

ST ANDREW'S COLLEGE



CHILD SAFEGUARDING STATEMENT AND RISK ASSESSMENT

SEPTEMBER 2022



Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment

St Andrew's College is a Junior (primary) and post-primary school providing primary/post primary education to pupils from Junior Infants to Leaving Certificate Year.

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 Andrew's College 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 (DIP) is Mr Rob Micallef
- 3 The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DIP) is Mrs Mary Keddy
- 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 above named DIP as the "relevant person" (as defined in the Children First Act 2015) to be the first point of contact in respect of the school's 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.

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.

- 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 before March 2023 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 22 March 2022.

Signed *Robert McCall*

Signed *McCall*

Chairperson of Board of Management

Acting Principal

Date 9/9/2022

Date 9/9/2022

Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment

Written Assessment of Risk of St Andrew's College, Blackrock, Co Dublin

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 Post-Primary Schools 2017, the following is the Written Risk Assessment of St Andrews College

1. List of school activities

- Daily arrival and dismissal of students
- Recreation breaks for students
- Classroom teaching
- One-to-one teaching
- One-to-one counselling
- Outdoor teaching activities
- Sporting Activities
- School outings
- School trips involving overnight stay
- School trips involving foreign travel
- Use of toilet/changing/shower areas in schools
- Annual Sports Days
- Fundraising events involving students
- Use of off-site facilities for school activities
- School transport arrangements including use of bus escorts
- Care of Junior School and Senior School children with special educational needs, including intimate care where needed
- Management of challenging behaviour amongst pupils, including appropriate use of restraint where required Administration of Medicine
- Administration of First Aid
- Curricular provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Wellbeing, Stay Safe Programme and other relevant curriculum
- Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst pupils
- Training of school personnel in child protection matters
- Student Prefect Programme
- Student Mentor Programme
- Use of external personnel to supplement curriculum
- Use of external personnel to support sports and other extra-curricular activities
- Care of students 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 residing with host families/guardians
- Recruitment of school personnel including –
 - Teachers/SNA's
 - Support and ancillary Staff
 - Cleaners
 - Outside catering company - Sodexo
 - Sports coaches
 - External Tutors/Guest Speakers
 - Volunteers/Parents in school activities
 - Visitors/contractors/employees of contractors present in school during school hours
 - Visitors/contractors/employees of contractors present during after school activities
- Participation by students in religious ceremonies/religious instruction external to the school
- Use of Information and Communication Technology by students in school
- Application of sanctions under the school's Code of Behaviour including detention of students, 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 the school day
- Early Morning Supervision/After school care
- Homework Club/Evening study/Library/
- Early morning/after school scheduled and ad hoc classes
- Early morning gym sessions and other activities
- After school music classes

2. The school has identified the following risk of harm in respect of its activities

- 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/ contractors/employee of contractor or other person while child participating in school activities on site
- Risk of child being harmed by a member of school personnel, a member of staff of another organisation/ contractors/employee of contractor or other person while child participating in out of school activities
- 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 remote teaching and learning
- Risk of harm due to bullying of child
- 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 due to children inappropriately accessing/using computers, social media, phones and other devices while engaged in remote teaching and learning
- Risk of harm to children with SEN who have particular 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 appropriate 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

3. The school has the following procedures in place to address the risks of harm identified in this assessment —

- 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 2017 are made available to all school personnel
- School Personnel are required to adhere to the Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017 and all registered teaching staff are required to adhere to the Children First Act 2015
- 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 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 trips
- The school has in place a policy and clear procedures in respect of Distance Learning
- The school has a Health and safety policy
- The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation and relevant DES circulars in relation to recruitment and Garda vetting
- The school has 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 (SFL)
- 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 the 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
 - Ensures staff 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 in place an ICT policy in respect of usage of ICT by pupils
- The school has in place a mobile phone policy in respect of usage of mobile phones by students
- The school has in place a Critical Incident Management Plan
- 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 and substitute teachers
- The school has in place a policy and procedures in respect of students undertaking work experience in the school and in external organisations

Important Note: It should be noted that risk in the context of the 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 2017*

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.



Checklist for Review of the Child Safeguarding Statement

The **Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017** require that the Board of Management must undertake a review of its Child Safeguarding Statement and that the following checklist shall be used for this purpose. **The review must be completed every year or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which the Child Safeguarding Statement refers.** Undertaking an annual review will also ensure that a school also meets its statutory obligation under section 11(8) of the **Children First Act 2015** to review its Child Safeguarding Statement every two years.

The checklist is designed as an aid to conducting this review and is not intended as an exhaustive list of the issues to be considered. Individual Boards of Management shall include other items in the checklist that are of relevance to the school in question.

As part of the overall review process, Boards of Management should also assess relevant school policies, procedures, practices and activities vis a vis their adherence to the principles of best practice in child protection and welfare as set out in the school's Child Safeguarding Statement, the **Children First Act 2015**, the **Addendum to Children First (2019)** and the **Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017**.

		Yes/No
1.	Has the Board formally adopted a Child Safeguarding Statement in accordance with the 'Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools 2017'?	Yes
2.	Is the Board satisfied that the Child Safeguarding Statement is displayed in a prominent place near the main entrance to the school?	Yes
3.	As part of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement, has the Board formally adopted, without modification, the 'Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools 2017'?	Yes
4.	Does the school's Child Safeguarding Statement include a written assessment of risk as required under the Children First Act 2015? (This includes considering the specific issue of online safety as required by the Addendum to Children First)	Yes
5.	Has the Board reviewed and updated where necessary the written assessment of risk as part of this overall review?	Yes
6.	Has the Risk Assessment taken account of the risk of harm relevant to online teaching and learning remotely?	Yes

7.	Has the DLP attended available child protection training?	Yes
8.	Has the Deputy DLP attended available child protection training?	Yes
9.	Have any members of the Board attended child protection training?	Yes
10.	Are there both a DLP and a Deputy DLP currently appointed?	Yes
11.	Are the relevant contact details (Tusla and An Garda Síochána) to hand?	Yes
12.	Has the Board arrangements in place to communicate the school's Child Safeguarding Statement to new school personnel?	Yes
13.	Is the Board satisfied that all school personnel have been made aware of their responsibilities under the 'Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools 2017' and the Children First Act 2015?	Yes
14.	Has the Board received a Principals Child Protection Oversight Report (CPOR) at each Board meeting held since the last review was undertaken?	See Appendix 2
15.	Since the Board's last review, did each CPOR contain all of the information required under each of the 4 headings set out in sections 9.5 to 9.8 inclusive of the procedures?	See Appendix 2
16.	Since the Board's last review, has the Board been provided with and reviewed all documents relevant to the CPOR?	See Appendix 2
17.	Since the Board's last review, have the minutes of each Board meeting appropriately recorded the records provided to the Board as part of CPOR report?	See Appendix 2
18.	Have the minutes of each Board meeting appropriately recorded the CPOR report?	See Appendix 2
19.	Is the Board satisfied that the child protection procedures in relation to the making of reports to Tusla/An Garda Síochána were appropriately followed in each case reviewed?	Yes
20.	Is the Board satisfied that, since the last review, all appropriate actions are being or have been taken in respect of any member of school personnel against whom an allegation of abuse or neglect has been made? *	N/A
21.	Where applicable, were unique identifiers used to record child protection matters in the Board minutes?	Yes
22.	Is the Board satisfied that all records relating to child protection are appropriately filed and stored securely?	Yes
23.	Has the Board been notified by any parent in relation to that parent not receiving the standard notification required under section 5.6 of the 'Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools 2017'?	No
24.	In relation to any cases identified at question 21 above, has the Board ensured that any notifications required under section 5.6 of the 'Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools 2017' were subsequently issued by the DLP?	Yes
25.	Has the Board ensured that the Parents' Association (if any), has been provided with the school's Child Safeguarding Statement?	Yes

26.	Has the Board ensured that the patron has been provided with the school's Child Safeguarding Statement?	Yes
27.	Has the Board ensured that the school's Child Safeguarding Statement is available to parents on request?	Yes
28.	Has the Board ensured that the Stay Safe programme is implemented in full in the school? (applies to primary schools)	Yes
29.	Has the Board ensured that the Wellbeing Programme for Junior Cycle students is implemented in full in the school? (applies to post- primary schools)	Yes
30.	Has the Board ensured that the SPHE curriculum is implemented in full in the school?	Yes
31.	Is the Board satisfied that the statutory requirements for Garda Vetting have been met in respect of all school personnel (employees and volunteers)? *	Yes
32.	Is the Board satisfied that the Department's requirements in relation to the provision of a child protection related statutory declaration and associated form of undertaking have been met in respect of persons appointed to teaching and non-teaching positions? *	yes
33.	Is the Board satisfied that, from a child protection perspective, thorough recruitment and selection procedures are applied by the school in relation to all school personnel (employees and volunteers)? *	Yes
34.	Has the Board considered and addressed any complaints or suggestions for improvements regarding the school's Child Safeguarding Statement?	Yes
35.	Has the Board sought the feedback of parents in relation to the school's compliance with the requirements of the child safeguarding requirements of the 'Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools 2017'?	Yes
36.	Has the Board sought the feedback of pupils in relation to the school's child safeguarding arrangements?	Yes
37.	Is the Board satisfied that the 'Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools 2017' are being fully and adequately implemented by the school?	Yes
38.	Has the Board identified any aspects of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement and/or its implementation that require further improvement?	No
39.	Has the Board put in place an action plan containing appropriate timelines to address those aspects of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement and/or its implementation that have been identified as requiring further improvement?	N/A
40.	Has the Board ensured that any areas for improvement that were identified in any previous review of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement have been adequately addressed?	N/A

*In schools where the ETB is the employer the responsibility for meeting the employer's requirements rests with the ETB concerned. In such cases, this question should be completed following consultation with the ETB.

Signed  Date 9/9/2022

Chairperson, Board of Management

Signed  Date 9/9/2022

Acting Principal

Note: Where a school is undertaking its first review, references in this checklist to the "last review" shall be taken to refer to the date on which the Child Safeguarding Statement was first put in place.



Notification regarding the Board of Management's review of the Child Safeguarding Statement

The Board of Management of St Andrews College wishes to inform you that:

- The Board of Management's annual review of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement was completed at the Board meeting of 22 March 2022.
- This review was conducted in accordance with the "Checklist for Review of the Child Safeguarding Statement" published on the Department's website www.education.ie

Signed  Date 9/9/2022

Chairperson, Board of Management

Signed  Date 9/9/2022

Acting Principal

APPENDIX 1

Protocol authorising immediate action:

The following protocol authorises immediate action under section 7.2 of the 'Child Protection Procedures' for Post Primary Schools 2017'.

Where circumstances warrant it, as an essential precautionary measure in order to protect the children in the school, the Headmistress is authorised by the school management authority to direct an employee to immediately absent himself or herself from the school without loss of pay until the matter has been considered by the employer. It is very important to note that the action under the protocol is intended to be precautionary and not disciplinary.

The action under this protocol is an interim measure pending the employer's consideration of the matter. The employee will be invited to a meeting with the Headmistress, the purpose of which is to inform the employee of the allegation and the action being taken. The employee may be accompanied by an appropriate person of his or her choice and will be so advised. In any event, the employee will also be advised of the matter, in writing. The Headmistress shall make a record of the meeting which shall be retained on the relevant case file.

APPENDIX 2

Note re. Child Protection Oversight Report in the context of board meetings held remotely:

For the duration of the Covid-19 emergency measures, the requirement to provide a Child Protection Oversight Report (CPOR) will not apply to any board meetings held remotely, whether by video conference or teleconference. This is because it is not possible to meet the requirement to provide to board members the specified documentation at the board meeting. The Principal must continue to maintain the relevant data and records for the CPOR which shall be provided at the next face to face meeting of the board. The information and data in that report must reflect cases arising since the previous CPOR was provided to the board,