

Santa Sabina Dominican College

Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment

Child Safeguarding Statement

Santa Sabina Dominican College, is a post-primary school providing post-primary education to girls from first year to sixth year.

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 Santa Sabina Dominican College 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 Ms. Fiona McAvoy, (Deputy Principal)
(The DLP will keep the Principal appropriately informed of all child protection matters)
- 3 The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is Ms. Joyce Kavanagh (Principal)
- 4 The Relevant Person is the DLP Ms McAvoy
- 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:

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 cooperate 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 student with a special vulnerability.

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 Department of Education 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-
 - Provides 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
 - Ensures staff avail of relevant training on a regular basis
 - 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 included with the Child Safeguarding Statement.
- 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.

Note: The above is not intended as an exhaustive list.

- 7 This statement has been published on the school's website and has been provided to all members of school personnel, the Parents' Association and the Le Chéile Trust. 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 reviewed annually or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which this statement refers.

The Child Safeguarding Statement was adopted by the Board of Management on 10th December 2018 and reviewed on an annual basis or as required since that date.

This Child Safeguarding Statement was reviewed by the Board of Management on 2nd March 2026

Ms M Fox
Chairperson, Board of Management

Ms J Kavanagh
Principal/Secretary Board of Management

Santa Sabina Dominican College

Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment

Written Assessment of Risk in Santa Sabina Dominican College.

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 Santa Sabina Dominican College

1. List of school activities

General Daily Activities

School Arrival / Departure
Recreation Breaks
Use of Toilet/ changing facilities
Students requesting permission to leave class to avail of toilet facilities
School Transport /Staff giving lifts to students
Use of Technology / Remote Teaching and Learning
Use of video/photography/ other media to record school events
Student congregation in locker areas
Participation of students in events external to the school/fundraising
Application of sanctions under the school's Code of Behaviour including detention, confiscation of phones etc.
Supervised after school study
After school use of school premises by other organisations
School transport arrangements

Teaching and Learning Activities

Classroom interactions
One-to-one teaching/learning support
One-to-one guidance / counselling
Online teaching and learning
Curricular provision in respect of SPHE / RSE / Wellbeing
Use of substitute teachers in the case of absenteeism
Use of external personnel to supplement curriculum / sports and other extra -curricular activities
Student teachers undertaking training placement in school
Outdoor teaching activities
Work experience

Pastoral Care

One-to -one counselling
Care of students with special educational needs
School outings
Sporting Activities
School trips involving overnight stay or foreign travel
Use of off-site facilities for school activities
Care of students with special educational needs, including intimate care where needed
Care of students with specific vulnerabilities e.g. ethnic /religious minorities/gender issues
Management of challenging behaviour amongst students
Management of provision of food and drink
Administration of Medicine and First Aid
Dealing with Bullying issues
Mis-use of social media

List of School Activities Continued:**Recruitment**

Recruitment of school personnel
Use of external Contractors / Cleaners during and after school hours
Volunteers / parents involved in school activities

Sporting / Extra-Curricular Activities

Participation of students in these events
Travelling to matches
Changing in changing rooms in either this school or other schools
Use of external personnel to support sports and other extracurricular activities
Volunteers /parents in sports activities
Use of social media to record and comment on sporting/extra-curricular events events
Administration of First Aid
Evening study

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

Risk of harm due to an inadequate lack of adherence to the Code of Behaviour
Risk of a student being harmed by a member of school personnel / volunteer or visitor to the school
Risk of student being harmed by a member of staff of another organisation or other person while the student is participating in out of school activities
Risk of a student being harmed in school by another student
Risk of a student being harmed by an unauthorised intruder
Risk of harm due to bullying of a student in school or on school trips
Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of a student in school
Risk of harm in a one-one teaching, counselling, coaching situation
Risk of harm caused by a member of school personnel communicating with students in an inappropriate manner via social media, texting, digital device or other manner
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 while carrying out work experience
Risk of mishandling of students with challenging behaviour
Risk of harm to students from personnel unwilling to commit to expected school standards
Risk of harm to a student while that student is receiving First Aid treatment.
Risk of harm to students with particular vulnerabilities, including medical vulnerabilities
Risk of harm to a student due to lack of experience of student teachers
Risk of harm not being recognised by school personnel
Risk of harm not being reported properly and promptly
Risk of harm while timetabled for class but in toilet areas (with or without permission)

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

The following policies and protocols are in place:

Code of Behaviour
Attendance Policy and Strategy
Health and Safety Policy
SPHE Policy
School Trip Policy
Anti-Bullying Policy adheres to the DE “Anti-Bullying Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools” and the new Bí Cineáltas Guidelines
Mobile Phone Policy
AUP (Acceptable Use Policy) / iPad Policy in respect of usage of Computers, Social Media Policy.
Additional Educational Needs Policy
Remote Teaching and Learning Framework Policy
Wellbeing Policy
CCTV/ Recorded Images Policy

Protocols

Corridor/grounds supervision protocol to ensure appropriate supervision of students during arrival, departure and break times
Procedures for signing in and out of school for late arrival and early departure
Texting to inform parents of students who are absent for the first period of the day
Supervision protocol for transport to and from sporting/ extra-curricular events
Supervision protocols to ensure appropriate supervision during breaks and for all major events
Statement of Practice for allowing students leave class during class time
Policy and procedures regarding the administration of First Aid

Child Protection

The school adheres to the requirements of Garda vetting legislation and relevant DE circulars in relation to recruitment and Garda vetting. All staff are vetted by the National Vetting Bureau
All school personnel are provided with a copy of the school’s Child Safeguarding Statement
All school personnel must undertake training in child safeguarding every two years
School personnel are required to adhere to the Child Protection procedures for Primary and Post-Primary schools 2017.(revised 2023) Induction Programme for new school personnel
The school implements in full the SPHE curriculum
Codes of Professional Conduct in place for school personnel
Board of Management has Oversight role regarding Child Safeguarding

Other

The school implements the full Wellbeing Programme in Junior Cycle
Protocols for student work experience in an external organisation
Critical Incident Management Plan
All visitors report to Reception and door security systems are in place

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(revised 2023)*

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 risks of harm, the school has in place the procedures listed in this risk assessment to manage and reduce risk to the greatest possible extent.