



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 (revised 2023) and Tusla Guidance on the preparation of Child Safeguarding Statements, the Board of Management of St Marks 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 (revised 2023) as part of this overall Child Safeguarding Statement
- 2 The Designated Liaison Person (DLP) is Ross Dignam
- 3 The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is Aileen O'Brien
- 4 The Relevant Person is Ross Dignam

5 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:

- 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.

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6 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 (revised 2023) and to the relevant agreed disciplinary procedures for school staff which are published on the gov.ie 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 DES and available on the gov.ie 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 (revised 2023), including in the case of registered teachers, those in relation to mandated reporting under the Children First Act 2015.
- 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 attached as an appendix to these procedures.



- The various procedures referred to in this Statement can be accessed via the school's website, the gov.ie website or will be made available on request by the school.

7 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.

8 This Child Safeguarding Statement will be not be reviewed in November 2026 as the policy as a whole will be changed in line with the new Child Protection guidelines. November 2026 will be the first version of the policy under these new guidelines.

This Child Safeguarding Statement was adopted by the Board of Management on [REDACTED]

Signed: _____

Chairperson of Board of Management

Signed: _____

Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Date: _____

Date: _____



St. Mark's School

Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment

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 (revised 2023)*, the following is the Written Risk Assessment of St Mark's School. This will be the last version of this policy as the new guidelines will be in place prior to November 2026 and a new version of the policy will replace the review of this policy.

List of School Activities	Risk Level	The School has identified the following Risk of Harm in respect of its activities	The School has the following procedures in place to address risk identified in this assessment
Training of school personnel in child protection matters	High	Harm not recognized or reported promptly Training not given to new staff members promptly	Child Safeguarding Statement and DES procedures made available to all staff DLP & DDLP to attend PDST face to face training All staff to engage in training via Tusla modules and other online training offered by PDST BOM to maintain records of staff and BOM training Training on new guidelines taking place in November 2025.
One to one teaching	Med	Harm by school personnel	Open doors in certain ^{most} situations unless other risks are present. Table between teacher and pupil Glass panel in doors



Care of children with special needs, including intimate care needs	High	Harm by school personnel	Policy on intimate care Staff training
Use of toilet/changing/shower areas in school	High	Inappropriate behaviour	Supervision Traffic Light system to show when already in use.
Curricular provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe	Med	Non-teaching of same	School implements SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe Policies in place Training completed by teachers in Stay Safe and RSE
Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils	High	Harm from other pupils, unknown adults on the school grounds or in school buildings Students absconding Car/bus accidents	Arrival and dismissal supervised by teachers and SNA's Traffic management procedures in place Health and safety policy Key pads on door Traffic Management Plan for Buses
Management of challenging behaviour amongst pupils	High	Injury to pupils or staff Pupils exposed to aggressive behaviour of other pupils	Health and safety policy Code of behaviour MAPA training for staff
Life skills/school outings	High	Injury/harm to pupils Challenging behaviour Road Safety	Supervision procedures in place School rules Code of behaviour



Breaks for pupils	High	Injury/harm to pupils Challenging behaviour	Supervision procedures in place School rules Code of behaviour Anti-bullying policy
Classroom teaching	Med	Injury/harm to pupils Challenging behaviour	Supervision procedures in place School rules Code of behaviour Anti-bullying policy
Administration of medicine	Med	Staff administering medication on their own Harm by incorrect administration of medication Losing/misplacing Expiry date	Training in administration of emergency medication. 3 staff members trained in General Admin of Medication. 3 staff members trained in emergency administration of medication for Addisons. 4 staff members trained in tube feeding protocol. Safe storage of medications Co-signing for administration of medications Regular expiry date checks on medication and buccal capsules. 4 staff members completed Admin of First Aid
Administration of first aid	Med	Students requiring first aid	
Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst pupils	Low	Harm to pupils	Bi Cinealta SPHE policy



			<p>Teaching of Stay Safe and RSE</p> <p>Student Council Suggestion Boxes linked to Wellbeing</p>
<p>Care of pupils with specific vulnerabilities/needs such as</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pupils from ethnic minorities/migrants • Members of the travelling community • Lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender (LGBT) children • Pupils perceived to be LGBT • Pupils of minority religious faiths • Children in care 	Med	<p>Bullying</p> <p>Harm to pupils</p>	<p>Bi Cinealta policy</p> <p>SPHE policy</p> <p>Teaching of Stay Safe and RSE</p>
<p>Recruitment of school personnel including</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teachers • SNA's • Caretaker/secretary/cleaners • External tutors/guest speakers • Volunteers/contractors present in school during school hours • Visitors/contractors 	Med	<p>Harm not recognized or promptly reported</p>	<p>Child safeguarding statement and DES procedures made available to all staff</p> <p>Staff to engage with Tusla CPD</p> <p>Vetting procedures in place for all staff</p> <p>External tutors/visitors/volunteers/students are never left alone with a child</p>



present during after school activities			
Therapists/clinicians visiting or providing treatment for pupils during the school day	Med	Harm by visiting personnel Harm not recognized Harm not promptly or properly reported	Child safeguarding statement and DES procedures made available to staff
Use of digital technologies Staff accessing Google Drive outside school building	Low	Bullying Photographs and storage of same Confidentiality breach of personal details etc	Digital technologies policy Bi Cinealta policy Code of behaviour
Students teachers/social care students undertaking training placement in school	Med	Harm to pupils	Code of behaviour School rules Garda vetting Child safeguarding statement
Remote teaching/learning	Med	Cyber bullying Breaches of data protection	Bi Cinealta Policy Remote Learning Plan Data Protection Policy
Use of video/photography/other media to record school events	Med	Exposure/breach of confidentiality	Photographic consent from parents Data protection policy GDPR Consent Database updated regularly



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 the 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.

The risk assessment has been completed by the Board of Management on 11/11/25. It will be reviewed as part of the school's annual review of its Child Safeguarding Statement.

Signed: *Norleen Burke*
Chairperson, Board of Management

Date: 11th Nov 25

Signed: *[Signature]*
Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Date: 11/11/25