



# St. Joseph's Special School

Castletymon Road, Balrothery, Tallaght. Dublin 24 01 451 5961 admin@sjss.ie www.sjss.ie

Registered Charity Number: 20140210 Roll Number: 19520H

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## Child Safeguarding Statement.

St. Joseph's Special School is a special school providing primary and post-primary education to pupils from Junior Infants to Sixth Class/First Year to Leaving Certificate 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 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. Joseph's Special 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 **Graeme Crombie** (Principal)
- 3 The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is **Shane Boyle** (Deputy Principal)
- 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 DES 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 DES 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 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, 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 this statement.
- 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.

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 Reviewed by the Board of Management on **30 September 2021**

**Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment**  
(of any potential harm)

<b>List of School Activities</b>	<b>Risk Level</b>	<b>The School has identified the following Risk of Harm</b>	<b>The School has the following Procedures in place to address risk identified in this assessment</b>
Training of school personnel in Child Protection matters	High	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 Tusla training module & any other online training offered by PDST  BOM records all records of staff and board training
One to one teaching	Med	Harm by school personnel	School has policy in place for one to one teaching Open doors are best practice Glass in window
Care of children with special needs, including intimate care needs	High	Harm by school personnel	Policy on intimate care
Toilet areas	High	Inappropriate behaviour	Staff supervision in common areas outside toilets
Curricular Provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay safe.	Med	Non-teaching of same	School implements SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe in full
Managing of challenging behaviour amongst pupils, including appropriate	High	Injury to pupils and staff	Health & Safety Policy Code Of Behaviour

use of restraint			Positive Inter
<b>List of School Activities</b>	<b>Risk Level</b>	<b>The School has identified the following Risk of Harm</b>	<b>The School has the following Procedures in place to address risk identified in this assessment</b>
Daily, arrival and dismissal of pupils	Med	Harm from other pupils, unknown adults on the playground Traffic on avenue Inappropriate behaviour	Arrival and dismissal Policy & Procedures Supervision Policy Teachers/SNAs Traffic Management Procedures in place Health & Safety Policy
Recreation breaks for pupils	High	Injury to pupils/Bullying Harm not recognised or properly or promptly reported	Policy & Procedures in place Health & Safety Policy Code Of Behaviour
Classroom teaching Practical Subjects	Med	Harm to pupils Harm not recognised or properly or promptly reported	
Outdoor teaching activities	Med	Risk of harm to students risk of harm through absconding	Supervision Policy Stay Safe Programme Vetting Procedures Outings and Tours Policy
Sporting Activities Changing rooms	Med	Inappropriate behaviour Harm to students	Supervision Policy Intimate Care Policy Staff Vetting Anti Bullying Policy
Sports Coaches	Med	Harm to pupils	Supervision Policy Child Safeguarding Statement Intimate Care Policy Staff Vetting Anti Bullying Policy

Students participating in work experience	Low	Harm by student	Work experience Policy Child Safeguarding Statement.
Educational Trips/Matches	Med	Risk of harm to students risk of harm through absconding	Supervision Policy Stay Safe Programme Vetting Procedures Outings and Tours Policy
Sports Day, Exhibitions, Open Days, Coffee Mornings	Med	Risk of harm to students risk of harm through absconding	Supervision Policy Stay Safe Programme Vetting Procedures Outings and Tours Policy Visitors sign in book Secure Fob locked doors
Use of off-site facilities for school activities	Med	Harm to pupils	Educational Trips Policy
School transport arrangements including use of bus escorts	Med	Harm to pupils Harm not recognised or properly or promptly reported	Vetting Procedures for escorts Child protection training for Escorts Child Safeguarding Statement
Volunteers/Parents	Med	Harm to pupils	Vetting Procedures Policy for Parents/Volunteers
Administration of First Aid	Med	Harm to pupils Harm not recognised or properly or promptly reported	Accident Injury Policy Child Safeguarding Statement

Administration of Medicine	Med	Harm to pupils Harm not recognised or properly or promptly reported	Administration of Medication Policy Child Safeguarding Statement
Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst pupils	Med	Harm to pupils Harm not recognised or properly or promptly reported	Anti-Bullying Policy Code of Behaviour Child Safeguarding Statement
Use of external personnel to supplement curriculum	Med	Harm to pupils from external staff Harm not recognised or properly or promptly reported	Supervision Policy Child Safeguarding Statement Vetting Procedures Tusla Child Protection Training
Care of pupils with specific vulnerabilities/ needs such as <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pupils from ethnic minorities/migrants</li> <li>• Members of the Traveller community</li> <li>• Lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender (LGBT) children</li> <li>• Pupils perceived to be LGBT</li> <li>• Pupils of minority religious faiths</li> <li>• Children in care</li> <li>• Children on CPNS</li> </ul>	Med	Harm not recognised or properly or promptly reported Harm to pupils	Anti-Bullying Policy Code of Behaviour Child Safeguarding Statements
Use of Information and Communication Technology by pupils	High	Bullying Staff not following policies &	ICT policy Anti-Bullying Policy

in school		procedures	Code of Behaviour Child Safeguarding Statements Tusla Child Safeguarding Training
Application of sanctions under the school's Code of Behaviour including detention of pupils, confiscation of phones etc.	Med	Harm to pupil	Code of Behaviour Supervision Policy Supervision Rota Child Safeguarding Statement
Student teachers/SNA undertaking training placement in school	Med	Harm not recognised or properly or promptly reported Harm to Pupil	Tusla training Child Safeguarding Statement Vetting Procedures
Use of video/photography/other media to record school events	Med	Harm to Pupil	Child Safeguarding Statement Tusla Child Safeguarding Training Acceptable Use Policy

**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*