

Saint Augustine's School

Child Safeguarding Statement

St Augustine's School is a special school providing primary/post-primary education to pupils from age 7- 18 years of age.

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 Augustine's 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 Mr David O' Brien
- 3 The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is Mr John Moore
- 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 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 abovenamed DLP as the “relevant person” (as defined in the Children First Act 2015) to be the first point of contact in respect of the schools 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.
- The various procedures referred to in this Statement can be accessed via the school’s website, the DE 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.

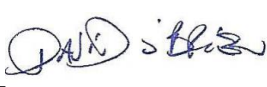
- 6 This statement has been published on the school’s website and has been provided to all members of school personnel, the Parents’ Association (if any) and the patron. It is readily accessible to parents and guardians on request. A copy of this Statement will be made available to Tusla and the Department 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 15/10/2020.

This Child Safeguarding Statement was reviewed by the Board of Management in September 2022.

Signed:  _____

Theresa Ghalaieny
Chairperson of Board of Management

Signed:  _____

David O’Brien
School Principal

Date: 22/09/22 _____

Date: 22/09/22 _____

Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment (of any potential harm)

List of school activities	Risk Level	The school has identified the following Risk of Harm	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 recognised or reported promptly	<p>Child Safeguarding Statement and DES procedures made available to all staff.</p> <p>DLP/DDLP to attend PDST/DES face-to-face training.</p> <p>All staff to view Tusla training module and any other online training offered by PDST.</p> <p>BOM keeps records of all staff and board training.</p>
One-to-one teaching	Medium	Harm by school personnel	<p>School has policy in place for one-to-one teaching.</p> <p>Open doors.</p> <p>Table between teacher and pupil.</p> <p>Glass window in door.</p>
Bathroom areas	High	Inappropriate behaviour	Bathroom Supervision Policy.
Curricular Provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay-Safe & Wellbeing	Medium	Non-teaching of same	School implements SPHE, RSE and Stay-Safe, Wellbeing programmes in full.
Managing of challenging behaviour amongst pupils	High	Injury to pupils and staff	<p>Code of Behaviour Policy.</p> <p>Health & Safety Policy.</p>
Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils	Medium	Harm from other pupils, unknown adults, traffic on school site	<p>Health & Safety Policy.</p> <p>Supervision Policy.</p>
Recreation breaks for pupils	High	<p>Injury to pupils/bullying.</p> <p>Harm not recognised or properly or promptly reported.</p>	<p>Anti-Bullying Policy. Use of reporting forms.</p> <p>Code of Behaviour.</p> <p>Supervision Policy.</p> <p>Health & Safety Policy.</p>
School transport arrangements including use of bus escorts	Medium	<p>Harm to pupils.</p> <p>Harm not recognised or properly or promptly reported.</p>	<p>Vetting procedures in place.</p> <p>Students are encouraged to use toilet before leaving school.</p>
Use of external personnel to supplement curriculum	Medium	Harm not recognised or properly or promptly reported.	<p>Vetting procedures in place.</p> <p>External personnel accompanied by school staff during visit.</p>
Use of swimming pool changing rooms	High	Inappropriate behaviour	Policy on Supervision of Swimming Pool changing rooms.

List of school activities	Risk Level	School has identified the following Risk of Harm	The school has the following procedures in place to address risk identified in this assessment
Breakfast club	Medium	Harm by school personnel	Open doors. Class has windows.
Confirmation in local church	Medium	Harm not recognised or properly or promptly reported.	Supervision Policy. Extra staffing.
Past pupils visiting school	High	Harm not recognised or properly or promptly reported.	Visitors sign-in book. Visitors ID system. Visitors to be accompanied by staff member.
Bodhrán visits off school site	Medium	Harm not recognised or properly or promptly reported.	Supervision Policy Extra staffing. Use of reporting forms.
Past pupils club	High	Harm not recognised or properly or promptly reported.	Supervision Policy Extra staffing.
Córfhéile na Scoileanna	High	Harm not recognised or properly or promptly reported.	Supervision Policy Extra staffing.
Sporting events off site	High	Harm not recognised or properly or promptly reported.	Supervision Policy Extra staffing.
Recruitment of school personnel/external visitors/guest speakers/contractors	High	Harm by school personnel. Harm not recognised or properly or promptly reported.	Vetting procedures in place. External staff accompanied by school staff during visit.
Administration of medication	High	Harm by incorrect administration of medication.	Administration of Medication Policy. Regular training for school staff. Parents/guardians to update school on any changes to medical protocols.
Festina Lente & Therapy dog	High	Harm by animals	Extra staffing Students are encouraged to be gentle when caring for animals Junior Cycle short course "Caring for Animals" Parental permission
Classroom teaching	Medium	Harm by school personnel	Glass in window Staff training Vetting Procedures

Use of information and communication technology by pupils in school	High	Risk of harm due to students inappropriately accessing/using computers, social media, phones and other devices while in school.	ICT Policy. Bring Your Own Device Policy. Supervision.
List of school activities	Risk Level	School has identified the following Risk of Harm	The school has the following procedures in place to address risk identified in this assessment
Work experience placements	High	Harm not recognised or properly or promptly reported. Risk of harm by a member of another organisation.	Vetting procedures. School curriculum: Stay Safe
Student teachers/SNA undertaking training placement in school	High	Harm by school personnel.	Vetting procedures. Child Safeguarding Statement and DES procedures available to staff.
Use of video/photography/ other media to record school events	High	Risk of harm due to inappropriate sharing of images.	ICT Policy
After-school swim	High	Harm by parents.	Vetting procedures.
All school outings	High	Harm by school personnel, other students or persons.	Supervision Policy. School Outing Form.
Transition times between classes, different school areas, campus	High	Harm by school personnel, other students or persons.	Supervision Policy.
Students accessing school building before 8.50 am	High	Injury to pupils. Harm by school personnel. Bullying. Sharing unsuitable material on mobile phones/other devices.	School doors locked until 8.50 am. Supervision Policy. Parent and students and staff reminders. School signage.
Application of sanctions under the school's Code of Behaviour and Code of Conduct for school personnel.	High	Injury to pupils and staff. Risk of harm due to inappropriate touching between students and staff members.	Health & Safety Policy. Code of Behaviour. School complies with agreed disciplinary procedures for school staff.