



St. Mary's National School



Parnell Avenue, Enniscorthy, County Wexford, Y21 FX21

Chairperson: Mr R. Syme

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Child Safeguarding Statement

St Mary's N.S. 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 2017](#) and [Tusla Guidance on the preparation of Child Safeguarding Statements](#), the Board of Management of St Mary's N.S. 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 Ciara Yates
- 3 The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is Jennifer Walsh
- 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.
- 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 _____.

This Child Safeguarding Statement was reviewed by the Board of Management on _____.

Signed: _____

Signed: _____

Chairperson of Board of Management

Principal

Date: _____

Date: _____

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	<p>Child Safeguarding Statement & DES procedures made available to all staff.</p> <p>DLP& DDLP attend PDST face to face training.</p> <p>All Staff to view Tusla training module & any other online training offered by PDST.</p> <p>School keeps all records of staff and board training.</p>
One to one teaching	Med	Harm by school personnel	<p>Parents provide consent for their children to be withdrawn from class for one-to-one support</p> <p>Open door when Special Education Teacher is alone with a pupil</p>
Care of Children with special needs, including intimate care	High	Harm by school personnel	<p>Policy on intimate care</p> <p>Two SNAs in room when intimate care in progress</p>
Toilet areas	High	Inappropriate behaviour	<p>One student allowed in toilet at a time.</p> <p>One child allowed into school building at a time during breaktimes, except for infant children; they will use toilets in corridor opposite hall.</p>
Curricular Provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe.	Med	Non-teaching of same	<p>School implements SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe in full.</p> <p>Teachers attend additional training when any programmes are updated.</p>
Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils	Med	Harm from older pupils, collection by unknown adult, unknown adults on the playground	<p>Arrival and dismissal supervised by teachers.</p> <p>Children line up in class groups so they can be monitored easily at home-time.</p> <p>Teacher escorts bus line to the bus on the avenue.</p> <p>Children being collected by parents are not allowed out school gate until teacher sees who is collecting them.</p>
Managing of challenging behaviour amongst pupils	High	Injury to pupils and staff	<p>Health & Safety Policy</p> <p>Code Of Behaviour</p> <p>Anti- bullying Policy</p> <p>IEP and care plan for children with challenging behaviour</p> <p>Referral to NEPS, CAMHS or GP for those with significant needs</p>
Sports Coaches	Med	Harm to pupils	<p>Garda vetting for all sports coaches</p> <p>Class teacher and SNA observes coaching session</p> <p>Policy & Procedures in place</p>
Students participating in work experience	Low	Harm by student	<p>Work experience Policy</p> <p>Child Safeguarding Statement.</p>

or college placement			Garda vetting for all work experience students. Work experience students will not be left alone with pupils.
Recreation breaks	High	Bullying, inappropriate behaviour, harm to pupils	Anti-bullying Policy Code of Behaviour Vigilant supervision of school yard and recording of all incidents
Classroom teaching	Low	Bullying Harm by school personnel	Circle Time and SPHE Anti-bullying policy Code of Behaviour Garda vetting for all teachers, including substitutes
Outdoor teaching activities	Med	Bullying, inappropriate behaviour, injury to pupils	Health and Safety Policy Anti-bullying policy Code of behaviour
Sporting Activities	High	Injury to pupils, bullying,	Health and Safety Policy Anti-bullying policy Code of behaviour Adequate adult supervision for all such activities
Swimming	High	Risk of accusations against school staff members, inappropriate touch, inappropriate behaviour amongst pupils	All swimming coaches have Garda vetting No staff member left alone with any one child while in changing room. No child left alone in the changing room No unauthorised adults in changing rooms when pupils are dressing/undressing. Female teachers not present in boys changing room or toilets. Teacher will stand at door of boys' changing rooms and male swimming coach may intervene if necessary. Pupils dress themselves without help from an adult, except for children with physical care needs. Help may be given with swimming hats and goggles.
School outings	High	Harm to pupils, missing pupil, bullying, inappropriate behaviour	Code of behaviour and Anti-bullying policy No mobile phones/devices allowed on school outings Pupil teacher ratio is increased for school outings to maximise supervision
Annual Sports Day	Med	Injury to pupils, bullying	Health and Safety policy Appropriate maintenance of the school grounds Adequate adult supervision for sports day events
Fundraising events involving pupils	High	Inappropriate behaviour, bullying, harm to pupils,	Children not allowed on premises without teacher or parental supervision Monitoring of school building and yard by school personnel. Certain areas of school locked so children have no access and grounds at back of school out of bounds.
Management of challenging behaviour amongst pupils, including appropriate use of restraint where	Med	Harm to pupils or staff	Staff training on challenging behaviour, including restraint under guidance by appropriate professionals (OT, Psychologist, etc.) when required. Intervention by support from other professionals such as NEPS Code of Behaviour IEPS and Behaviour Support Plans (including positive

required			reinforcement and reward systems) SNA access for children with behavioural problems and sensory breaks for such children with SNA or SET
Administration of Medicine Administration of First Aid	High	Lack of medical knowledge/expertise on part of school personnel, lack of information given by parents with regard to medical needs	Administration of Medicines Policy Parents/guardians must complete the required indemnity forms and put a request in writing to the Board of Management. Parents should inform school of any allergies or other medical needs their child may have. Child may self- administer own inhaler or cough medicine. First Aid bag and emergency medicines for certain pupils are brought on all school outings.
Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst pupils	High	Bullying behaviour by students	Restorative practices implemented throughout the school to investigate and resolve conflict Anti-bullying policy will be provided to all new parents, will be available on the new website and will be disseminated by the PA to all parents to promote openness and transparency Stay Safe and RSE programmes SPHE lessons to include areas such as conflict resolution Promotion of a culture of openness and respect in which pupils can approach staff to discuss worries or concerns.
Recruitment of school personnel	Med	Harm from school personnel	Child Safeguarding Statement & DES procedures made available to all staff Staff to view Tusla training module & any other online training offered by PDST Garda Vetting through Teaching Council for teachers and through the management body for all other personnel. For a one-off visit of member(s) of organisation is not Garda vetted for a one-off visit, the teacher will be present at all times.
Use of Digital Technologies by pupils in school	High	Cyber bullying, exposure to inappropriate material	ICT policy Acceptable use policy All school devices firewalled Anti-Bullying Policy and Code of Behaviour Ban on pupil mobile phones/devices on school premises and on school trips
Remote Learning	High	Harm from school personnel Bullying, posting of material to social media	Avoid 1:1 zoom sessions without a parent / adult nearby Acceptable use policy / Code of Behaviour
Use of video/photography/other media to record school events	Med	Posting of material to social media but outsiders Use of material for grooming of children	No photography permitted during swimming sessions. No children will be named in photographs posted to school website/Facebook page or published in newspaper. Parents will fill out permission slips to consent/deny the use of images of their child for the school year. Teachers made aware of any children in their classroom who should not be photographed.