



GARDA VETTING POLICY

The Garda Vetting Policy operates in conjunction with the Child Protection Policy which serves to ensure the safety of all children in the school. The policy complies with Circular 0032/2016 Statutory Requirements for Garda Vetting.

The staff and Board of St David's N.S. endeavour to Garda Vet all who have potential access to children. This is as much for the safety of the children as for the adults who may find themselves on their own with a child or children.

RATIONALE:

It is the intention that all members of the school community (over 16 years of age) who have access to children have undergone the Garda Vetting process, and will be re-vetted on a regular basis.

The school will use Garda Vetting as part of a wider process to ensure the protection and safety of all members of the school community.

The process of Garda Vetting is carried out by the Garda Central Vetting Unit (GCVU). The Church of Ireland Board of Education facilitates this process for its primary schools. The function of the GCVU is to provide details of **'all prosecutions, successful or not, pending or completed, and/or convictions'** in respect of an applicant to a registered organisation.

AIM:

The goal of this policy is to ensure that the school is a safe and secure environment for children.

THE POLICY:

All offers of employment to non-teaching staff and volunteers including parents are "subject to satisfactory vetting by the Garda Central Vetting Unit". (Teaching Staff are vetted via The Teaching Council). School will supply the relevant forms.

Failure to complete the Garda Vetting form will automatically disqualify the candidate. The provision of inaccurate information on the Garda Vetting Application form, such as an inaccurate date of birth or address, may also disqualify. Candidates will be able to challenge the information provided by the GCVU especially to avoid errors or cases of mistaken identity. In such cases, re-vetting will take place.

All returned GV forms will be handled in strictest confidence. Completed Forms will only be retained by the school in the event of a successful appointment and will be appropriately sealed and retained in a secure location.

The Board of Management decided on 5th February 2020 at a board meeting that the vetting would last for 3 years before it has to be renewed.



In all decisions, it is recognised that the school will take as its first priority its responsibility to the protection of children attending school activities.

POLICY REVIEW:

This Policy will be reviewed as necessary and particularly to comply with any relevant legislative changes.

Ratified by Board of Management on: _____

Signed: _____
Chairperson

Principal