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**St. Mary’s National School**

Parnell Avenue, Enniscorthy, County Wexford, Y21 FX21

**Chairperson**: Mr R. Syme **Principal**: Ms Ciara Yates **Patron**: Bishop Adrian Wilkinson

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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](http://www.irishstatutebook.ie/eli/2015/act/36/enacted/en/pdf), [Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children 2017](https://assets.gov.ie/25844/b90aafa55804462f84d05f87f0ca2bf6.pdf), [the Addendum to Children First (2019)](https://assets.gov.ie/25819/c9744b64dfd6447985eeffa5c0d71bbb.pdf), the [Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools 2017](https://www.gov.ie/pdf/?file=https://assets.gov.ie/45063/2d4b5b3d781e4ec1ab4f3e5d198717d9.pdf#page=1) and [Tusla Guidance on the preparation of Child Safeguarding Statements](https://www.tusla.ie/uploads/content/4214-TUSLA_Guidance_on_Developing_a_CSS_LR.PDF), 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.

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 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)](https://revisedacts.lawreform.ie/eli/2012/act/47/revised/en/pdf) 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.
1. 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.
2. 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)**

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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** |
| Training of school personnel in Child Protection matters | High | Harm not recognised or reported promptly  | Child Safeguarding Statement & DES procedures made available to all staff.DLP& DDLP attend PDST face to face training.All Staff to view Tusla training module & any other online training offered by PDST.School keeps all records of staff and board training. |
| One to one teaching | Med | Harm by school personnel | Parents provide consent for their children to be withdrawn from class for one-to-one supportOpen door when Special Education Teacher is alone with a pupil  |
| Care of Children with special needs, including intimate care | High | Harm by school personnel | Policy on intimate careTwo SNAs in room when intimate care in progress |
| Toilet areas | High | Inappropriate behaviour | One student allowed in toilet at a time.One child allowed into school building at a time during breaktimes, except for infant children; they will use toilets in corridor opposite hall.  |
| Curricular Provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe. | Med | Non-teaching of same | School implements SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe in full. Teachers attend additional training when any programmes are updated. |
| Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils | Med | Harm from older pupils, collection by unknown adult, unknown adults on the playgroundInjury to pupil | Arrival and dismissal supervised by teachers.Children line up in class groups so they can be monitored easily at home-time.Teacher escorts bus line to the bus on the avenue.Children being collected by parents are not allowed out school gate until teacher sees who is collecting them.Vehicle gates closed when pupils entering / exiting school grounds |
| Managing of challenging behaviour amongst pupils | High | Injury to pupils and staff | Health & Safety PolicyCode Of BehaviourAnti- bullying PolicyIEP and care plan for children with challenging behaviourReferral to NEPS, CAMHS or GP for those with significant needs |
| Sports Coaches | Med | Harm to pupils  | Garda vetting for all sports coaches Class teacher and SNA observes coaching sessionPolicy & Procedures in place  |
| Students participating in work experience or college placement  | Low | Harm by student  | Work experience PolicyChild Safeguarding Statement.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 PolicyCode of Behaviour Vigilant supervision of school yard and recording of all incidents  |
| Classroom teaching  | Low | BullyingHarm by school personnel | Circle Time and SPHEAnti-bullying policyCode of BehaviourGarda vetting for all teachers, including substitutes |
| Outdoor teaching activities  | Med | Bullying, inappropriate behaviour, injury to pupils | Health and Safety PolicyAnti-bullying policyCode of behaviour |
| Sporting Activities | High | Injury to pupils, bullying,  | Health and Safety PolicyAnti-bullying policyCode of behaviourAdequate 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 vettingNo staff member left alone with any one child while in changing room.No child left alone in the changing roomNo 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 policyNo mobile phones/devices allowed on school outingsPupil teacher ratio is increased for school outings to maximise supervision |
| Annual Sports Day | Med | Injury to pupils, bullying | Health and Safety policyAppropriate maintenance of the school groundsAdequate 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 supervisionMonitoring 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 required | 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 NEPSCode of BehaviourIEPS and Behaviour Support Plans (including positive reinforcement and reward systems)SNA access for children with behavioural problems and sensory breaks for such children with SNA or SET |
| Administration of MedicineAdministration 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 PolicyParents/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 conflictAnti-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 transparencyStay Safe and RSE programmesSPHE 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 staffStaff to view Tusla training module & any other online training offered by PDSTGarda 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 policyAcceptable use policyAll school devices firewalledAnti-Bullying Policy and Code of BehaviourBan on pupil mobile phones/devices on school premises and on school trips |
| Remote Learning | High | Harm from school personnelBullying, posting of material to social media | Avoid 1:1 zoom sessions without a parent / adult nearbyAcceptable use policy / Code of Behaviour |
| Use of video/photography/other media to record school events | Med | Posting of material to social media but outsidersUse 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. |