

St. Philomena's N.S.



Child Safeguarding Statement

St. Philomena's N.S. is a primary school providing primary education to pupils from Third to Sixth Class.

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 Túsla Guidance on the preparation of Child Safeguarding Statements, the Board of Management of St. Philomena's N.S. 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 Bridget Clear
- 3 The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is Geraldine Gaffey
- 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:



St. Philomena's N.S.

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-



St. Philomena's N.S.

- 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
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- 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 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.

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.



St. Philomena's N.S.

- 6 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 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

Signed:

Chairperson of Board of Management

Signed:

Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Date:

Date:

St. Philomena's N.S.



**Appendix 1: Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment
(of any potential harm)**

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 2017, the following is the Written Risk Assessment of St. Philomena's N.S.

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 attended PDST face to face training All Staff to view Túsla training module & any other online training offered by PDST BOM records all records of staff and board training



St. Philomena's N.S.

One to one teaching	Med	Harm by school personnel	School will devise a policy for one to one teaching Open doors SEN Policy
Toilet areas	Med	Harm from pupil to pupil	Teacher discretion is used in terms of usage
Curricular Provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay safe.	Med	Non-teaching of same	School implements SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe in full
LGBT Children/Pupils perceived to be LGBT	Low	Bullying	Anti-Bullying Policy Code of Behaviour
Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils	Med	Harm from older pupils, unknown adults on the playground	Arrival starts at 9.00 and is supervised by Class Teachers and dismissal is supervised by Class Teachers
Sports Coaches	Med	Harm to pupils	Visiting tutors from reputable organisations with appropriate vetting. Give a copy of Safeguarding procedures and Risk Assessment to all coaches. Teacher present at all times
Students participating in work experience	Low	Harm by student to pupils	Work experience Policy Child Safeguarding Statement Vetting procedures
Recreation breaks for pupils	Med	Bullying	Anti-Bullying Policy
Classroom teaching	Low	Harm by school personnel	Child Safeguarding Statement and DES procedures made available to all staff
One-to-one counselling	Med	Harm to pupils	One-to-one counselling operating procedures in place Child Safeguarding Statement Vetting procedures



St. Philomena's N.S.

Outdoor teaching activities	Med	Harm to pupils by a member of the public	Stay Safe programme is fully implemented
Homework club	Med	Harm to pupils	Vetting procedures
School outings	Med	Harm to pupils by a member of the public	School Tour policy Stay Safe programme fully implemented
Annual Sports Day	Med	Harm to pupils	Adequate supervision at all times
Fundraising events involving pupils	Med	Harm to pupils by a member of the public	Stay Safe programme is fully implemented
Use of toilets/changing areas in the gym/GAA/Harriers	Med	Harm to pupils	Adequate supervision at all times
Administration of Medicine	Med	Harm to pupils	Administration of medication policy
Administration of First Aid	Low	Harm to pupils	Procedures in place
Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst pupils	Med	Harm to pupils	Anti-Bullying Policy SPHE Friendship Week



St. Philomena's N.S.

<p>Use of external personnel to supplement curriculum</p>	<p>Med</p>	<p>Harm to pupils</p>	<p>Vetting requirements fully adhered to Teacher present at all times Sign in and Sign out book</p>
<p>Care of pupils with specific vulnerabilities/ needs such as</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pupils with SEN • Pupils from ethnic minorities/migrants • Members of the Traveller community • Lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender (LGBT) children • Pupils perceived to be LGBT • Pupils of minority religious faiths • Children in care • Children on CPNS 	<p>Med</p>	<p>Bullying</p>	<p>Anti-Bullying Policy Code of Behaviour</p>
<p>Recruitment of school personnel including -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teachers • SNA's • Caretaker/Secretary/Cleaners • Sports coaches • External Tutors/Guest Speakers • Volunteers/Parents in school activities • Visitors/contractors present in school during school hours 	<p>Low</p>	<p>Harm not recognised properly or promptly reported</p>	<p>Child Safeguarding Statement & DES procedures made available to all staff</p> <p>Staff to view Tusla training module & any other online training offered by PDST</p> <p>Vetting Procedures</p> <p>Policy of Parents / Volunteers to be completed</p> <p>Policy on Visiting Contractors to be completed</p>



St. Philomena's N.S.

• Visitors/contractors present during after school activities			
Use of Information and Communication Technology by pupils in school	Med	Bullying	AUP policy Anti-Bullying Policy Code of Behaviour
Student teachers undertaking training placement in school	Med	Harm by student	Work experience policy Child Safeguarding Statement Vetting procedures
Use of video/photography/other media to record school events	Low	Inappropriate sharing of photos	Parental permission required on enrolment form
Use of Mobile Phones	Low	Harm to pupils	Mobile phone policy
Changing areas/use of toilets in swimming pool	Med	Harm to pupils	Adequate supervision at all times
Transport for school events	Med	Harm to pupils by a member of the public	Stay Safe programme is fully implemented Adequate supervision at all times
DEIS Summer Camp	Low	Harm by school personnel	Child Safeguarding Statement and DES procedures made available to all staff.

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.



St. Philomena's N.S.

This risk assessment has been completed by the Board of Management on 04/10/2018. It will be reviewed as part of the school's annual review of its Child Safeguarding Statement.

Signed:

Date:

Chairperson, Board of Management

Signed:

Date:

Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management