



Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment Statement

Child Safeguarding Statement

St Michael's National School 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 2017](#) and [Tusla Guidance on the preparation of Child Safeguarding Statements](#), the Board of Management of St. Michael's National School 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 Mrs Áine Murphy
3. The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is Mr Mike Hussey.
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.

This Child Safeguarding Statement was adopted by the Board of Management on the:

10/6/2019

23/10/2020

26/11/2021

4/10/22

This Child Safeguarding Statement was reviewed by the Board of Management on 2/2/2023.

Signed: *Mary Mst Casey.*

Chairperson of Board of Management

Date: 30.03.2023

Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment

Written Assessment of Risk of St Michael's National School.

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 2017*, the following is the Written Risk Assessment of [name of school].

1. List of school activities

Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils

Recreation breaks for pupils

Classroom teaching and music lessons.

One-to-one teaching

One-to-one learning support

Outdoor teaching activities

Online teaching and learning remotely

Sporting Activities (Gymnastics and Football)

School outings

Summer School Programmes

Use of toilet/changing/ in school

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,

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.

Care of pupils with specific vulnerabilities/ needs such as ASD ,DCD, ADHD.

Pupils of minority religious faiths

Recruitment of school personnel including -

- Teachers/SNA's
- Caretaker/Secretary/Cleaners
- External Tutors/Guest Speakers
- 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

- Application of sanctions under the school's Code of Behaviour including
- Students participating in work experience in the school

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

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 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 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, coaching situation

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

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 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* and its Addendum (2019)

The school implements in full the Stay Safe Programme (Every second year)

The school facilitates other Emotional Wellbeing and Self esteem initiatives as required

The school implements in full the SPHE curriculum

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 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 tablet devices in the school by pupils as per circular 38/2018

The school has in place a Critical Incident Management Plan

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.

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 2017.

Our Child Protection Risk Assessment was adopted by the Board of Management on the:

12/6/2018

10/6/2019

The Board of Management of St Michael's N.S have reviewed the Child Safe Guarding Risk Assessment and updated it on the 26/11/2021.

Signed: *Mary Mgt Casey.*

Chairperson of the B.O.M

Date: 30.03.2023