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Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment – Roll No. 16013V

Child Safeguarding Statement

St. Mary's is a primary school providing primary education to pupils from Junior Infants to Sixth Class and has an Early Intervention ASD Special 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 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 Niall Spain
- 3 The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is Caroline Stone
- 4 The Relevant Person is Niall Spain

(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 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](http://gov.ie) 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.
- 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 **14th November 2024**.

This Child Safeguarding Statement was reviewed by the Board of Management on **14th November 2024**.

Signed: Oliver Hurley
Chairperson of Board of Management

Signed: Michael Spain
Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Date: 14/11/24

Date: 14/11/2024

CHILD SAFEGUARDING RISK ASSESSMENT

Written Assessment of Risk of St. Mary's Primary School, Edenderry

In accordance with section 11 of the Children First Act 2015 and with the requirements of Chapter 8 of the *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools (revised 2023)*, the following is the Written Risk Assessment of St. Mary's Primary School, Edenderry.

List of School Activities	The School has identified the following Risk of Harm	The School has to following procedures in place to address identified risks
Training of school personnel in child protection matters	<p>Risk of harm not being recognised by school personnel</p> <p>Risk of harm not being reported properly and promptly by school personnel</p>	<p>Children first – Child Protection Guidelines</p> <p>Child safeguarding statement</p> <p>Use of SPHE Books</p> <p>Training for Designated Liaison Officer and Deputy Liaison Officer.</p>
<p>Recruitment of school personnel including:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teachers/SNA • Caretaker/Secretary/Cleaners/Bus Escorts • Sports Coaches • External Tutors/Guest Speakers • Volunteers/Parents in school activities • Visitors/Contractors present in school during school hours • Visitors/contractors present in school during after school activities 	<p>Risk of child being harmed in the school by a member of school personnel</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recruitment as per Dept. of Ed. And Skills Guidelines • All staff are garda vetted • Welcome pack for staff • All sports coaches are accompanied by class teacher • Safety Statement Visitors' • Sign In Book
	<p>Risk of child being harmed in the school by another child</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As per code of Behaviour Policy • Mobile phone policy • No detention

Application of sanctions under the school's Code of Behaviour including detention of pupils, confiscation of phones etc.	Risk of harm due to inadequate code of behaviour	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Phone is turned off and returned at 3pm • Acceptable use Policy • Code of Behaviour constantly being reviewed
Students participating in work experience in the school including student teachers	Harm to pupils Harm to other students on placement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TY/TP Placement Policy • Child Safeguarding and vetting procedures
Classroom teaching One-to-one teaching One-to-one learning support	Risk of child being harmed in the school by a member of school personnel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All Staff Garda Vetted. • Children First – child protection • Open doors • Glass panel in each door
Other Suggestions		
List of School Activities	The School has identified the following Risk of Harm	The School has to following procedures in place to address identified risks
Recreation breaks for pupils	Bullying, Inappropriate behaviour, harm from older pupils, injury to pupils	School has in place : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anti bullying policy • Playground Supervision Policy • Code of Behaviour Policy
Risk of child being harmed in the school by volunteer or visitor to the school	Risk of inappropriate behaviour	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School has in place a "Fob" system • Teacher is always present when visitor to school in class

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visiting coaches to provide Garda vetting • Entry to school only through reception
Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children while in school	Risk of bullying, injury to pupil Risk of inappropriate behaviour	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partner supervision • Older pupils supervising during wet breaks, usually in groups of 2 or 3 • Pupils always go on messages in pairs
Administration of Medicine	Risk of incorrect administration of dosage Expiry of medicine Teacher apprehensive of using EpiPens etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Administration of Medicine Policy • Medical needs information in First Aid Packs • Safe in classroom for safe storage of medicine • Availability of Defibrillator in school
Administration of First Aid	Risk of injury or harm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teachers trained as First Aid Responders • First Aid Policy as part of the supervision policy • Incident Recording form • Accident Report Form • Phones available to contact parents
Prevention of dealing with bullying amongst pupils	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Risk of Bullying • Harm from pupils to other pupils, injury to pupils 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anti-Bullying Policy in place • Code of Behaviour in place • Playground supervision Policy • Implementation of Stay Safe in full
Risk of harm not being recognised by school personnel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harm not recognised or reported • Child concealing evidence of injury or abuse • Risk of Bullying 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child Safeguarding Statement • Teachers record all incidents of suspected harm or abuse and report to D.L.P./D.D.L.P.

Risk of child being harmed in the school by another child	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Risk of injury to pupil • Risk of bullying • Harm not recognised or reported promptly 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supervision Policy • Anti-Bullying Policy • Code of Behaviour Policy
Risk of harm due to bullying of child	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Risk of Physical or Emotional harm • Harm not recognised or reported • Harm by school personnel 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anti-Bullying Policy • Code of Behaviour Policy • Classroom Rules • Supervision Policy
Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children while attending out of school activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Risk of physical harm or injury • Risk of harm by unknown adults 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Code of Behaviour and Supervision Policy in place on Tour day. • Two adults per class on Tour
Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Risk of harm from older pupils • Risk of harm from unknown adults on the playground or school lane 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parents reminded of responsibility of supervision of their children until school starts. • Dismissal of younger children supervised by teachers • CCTV cameras observing pupils being collected / leaving yard • Pupils are constantly being reminded that if there is no one there to collect them, they return to the school premises
Other Suggestions		
List of School Activities	The School has identified the following Risk of Harm	The School has to following procedures in place to address identified risks
Care of children with special educational needs, including intimate care where needed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harm by School Personnel and Outside Agencies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intimate Care Policy

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Risk of Bullying/ inappropriate behaviour/isolation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SEN Policy • Manual Handling Policy
Homework club/evening study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harm by School Personnel • Harm from older pupils • Unknown adults collecting pupils • Use of toilets • Inappropriate behaviour Supervision 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • After School Use Policy • Supervision Policy • Teachers to be informed as to who is collecting younger pupils • Code of Behaviour Policy
Risk of harm to children with SEN /EIC who have particular vulnerabilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flight Risk • Harm by other children • Bullying by other pupils • Coerced by other children 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access to SNA Support • Anti-bullying policy in place • Older pupils supervising at breaks • Garda vetting for all school personnel • Medical information in First Aid pack • Pupils collected and returned to class by SET.
Risk of harm to child while a child is receiving intimate care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Injury to child and staff • Harm by school personnel • Neglect by depriving child of hygiene • Uniformity of staff in relation to intimate care • Welfare- emotional social and physical • 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intimate Care Policy • Two adults at all times • Garda vetting for all school personnel
Risk of harm in one-to-one teaching, counselling, coaching situation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Neglect - supervision • Risk to school personnel / outside agencies • Harm by school personnel 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Glass panel in doors • Open doors • Pupil collected and returned by SET
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harm by school personnel 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supervision Policy in Place

Participation of pupils in religious ceremonies/religions instruction external to the school	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Injury to pupils and staff • Harm from known and unknown adults • Harm by Injury • Flight risk • Altar Servers • Latecomers harm • Harm from older children • Injury to pupils 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Garda vetting of all school personnel • School implements SHE and Stay Safe in full • Health & Safety Policy • Code of Behaviour
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Management of challenging behaviour amongst pupils, including appropriate use of restraint where required	<p>Harm by student Harm to pupils</p>	<p>The school has a health and safety policy School has an adequate Code of Behaviour containing procedures for prevention, de-escalation and management of challenging behaviour Staff members avail of relevant training</p>
List of School Activities	The School has identified the following Risk of Harm	The School has to following procedures in place to address identified risks
Curricular provision in respect of SPHE RSE Stay Safe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Risk of non-teaching of SPHE/RSE 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School implements SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe in full per school planning documents
Care of pupils with specific vulnerabilities/needs such as :	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bullying • Exclusion due to language etc 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anti-bullying policy • Inclusion Policy

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pupils for ethnic minorities/migrants • Members of the Traveller Community • Lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender (LGBT) children • Pupils perceived to be LGBT • Pupils of minority religious faith • Children in care • Children on CPNS • 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teachers are not made privy to the names of children on CPNS • Staff not informed of children in care/fostered • No procedures in place 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supervision Policy • Code of Behaviour
Use of external personnel to supplement curriculum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harm by personnel 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safeguarding statement in place • Supervision Policy
Use of toilet/changing/shower areas in school	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inappropriate Behaviour • Bullying 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Usage and Supervision Policy • Anti-bullying Policy • Code of Behaviour • Child Safeguarding Statement

List of School Activities	The School has identified the following Risk of Harm	The School has to following procedures in place to address identified risks
Use of Information and Communication Technology by pupils in school	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accessing inappropriate material • Creating/circulating inappropriate material 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acceptable Use Policy revised Sept 2023
Use of video/photography/other media to record school events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That media could be used inappropriately 	Acceptable Use Policy revised Oct 2024 AUP for Staff revised Oct 2024.
Risk of harm due to children inappropriately accessing/using computers, social media, phones and other devices while at school	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pupils bringing own devices to school/school outings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Code of Behaviour • Supervision Policy • Mobile Phone Policy • Acceptable Use Policy revised Sept 2023
Risk of harm caused by member of school personnel communicating with pupils in inappropriate manner via social media, texting, digital devices or other manner	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inappropriate behaviour/harm by school personnel 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Code of conduct for school personnel • Garda Vetting legislation
Risk of harm caused by member of school personnel accessing/circulating inappropriate material vis social media, texting, digital devices or other manner.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inappropriate behaviour by school personnel with or without intent 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acceptable Use Policy for staff revised Sept 2022 • Code of Conduct for School Personnel • Garda Vetting Legislation
Has the Risk Assessment taken account of the risk of harm relevant to online teaching as part of this overall review?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children may be more likely to access inappropriate content, especially if left unsupervised. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In consultation with school and parent representatives, the school regularly updates and circulates its Acceptable Use Policy. More specifically, the

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children could be critical of the work of others in an online learning environment. 	<p>school's Remote Learning Policy has been updated in November 2021 and circulated to members of the school community. This outlines the responsibilities of pupils, parents/guardians and staff members insofar as online safety measures are concerned.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Teachers are required to approve work submitted by pupils on Seesaw EIC and Junior Infants only. A pupil's work is visible only to that pupil and his/her parents or guardians.
School outings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unknown adult at the venue Harm by outside personnel Injury to pupils and staff Bullying 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> School Tour Policy First Aid Policy Vetting disclosure for outside personnel Code of Behaviour RSE/SPHE Policy
Use of off-site facilities for school activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inappropriate behaviour Harm by outside personnel Injury to pupils and staff Unknown adult at the venue Bullying 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Policy on Intimate Care RSE/SPHE policy PE Policy Usage and supervision policy Anti-bullying policy Vetting disclosure for outside personnel
School transport arrangements including use of bus escorts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Harm by outside personnel Injury to pupils and staff Bullying 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vetting disclosure for outside personnel Code of Behaviour

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inappropriate behaviour 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supervision Policy • Anti-Bullying Policy • RSE/SPHE Policy
Risk of child being harmed by a member of school personnel, a member of staff of another organisation or other person while child participating in out of school activities e.g. school trip, swimming lessons.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harm by school personnel • Harm by outside personnel • Harm from older pupils and unknown adults • Inappropriate behaviour 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vetting disclosure for outside personnel • Code of behaviour for school personnel • Supervision Policy • RSE/SPHE Policy

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 risks 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 14th of November 2024. It shall be reviewed as part of the school's annual review annual review of its Child Safeguarding Statement.

Signed: Olivia Harty
Chairperson, Board of Management

Date: 14th November 2024

Signed: Michael Spence
Principal

Date: 14th November 2024