

# Child Safeguarding Statement -

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St. Francis is a special school providing primary education to pupils from Junior to Senior School (up to 18 years old).

In accordance with the requirements of the Children First Act 2015, Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children 2017, 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. Francis has agreed the Child Safeguarding Statement set out in this document.

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

**The Designated Liaison Person (DLP) is Elaine Mullally**

**The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is Mr. Sean Moloney**

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 DES website.

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- 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 DES and available on the DES 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; and
  - 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 relation to the full implementation of the **Stay Safe Programme**, all teachers will engage with this essential element of the SPHE programme for primary schools, which will play a valuable role in helping children develop the skills necessary to enable them to recognise and resist abuse and potentially abusive situations.
- In this school the Board has appointed the above named DLP as the "relevant person" (as defined in the Children First Act 2015) to be the first point of contact in respect of the 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, 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 attached as an appendix to these procedures.
- The various procedures referred to in this Statement will be made available on request by the school.

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- 2 This statement has been published and has been provided to all members of school personnel, the Parents' Association 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.
- 3 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 will be reviewed on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> April, 2020.

**Signed:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Fr. Paddy Byrne**  
**Chairperson of Board of Management**

**Signed:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Elaine Mullally**  
**Principal**

**Date:** 9<sup>th</sup> April, 2019

**Date of next review:** 9<sup>th</sup> April 2020

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### Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment (of any potential harm)

List of School Activities	Risk Level	The School has identified the following Risk of Harm	The School has the following Procedures in place to address risk identified in this assessment
<b>CPD</b>			
Training of school personnel in Child Protection matters	High	Harm not recognised or reported promptly	<p>Child Safeguarding Statement &amp; DES procedures made available to all staff</p> <p>DLP&amp; DDLP to attend PDST face to face training</p> <p>All Staff to view Tusla training module &amp; any other online training offered by PDST</p> <p>BOM records all records of staff and board training</p>

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Teaching Activities			
One to one teaching	Med	Harm by school personnel	School has policy in place for one to one teaching Open doors Table between teacher and pupil Glass in window
Curricular Provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay safe.	Med	Non-teaching of same	School implements SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe in full
Classroom teaching			
Outdoor teaching activities			

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Daily Running of School			
Care of children with special needs, including intimate care needs	High	Harm by school personnel	Policy on intimate care
Toilet areas	High	Inappropriate behaviour	Usage and supervision policy
Use of toilet	High	Inappropriate Behaviour	Usage and supervision policy
Managing of challenging behaviour amongst pupils, including appropriate use of restraint	High	Injury to pupils and staff	Health & Safety Policy Code Of Behaviour
Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils	Med	Harm from other pupils, unknown adults on the playground Traffic on avenue	Arrival and Dismissal Policy & Procedures Supervision Policy Traffic Management Policy & Procedures Health & Safety Policy
Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils	Med	Harm from other pupils, unknown adults on the playground Traffic on avenue Inappropriate behaviour	Arrival and dismissal Policy & Procedures Supervision Policy Teachers/SNAs Traffic Management Procedures in place Health & Safety Policy
Recreation breaks for pupils	High	Injury to pupils/Bullying Harm not recognised or properly or promptly reported	Policy & Procedures in place Health & Safety Policy Code Of Behaviour

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Administration of First Aid			
Administration of Medicine			
School transport arrangements including use of bus escorts	Med	Harm to pupils Harm not recognised or properly or promptly reported	Bus Safety Policy Policy for Bus Escort
Management of challenging behaviour amongst pupils, including appropriate use of restraint where required			
Curricular provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe			
Use of external personnel to supplement curriculum			
Care of pupils with specific vulnerabilities/needs such as <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pupils from ethnic minorities/migrants</li> <li>• Members of the Traveller community</li> <li>• Lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender (LGBT) children</li> </ul>			

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pupils perceived to be LGBT</li> <li>• Pupils of minority religious faiths</li> <li>• Children in care</li> <li>• Children on CPNS</li> </ul>			
<p>Use of Information and Communication Technology by pupils in school</p>	<p>High</p>	<p>Bullying Staff not following policies &amp; procedures</p>	<p>ICT policy Anti-Bullying Policy Code of Behaviour</p>
<p>Application of sanctions under the school's Code of Behaviour including detention of pupils, confiscation of phones etc.</p>			



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Extra Curricular Activities			
Educational Trips/Matches			
Sporting Activities			
Choir			
Orchestra			
Violin Lessons			
Play Therapy	Med	Harm to pupils	Policy & Procedures in place
Sports Coaches	Med	Harm to pupils	Policy & Procedures in place
Changing for sport activities			
Annual Sports Day			
Annual Art Exhibition			
Annual Science Exhibition			
Cycle Training			

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Use of off-site facilities for school activities			Educational Trips Policy
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External Visitors / Vetting			
Students participating in work experience	Low	Harm by student	Work experience Policy Child Safeguarding Statement.
Volunteers/Parents	Med	Harm to pupils	Vetting Procedures Policy for Parents/Volunteers
Students participating in work experience in the school			
Student teachers undertaking training placement in school			

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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 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.

This risk assessment has been completed by the Board of Management on ..... It will be reviewed as part of the school’s annual review of its Child Safeguarding Statement.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_  
Chairperson, Board of Management

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_  
Principal/Secretary Board of Management

Date \_\_\_\_\_