



Child Safeguarding Statement

St. Mochta's National School is a primary/special/post-primary school providing primary/post-primary education to pupils from Junior Infants to Sixth Class/First Year to Leaving Certificate Year (delete as appropriate).

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 [insert school name] 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 **Maria Farrell, Principal**
- 3 The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is **Margaret O'Boyce, 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 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.

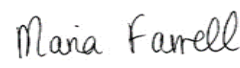
- 6 This statement has been published on the school’s website and has been provided to all members of school personnel, the Parents’ Association (if any) and the patron. It is readily accessible to parents and guardians on request. A copy of this Statement will be made available to Tusla and the Department 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 29th March 2022.

This Child Safeguarding Statement was reviewed by the Board of Management on 29th March 2022.

Signed: 
 Chairperson of Board of Management
 Date: 29th March 2022

Signed: 
 Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management
 Date: 29th March 2022

Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment

Written Assessment of Risk of St. Mochta's National School

In accordance with section 11 of the Children First Act 2015 and with the requirements 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].

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	Child Safeguarding Statement & DES procedures made available to all staff DLP& DDLP to attend PDST face to face training module All Staff has viewed PDST training BOM records all staff and board training
Recruitment of school personnel including teachers, SNAs, caretaker, secretaries, cleaners.	Med	Harm by school personnel	All staff recruited has current Garda vetting and must produce statutory declaration and form of undertaking. Train new staff in Child Protection
Visitors to the school during school hours	Med	Harm by visitor	Security access at main door. Access not granted beyond reception unless accompanied by staff member and wearing a visitor's badge.
Contractors working in school	Low	Harm by adult	All work undertaken after school hours during mid- term breaks or during holiday periods. All builders who are not Garda vetted are accompanied by caretaker during school days
Extra-curricular activities taking place after school hours	Med	Harm by adult	All tutors Garda vetted and produce Statutory Declaration.
Students/Student Teachers participating in work experience in the school	Low	Harm by student	Garda vetting in place for students over 16. Teacher always stay with Student Teachers Child Safeguarding Statement.

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
Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils	Med	Harm from other pupils, unknown adults on the playground	Arrival and Dismissal Procedures – Rota of staff in place. Supervision Procedures Health & Safety Statement Wet day Supervision Procedures
Classroom teaching	Med	Harm by school personnel Harm by another pupil	All staff Garda vetted. Code of Behaviour & Anti-bullying Policy
Curricular Provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay safe.	Med	Non-teaching of same	School implements SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe in full. Communicated with home
Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst pupils	High	Bullying Cyber bullying	Curricular areas SPHE, Stay Safe & RSE covered in all classes. Sean Fallon – Anti Bullying Campaign Anti-Bullying Policy
Use of external personnel to supplement curriculum	Low	Harm by adult	Teacher remains with class during this activity. All external tutors Garda vetted & produce statutory declaration.
Managing of challenging behaviour amongst pupils.	High	Injury to pupils and staff	Health & Safety Policy Code Of Behaviour Studio 3 Training – SNA's
Care of children with special needs, including intimate care needs	High	Harm by school personnel	Policy on intimate care Movement breaks
Toilet areas	High	Inappropriate behaviour	One child allowed to access toilet area at any one time in classroom. Permission must be sought from supervising teacher to access toilets from school playgrounds. One child to use toilet area at any one time.

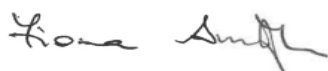
List of School Activities	Risk Level	The School has identified the following Risk of Harm	The School has the following Procedures in place to address risk identified in this assessment
One to one teaching	Med	Harm by school personnel Children who are a flight risk	Glass panel in doors/open door when teaching Door stops keep the doors open
One to one situations e.g. main school office, Principal's office/Deputy Principal's Office	Med	Harm by school personnel	Door in principal's office left open. Children approach main office at hatch. When only one secretary in the office children who are awaiting collection remain seated in school foyer.
Recreation breaks for pupils	High	Injury to pupils/Bullying Harm not recognised or properly or promptly reported Wet days	Rota of staff in place – Vigilant yard supervision Code Of Behaviour Anti-Bullying Policy Stay Safe programme Teachers leave planned activities for children on wet days
Swimming Lessons	High	Risk of harm by adult/other personnel Bullying Risk of harm by another child Children going to bathroom Changing rooms	Children change in communal area/cubicles under teacher supervision. All staff Garda vetted. Supervision practices for swimming Education of children through SPHE, Stay Safe, RSE Information given to parents
Sporting Activities	High	Harm by adult or another child. Training on school premises, GAA, Soccer	All staff and external tutors Garda vetted. External tutors have produced statutory declaration. Code of Behaviour & Anti-bullying Policy in place. Teachers always present
Educational Trips/Matches	High	Harm to pupils/by adult, other personnel, other children Injury, bullying, bathroom, changing	Supervision procedures by staff (two teachers where possible) Buddy system Garda Vetted Parents and Support Staff

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
Use of off-site facilities for school activities- (Church/Matches/Tours etc)	High	Harm by adult or child Toileting	All staff Garda vetted Pupils under supervision Code of Behaviour & Anti-bullying policy Supervision & toileting procedures
School transport arrangements	Med	Harm by adult or other child	Supervision by staff Code of Behaviour
Administration of First Aid/Medicine	Med	Harm to pupils	Classroom door left open. Blinds left up. Administration of Medication policy & Safety Statement. If child needs to remove an article of clothing they do so by themselves in the bathroom
Use of Information and Communication Technology by pupils in school	High	Bullying Staff not following policies & procedures	ICT Acceptable use policy DoES & PDST filter Anti-Bullying Policy Code of Behaviour Stay Safe Programme
Use of video/photography/other media to record school events	Med	Harm to child through exposure on social media sites	Parents/Children are asked not to record plays/school events or take photos Staff taking photos of children should not be put on social media or shared by staff
Participation by pupils in religious ceremonies	Low	Harm by adult	Clergy & school staff. Garda vetted Children under staff supervision

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.

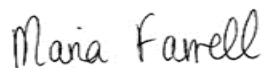
This risk assessment has been reviewed by the Board of Management on **29th March 2022**. It will be reviewed as part of the school’s annual review of its Child Safeguarding Statement.



Signed

Chairperson, Board of Management

Date: 29th March 2022



Signed

Principal/Secretary Board of Management

Date: 29th March 2022

