineálta Policy
Outdoor teaching activities within school grounds (e.g. nature walk, Maths trail, Art activity)	Harm to pupils, harm from other pupils	• Supervision Policy • Code of Behaviour • Bí Cineálta Policy

		• Child Safeguarding Statement.
Extracurricular sporting activities (outside of school hours)	Harm to pupils, harm from other pupils, harm from unknown people	• Supervision Policy • Code of Behaviour • Bí Cineálta Policy • Child Safeguarding Statement.
Sporting Activities (during school hours)	Harm to pupils, harm from other pupils, harm from unknown people	• Supervision Policy • Code of Behaviour • Bí Cineálta Policy • Child Safeguarding Statement.
School outings	Harm to pupils, harm from other pupils, harm from unknown people/ tour facilitators	• Confirmation that the body/ persons are compliant with current child protection procedures • Supervision Policy • Code of Behaviour • Bí Cineálta Policy • Child Safeguarding Statement
School trips involving overnight stay	Harm to pupils, harm from other pupils, harm from unknown people/bus driver/ tour facilitators	• Confirmation that the agency is compliant with current child protection procedures • Code of Behaviour • Bí Cineálta Policy • Supervision Policy • Child Safeguarding Statement
Use of changing areas in schools	Harm to pupils, harm from other pupils	• Children will change in allocated room/bathroom.
Annual Sports Day	Harm to pupils, harm from other pupils, harm from unknown people	• Supervision Policy • Viewing area provided for parents/guardians • Code of Behaviour • Bí Cineálta Policy • Child Safeguarding Statement
Fundraising events involving pupils for charities (e.g. Student Council initiatives)	Harm to pupils, harm from other pupils, harm from unknown people	• Supervision Policy • Code of Behaviour • Bí Cineálta Policy • Child Safeguarding Statement
Use of off-site facilities for school activities (e.g. swimming pool, Herbert Park, Muckross Sports hall, Dartry Park, UCD, Pearse Park, Ringsend, Wayside, National Basketball Arena, Croke Park, Library, Sacred Heart Church Donnybrook etc.)	Harm to pupils, harm from other pupils, harm from unknown people	• Supervision Policy • Code of Behaviour • Bí Cineálta Policy • Child Safeguarding Statement

		• Confirmation from venues re Child Protection Policies where applicable
School transport arrangements (e.g. bus driver, parents, teachers)	Harm to pupils, harm from other pupils, harm from unknown people	• Supervision Policy • Code of Behaviour • Bí Cineálta Policy • Child Safeguarding Statement • Confirmation that Bus drivers are vetted • A child will not travel on his/her own in a car with only one teacher, parent or known adult. A third person will always be present in the car – whether a child or adult.
Administration of Medicine Administration of First Aid	Harm to pupils	• Administration of Medicine Policy • First Aid Policy • Supervision Policy • Where possible another adult will be present • Classroom door and bathroom door will be left open at all times during the administration of the medicines
Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst pupils, including cyberbullying	Harm to pupils, harm from other pupils	• Bí Cineálta Policy • Code of Behaviour Policy • Supervision Policy • Acceptable Use Policy
Peer tutoring	Harm from other pupils	• Supervision Policy • Code of Behaviour • Bí Cineálta Policy • Child Safeguarding Statement
Care of pupils with specific vulnerabilities needs such as; • 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 (Child Protection Notification System)	Harm to pupils, harm from other pupils, harm from other adults (known/unknown)	• Supervision Policy • Code of Behaviour • Bí Cineálta Policy • Child Safeguarding Statement

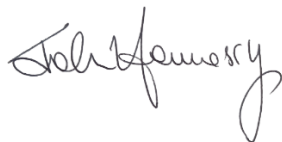
Recruitment of school personnel including • Teachers • SNAs • Teaching personnel contracted by the school • Caretaker/Secretary/Cleaners • Sports coaches • External Tutors/Guest Speakers • Volunteers in school activities • Visitors/contractors present in school during school hours • Visitors/contractors present during after school activities	Harm not recognised or properly or promptly reported	• Child Safeguarding Statement & DES procedures made available to relevant staff • Staff completed Tusla training modules and second online training offered by Oide to relevant staff • New staff to confirm completion of Tusla training modules and second online training offered by Oide • Confirmation of Vetting
Use of Information and Communication Technology in school or during school related activities	Bullying	• Bí Cineálta Policy • Acceptable Usage Policy • Code of Behaviour • Photographs of children taken by teachers will be deleted once uploaded to school software • Teachers to intervene if a person/persons not connected with the school community is/are observed photographing/ recording pupils.
Student teachers undertaking teacher- placement in school	Harm to pupils	• Supervision Policy • Code of Behaviour • Bí Cineálta Policy • Child Safeguarding Statement • Confirmation from teacher training colleges that students have been vetted prior to undertaking School Placement
After school use of school premises by other organisations (e.g. ballet, chess, piano etc.)	Harm to pupils	• Vetting requirements of the National Vetting Bureau in place • Other organisation to have Child Safeguarding Statement and staff to provide proof of vetting • After school organisations signing Rental Agreement
SEN School Transport	Harm of pupils by Bus Escort Harm to Bus Escort by pupils	• Vetting requirements of the National Vetting Bureau in place for any bus escorts • Supervision Policy

		• Completion of Bus Escort training, where appropriate • Record keeping
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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 (revised 2023)*

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 19 September 2025. It will be reviewed as part of the school’s annual review of its Child Safeguarding Statement at the beginning of each academic year.



Signed _____

Chairperson of Board of Management

Date: 22/09/2025



Signed : _____

Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Date: 22/09/2025