



## **CHILD SAFEGUARDING STATEMENT AND RISK ASSESSMENT**

### **Child Safeguarding Statement**

St. David'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. David's N.S. 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 Louise Gillespie
- 3 The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (DDLp) is Kelly Delaney
- 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.



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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 DLP 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;



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- The various procedures referred to in this Statement can be accessed via the school's website, the DES 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 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 the date below.

This Child Safeguarding Statement was reviewed by the Board of Management on the date below.

Signed:

Signed:

Ms Louise Gillespie

Chairperson of Board of Management

Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Date: 13<sup>th</sup> September 2023

Date: 13<sup>th</sup> September 2023



## **CHILD SAFEGUARDING STATEMENT AND RISK ASSESSMENT**

### **Written Assessment of Risk of ST. DAVID'S NATIONAL SCHOOL**

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 [name of school].

<b>1. List of school activities</b>	<b>2. The school has identified the following risk of harm in respect of its activities –</b>	<b>3. The school has the following procedures in place to address the risks of harm identified in this assessment -</b>
COVID-19 Virus	Harm to pupils and staff through illness	Cleaning regime in line with HSE / Government guidelines Constant hand washing and sanitizing Social distancing where possible between pupils COVID-19 Response Plan in operation
Training of school personnel in Child Protection matters	Harm not recognised or reported promptly	Child Safeguarding Statement & DES procedures made available to all staff  DLP& DDLP to attend PDST face to face training All Staff to view training module & any other online training offered by PDST
One to one teaching	Harm by school personnel	BOM records all records of staff and board training School has procedures in place for one to one teaching in SEN policy Glass panel in door
Care of Children with special needs, including intimate care needs	Harm by school personnel	Policy on intimate care - reviewed



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Toilet areas > Classroom > Toilets in hallway	Inappropriate behaviour	Yard supervision policy – to be revised Yard Rules Blue/Pink Peg system to be introduced
Curricular Provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay safe.	Non-teaching of same	School implements SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe in full
LGBT Children/Pupils perceived to be LGBT	Bullying	Anti-Bullying Policy Code of Behaviour
Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils	Harm from older pupils, Unknown adults on the school grounds	Arrival and dismissal supervised by Teachers Policy to be formulated when applicable

Managing of challenging behaviour amongst pupils, including appropriate use of restraint	Injury to pupils and staff	Restraint Policy – formulated Health & Safety Policy Code Of Behaviour
Sports Coaches/Parent Volunteers	Harm to pupils	Garda vetting of coaches/volunteers Teacher always accompanies the class/group
Students participating in work experience	Harm by student	Students over 16 must be Garda vetted Child Safeguarding Statement.
Recreation breaks for pupils	Harm from other pupils Bullying	Yard supervision rota Yard supervision policy Procedures for wet play days
Classroom teaching	Harm not recognised or reported promptly Harm by school personnel Harm by pupils	All teachers are Garda vetted and have registered with the Teaching Council Child Safeguarding Statement & DES procedures made available to all staff





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		DLP& DDLP to attend PDST face to face training All Staff to view online training offered by PDST
Outdoor teaching activities	Harm by school personnel Harm by pupils Flight risk	All teachers are Garda vetted and have registered with the Teaching Council Child Safeguarding Statement & DES procedures made available to all staff DLP& DDLP to attend PDST face to face training All Staff to view online training offered by PDST Adequate supervision
Sporting Activities	Harm not recognised or reported promptly Harm by coaching staff Harm by pupils	All teachers and parent volunteers are Garda vetted Adequate supervision
After Schools Club	Harm not recognised or reported promptly Harm by leader/teacher Harm by pupils	All teachers and helpers are Garda vetted Outside organisations must have a child safeguarding statement in line with Children First. Two adults must be present during Afterschool activities
School outings	Harm by school personnel Harm by outside personnel Harm by pupils	All teachers are Garda vetted and have registered with the Teaching Council Child Safeguarding Statement & DES procedures made available to all staff



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		All chosen venues must have a child safeguarding statement
Annual Sports Day	Flight risk of pupils Harm by outside adults	Extra supervision if necessary Extra personnel required All helpers are Garda vetted Risk has been identified. Boundaries need to be clearly identified before the event
Use of off-site facilities for school activities e.g. swimming, basketball matches	Harm by outside personnel	All teachers are Garda vetted and have registered with the Teaching Council Child Safeguarding Statement & DES procedures made available to all staff
		Adequate supervision
School transport arrangements	Harm to pupils Bullying Unsupervised access of phones/devices	Anti-Bullying Policy ICT Acceptable Use Policy Code of Behaviour Copy of Bus Companies Child Safeguarding statements Up to date list of contact numbers
Administration of Medicine Administration of First Aid	Harm to pupils	Administration of medicines policy First Aid training provided to staff First Aid Rota linked to yard duty
Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst pupils	Bullying of pupils by pupils	Anti-Bullying Policy Code of Behaviour Regular staff training in Anti bullying Provision of information talks on Cyber Bullying for Parents and pupils ICT Acceptable Use Policy



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Use of external personnel to supplement curriculum	Harm to pupils Harm not recognised or properly or promptly reported	Sign a statutory declaration Class teacher will always be present in the classroom External personnel involved in regular teaching must be Garda vetted
Recruitment of school personnel including <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Teachers</li> <li>• SNA's</li> <li>• Caretaker/Secretary/Cleaners</li> <li>• Sports coaches</li> <li>• External Tutors/Guest Speakers</li> <li>• Volunteers/Parents in school activities</li> <li>• Visitors/contractors present in school during school hours</li> </ul>	Harm not recognised or properly or promptly reported	Child Safeguarding Statement & DES procedures made available to all staff  Staff to view training offered by PDST  Vetting Procedures  Child Protection Policy covers volunteers and visiting speakers
Student teachers undertaking training placement in school		Garda Vetted Copy of Safeguarding Statement
Use of video/photography/other media to record school events		Acceptable use of ICT policy





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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. It will be reviewed as part of the school's annual review of its Child Safeguarding Statement.

Signed *Liam O'Leary* Date 13/9/23  
Chairperson, Board of Management

Signed *L. Gillespie* Date 13/9/23  
Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management