

Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment 13th October 2025

Child Safeguarding Statement

St Mary's & St Gerard's NS 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 Marys' & St Gerard'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 Deirdre Morgan
- 3 The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is Alison Mc Connell
- 4 The Relevant Person is Deirdre Morgan
- 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.

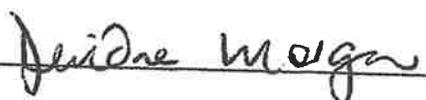
- 7 This statement has been published on the school's website and has been provided to all members of school personnel, the Parents' Association (if any) and the patron. It is readily accessible to parents and guardians on request. A copy of this Statement will be made available to Tusla and the Department 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 13th October 2025 [date].

This Child Safeguarding Statement was reviewed by the Board of Management on 13th October 2025 [most recent review date].

Signed  Date 13/10/25

Chairperson, Board of Management

Signed  Date 13/10/25

Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

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 of St Mary's & St Gerard's NS

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 -
<p>Training of school personnel in child protection matters</p> <p>Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils</p> <p>Yard Areas & Recreation Breaks</p>	<p>Training not carried out</p> <p>Harm to child from other children or adults Harm not reported properly and not promptly to school personnel</p> <p>Harm to child from other children or school personnel Harm to child from not following playground rules Harm not recognised or not reported properly or promptly Children with additional needs unable to play safely at all times</p>	<p>Child Safeguarding Statement in place Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017 made available to all school personnel DLP and DDLP attend OIDE training All staff are encouraged to avail of relevant training Board of Management records training uptake by staff and board members Child Protection is on the agenda of each BoM meeting</p> <p>Arrival and dismissal supervised by teachers Code of Behaviour Policy Bi Cinealta Policy in place Child Safeguarding Policy Supervised by Staff</p> <p>Supervised by Staff Extra vigilance and supervision for pupils with A.N. Yard Note Book for recording incidents Code of Behaviour Policy Bi Cinealta Policy Bi Cinealta Poster displayed and discussed at start of year assembly Child Safeguarding Statement</p>

<p>Managing Challenging Behaviours</p>	<p>Harm to self Harm to child from other children</p>	<p>Safeguarding poster displayed Safeguarding poster discussed at assembly, start of year</p>
<p>Care of Children with special needs, including intimate care needs</p>	<p>Harm to child while a child is receiving intimate care from school personnel</p>	<p>All staff have Garda Vetting Clearance Staff are encouraged to avail of relevant training First-Aid Procedure in place</p>
<p>Toilet areas</p>	<p>Harm to child with SEN who have particular vulnerabilities Harm not recognised or not reported properly and promptly</p>	<p>Code of Behaviour & shared approach by staff De-escalation Removal from incident Time and empathy Validating the emotion Communication with parents, among staff, ISM .</p>
<p>Toileting accidents</p>	<p>Harm to child from other children or school personnel Harm not recognised, not reported properly or promptly</p>	<p>Child Safeguarding Statement SPHE, Stay safe and RSE programmes are implemented Garda Vetting Clearance of all personnel Intimate Care Policy</p>
<p>Use of ICT by children and school personnel in school</p>	<p>Harm to child by school personnel Harm not recognised, not reported properly or promptly</p>	<p>Procedures for toilet usage during Yard/PE times Code of Behaviour Policy, Anti-Bullying Policy Supervision Policy</p>
<p>Online/Remote Teaching and Learning</p>	<p>Harm due to bullying and inappropriate behaviour Harm caused by child or member of school personnel communicating in an inappropriate manner Harm caused by child or member of school personnel accessing/circulating inappropriate material via social media, texting, digital device or other manner Harm due to child or school personnel not adhering to policies and procedures</p>	<p>Child Safeguarding Statement Intimate Care Policy Garda Vetting Clearance of all personnel</p> <p>Anti-Bullying/Anti-Cyber Bullying Policy in place ICT Policy Laptop Usage Acceptance Policy Internet Security information sessions for parents/students Code of Behaviour Policy</p>

Use of video/photography/other media to record school events	Harm not recognised, not reported properly or promptly	Zoom and Seesaw Protocols
Swimming	Harm not recognised, not reported properly or promptly	Mobile Phone Policy Smartphone Free Childhood Drive across community Adult in vicinity of child Webwise Programme
Curricular Provision in respect of SPHE, RSE and Stay Safe	Harm to child by swimming coaches/other children/other service users (Shoreline Swimming), while travelling to and from venue by bus Harm not recognised, not reported properly or promptly	Permission Policy Acceptance Usage Policy
After School Use of premises by other organisations	Harm not recognised, reported properly or promptly Non-teaching of programmes	Child Safeguarding Statement and Procedures Garda Vetting Procedures Current School Practice - two adults travel with pupils and remain poolside Supervision by school staff outside changing rooms
Sporting Days/Activities	Harm to child from other children and adults Harm not recognised, reported properly or promptly Harm to child from other children and adults Harm to child when using toilet facilities Harm not recognised, not reported properly or promptly	School implements SPHE, RSE and Stay Safe Programmes
Students participating in work experience	Harm to child from students Harm not recognised, not reported properly or promptly	Garda Vetting Clearance Documentation stored safely and readily accessible Insurance documentation provided to Principal
		Child Safeguarding Statement No 1:1 situations Code of Behaviour Anti-Bullying Policy Supervision by staff members Permission to travel by bus to sporting events

<p>Student teachers undertaking training/placement in school</p>	<p>Harm to child from students Harm not recognised, not reported properly or promptly</p>	<p>The secondary school ensures that Garda Vetting Clearance is in place prior to commencement of the work experience Secondary School Work Experience Policy Child Safeguarding Statement is distributed to student</p>
<p>Prevention and dealing with bullying among pupils</p>	<p>Harm to child by being bullied Harm not recognised, not reported properly or promptly</p>	<p>Colleges of Education ensure Garda Vetting clearance is in place Child Safeguarding Statement is distributed to student teacher</p>
<p>Recruitment of school personnel including- Teachers SNAs Caretaker/Secretary/Cleaner Sports Coaches External Tutors/Guest Speakers/Visitors Volunteers/Parents helping with various school activities</p>	<p>Harm to child from other staff personnel Harm not recognised, not reported properly or promptly</p>	<p>Anti-Bullying Policy Code of Behaviour BOM follow Anti-Bullying obligations at each meeting</p>
<p>Cycle Training</p>	<p>Harm to child from adult cycle trainer Harm not recognised, not reported properly or promptly</p>	<p>Child Safeguarding Statement and Child Protection Procedures made available to all staff personnel Welcome Pack & Droichead Induction Folder for new staff members Ongoing training takes place when required Garda Vetting Clearance Teacher remains with class while the particular sports activity/talk/volunteer/parental help is taking place Tour Day Record Form Code of Behaviour Teaching Council Code of Professional Conduct</p>
<p>LGBT Children</p>	<p>Harm to child from bullying Harm not recognised, reported properly or promptly</p>	<p>Garda Vetting Clearance</p>
	<p>Harm to child from bullying</p>	

<p>Children form different ethnic and minority groups</p> <p>One to One Teaching</p>	<p>Harm not recognised, reported properly or promptly</p> <p>Harm to child by school personnel Harm not recognised, not reported properly or promptly</p>	<p>Teacher remains with class while training is in progress Child Safeguarding Statement</p> <p>Bi Cinealta Policy Code of Behaviour</p>
<p>Classroom Teaching</p>	<p>Harm to child by school personnel Harm not recognised, not reported properly or promptly</p>	<p>Bi Cinealta Policy Code of Behaviour</p> <p>School has a Special Educational Needs Policy with details of good practice e.g. (Open doors, table between teacher and child, unobstructed glass panel in doors) Child Safeguarding Statement Child Protection Procedures Code of Professional Conduct</p>
<p>Administration of Medicine</p>	<p>Harm not recognised, not reported properly or promptly</p>	<p>Child Safeguarding Statement Child Protection Procedures Policy Code of Professional Conduct Code of Behaviour Anti-Bullying Policy Garda Vetting Clearance Ongoing SNA Training</p>
<p>Administration of First Aid</p>	<p>Harm to child Harm not recognised, reported properly or promptly</p>	<p>Indemnity form signed by parents Child Safeguarding Statement Health and Safety Policy Staff training on use of particular medication</p>

<p>Infections</p> <p>Fundraising events involving pupils during/outside of school hours</p> <p>Grandparents' Day</p> <p>School Walks</p>	<p>Harm to child from transmissible infections</p> <p>Harm to child from other pupils/adults Harm not recognised, not reported properly or promptly</p> <p>Harm to child from adults Harm not recognised, not reported properly or promptly</p> <p>Harm to child from other children/adults Harm not recognised, not reported properly or promptly</p> <p>Harm to child from staff/non-staff members, other pupils and members of the public</p>	<p>Regular communication takes place with parents/guardians and outside agencies as appropriate Details of allergies/ailments and the required treatment, if needed are easily accessible A photo of each child with specific needs is displayed on noticeboard in the staffroom</p> <p>Health and Safety Policy Child Safeguarding Policy Written consent sought if child cannot participate in outdoor breaks/activities Regular communication takes place with parents/guardians and outside agencies as appropriate Details of allergies/ailments and the required treatment, if needed are easily accessible A photo of each child with specific needs is displayed on storage door in the staffroom</p> <p>DES advice HSE Advice Ventilation and Air quality monitors Air purifiers in classrooms</p> <p>Child Safeguarding Statement Appropriate supervision by staff personnel in school and by parents/guardians during events taking place outside of school/school hours Code of Behaviour Policy</p> <p>Child Safeguarding Statement Teacher and SNA where applicable remain with class in church and in class during visit by grandparents/other adults to classroom Only class teachers may take photos/videos</p>
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<p>School Tour and excursions including residential programmes</p>	<p>Harm not recognised, not reported properly or promptly</p>	<p>Child Safeguarding Statement Appropriate supervision with parental help, if required</p> <p>Child Safeguarding Statement Child Protection Procedures Policy Professional Code of Conduct Garda Vetting Clearance Adequate and appropriate supervision by adults Pupil-teacher ratio 13:1 Teacher(s) remain(s) with the class along with SNA/Volunteer/Parent Code of Behaviour Anti-Bullying Policy Supervision and monitoring of toileting areas</p>
<p>Outdoor Learning & Sports Activities in the Bog Meadow</p>	<p>Harm to pupil Harm to child from staff/non-staff members, other pupils and members of the public Harm not recognised, not reported properly or promptly</p>	<p>Pre-trip planning to assess risks Adequate parent volunteers (vetted) to accompany teacher & class Follow guidance for Outdoor/Forest Learning at all times Advise pupils on appropriate clothing Train pupils on working outdoors Bring first aid kit Bring mobile phone Bring pupil list of contact details</p>

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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.

Examples of activities, risks and procedures

The examples listed in this document are provided to assist schools in undertaking their risk assessment under the Children First Act, 2015. Schools should note that this list of examples is not intended to be exhaustive. It is the responsibility of each school to ensure, as far as possible, that any other risks and procedures that are relevant to its own particular circumstances are identified and specified in the written risk assessment and that adequate procedures are in place to address all risks identified.

It is acknowledged that schools already have in place a range of policies, practices and procedures to mitigate the risk of harm to children while they are participating in the activities of the school and that some school activities will carry low or minimal risks of harm compared to others. In the context of the risk assessment that must be undertaken by schools, the Children First Act, 2015 refers to risk as “any potential for harm”. Therefore, it is important that, as part of its risk assessment process, each school lists and reviews all of its various activities (which shall include identifying those that may carry low risk of harm as well as those that carry higher risks of harm). Doing so will help the school to (1) identify, as required under the Children First Act, 2015, any risks of harm that may exist in respect of the school’s activities, (2) identify and assess the adequacy of the various procedures already in place to manage those risks of harm and (3) identify and put in place any such additional procedures as are considered necessary to manage any risk identified.

The Addendum to Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children published in January 2019 clarifies that organisations providing relevant services to children should consider the specific issue of online safety when carrying out their risk assessment and preparing their Child Safeguarding Statement.

The Guidance on Continuity of Schooling for primary and post-primary schools (April 2020) advises of the importance of teachers maintaining the safe and ethical use of the internet during distance learning and assisting parents and guardians to be aware of their role also. Schools should ensure that their Acceptable Use Policy (AUP) informs and guides remote or distance learning activity.

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)*.

Examples of School Activities

- Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils
- Recreation breaks for pupils
- Classroom teaching
- One-to-one teaching
- One-to one learning support
- One-to-one counselling
- Outdoor teaching activities
- Online teaching and learning remotely
- Sporting activities
- School outings
- School trips involving overnight stay
- School trips involving foreign travel
- Use of toilet/changing/shower areas in schools
- Provision of residential facilities for boarders
- Annual Sports Day
- Fundraising events involving pupils
- Use of off-site facilities for school activities
- School transport arrangements including use of bus escorts
- Care of children with special educational needs, including intimate care where needed,
- Care of any vulnerable adult students, including intimate care where needed

- Management of challenging behaviour amongst pupils, including appropriate use of restraint where required
- Management of provision of food and drink
- Administration of Medicine
- Administration of First Aid
- Curricular provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe
- Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst pupils
- Training of school personnel in child protection matters
- Use of external personnel to supplement curriculum
- Use of external personnel to support sports and other extra-curricular activities
- 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 Tusla's Child Protection Notification System (CPNS)
 - Children with medical needs
- Recruitment of school personnel including -
 - Teachers/SNAs
 - Caretaker/Secretary/Cleaners
 - Sports coaches
 - External Tutors/Guest Speakers
 - Volunteers/Parents in school activities
 - Visitors/contractors present in school during school hours
 - Visitors/contractors present during after school activities
- Participation by pupils in religious ceremonies/religious instruction external to the school
- Use of Information and Communication Technology by pupils in school, including social media
- Application of sanctions under the school's Code of Behaviour including detention of pupils, confiscation of phones etc.

- Students participating in work experience in the school
- Students from the school participating in work experience elsewhere
- Student teachers undertaking training placement in school
- Use of video/photography/other media to record school events
- After school use of school premises by other organisations
- Use of school premises by other organisation during school day
- Breakfast club
- Homework club/evening study

Examples of Risks of Harm

- Risk of harm not being recognised by school personnel
- Risk of harm not being reported properly and promptly by school personnel
- Risk of child being harmed in the school by a member of school personnel
- Risk of child being harmed in the school by another child
- Risk of child being harmed in the school by volunteer or visitor to the school
- 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
- Risk of harm due to inappropriate use of online remote teaching and learning communication platform such as an uninvited person accessing the lesson link, students being left unsupervised for long periods of time in breakout rooms
- Risk of harm due to bullying of child
- Risk of harm due to racism
- Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children in school
- Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children while attending out of school activities
- Risk of harm due to inappropriate relationship/communications between child and another child or adult
- Risk of harm due to children inappropriately accessing/using computers, social media, phones and other devices while at school
- Risk of harm to children with SEN who have particular vulnerabilities, including medical vulnerabilities
- Risk of harm to child while a child is receiving intimate care
- Risk of harm due to inadequate code of behaviour

- Risk of harm in one-to-one teaching, counselling, coaching situation
- Risk of harm caused by member of school personnel communicating with pupils in an inappropriate manner via social media, texting, digital device or other manner
- Risk of harm caused by member of school personnel accessing/circulating inappropriate material via social media, texting, digital device or other manner

Examples of Procedures to address risks of harm

- All school personnel are provided with a copy of the school's *Child Safeguarding Statement*
- The *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools (revised 2023)* are made available to all school personnel
- School Personnel are required to adhere to the *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools (revised 2023)* and all registered teaching staff are required to adhere to the *Children First Act 2015* and its Addendum (2019)
- The school implements in full the Stay Safe Programme
- The school implements in full the SPHE curriculum
- The school implements in full the Wellbeing Programme at Junior Cycle
- The school has an Anti-Bullying Policy which fully adheres to the requirements of the Department's *Anti-Bullying Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools*
- The school undertakes anti-racism awareness initiatives
- The school has a yard/playground supervision policy to ensure appropriate supervision of children during, assembly, dismissal and breaks and in respect of specific areas such as toilets, changing rooms etc.
- The school has in place a policy and clear procedures in respect of school outings
- The school has a health and safety policy
- The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation and relevant DE circulars in relation to recruitment and Garda vetting
- The school has a codes of conduct for school personnel (teaching and non-teaching staff)
- The school complies with the agreed disciplinary procedures for teaching staff
- The school has a Special Educational Needs policy

- The school has an intimate care policy/plan in respect of students who require such care
- The school has in place a policy and procedures for the administration of medication to pupils
- The school –
 - Has provided each member of school 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
 - Maintains records of all staff and board member training
- The school has in place a policy and procedures for the administration of First Aid
- The school has in place a code of behaviour for pupils
- The school has an Acceptable Use Policy in place, to include provision for online teaching and learning remotely, and has communicated this policy to parents
- The school has in place a policy governing the use of smart phones and tables devices in the school by pupils as per circular 38/2018
- The school has in place a Critical Incident Management Plan
- The school has in place a Home School Liaison policy and related procedures
- The school has in place a policy and procedures for the use of external persons to supplement delivery of the curriculum
- The school has in place a policy and procedures for the use of external sports coaches
- The school has in place a policy and clear procedures for one-to-one teaching activities
- The school has in place a policy and procedures for one-to-one counselling
- The school has in place a policy and procedures in respect of student teacher placements
- The school has in place a policy and procedures in respect of students undertaking work experience in the school
- The school has in place a policy and procedures in respect of pupils of the school undertaking work experience in external organisations