

Written Assessment of Risk of St Patrick's N.S. Diswellstown

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 Patrick's N.S.

List of school activities to which risk may be attached:

- Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils
- Collection of pupils during the school day
- Recreational breaks for pupils
- Classroom teaching
- One-to-one teaching
- Outdoor teaching activities
- Sporting activities
- Use of external personnel to support sports and other extra-curricular activities
- Annual Sports Days
- Use of off-site facilities for school activities
- School outings
- School transport arrangements
- Use of toilets
- Care of children with special educational needs, including intimate care where needed.
- Care of pupils with specific vulnerabilities/ needs such as
 - Pupils from ethnic minorities/migrants
 - Pupils perceived to be LGBT
 - Pupils of minority religious faiths
 - Children in care
- Administration of First Aid
- Administration of Medicine
- Curricular provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe
- Prevention of and dealing with bullying amongst pupils
- Management of challenging behaviour amongst pupils, including appropriate use of sanctions
- Training of school personnel in child protection matters
- Use of external personnel to supplement curriculum
- Participation by pupils in religious ceremonies/religious instruction external to the school
- Use of Information and Communication Technology by pupils while in the school.
- Application of sanctions under the school's Code of Behaviour including detention.
- Students participating in work experience in the school
- Student teachers undertaking training placement in the school
- Use of video/photography/other media to record school events
- Extra-Curricular Activities
- Use of school premises by other agencies during school day (HSE/ NEPS/ SADT etc)
- Homework Club
- Recruitment of school personnel including -

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

Risk of child/ren being harmed -

- in the school, by a member of school personnel
- by a volunteer or visitor to the school
- by a member of school personnel, a member of staff of another organisation or other person while child participating in out of school activities e.g. school trip, swimming lessons
- in the school grounds, by a parent who chooses to chastise a child
- in the school, by another child
- due to bullying of a child
- due to inappropriate relationship/communications between a child and another child or adult
- due to inadequate supervision of children in the school
- due to inadequate supervision of children while attending out of school activities
- due to child/ren inappropriately accessing/using computers, social media, phones and other devices while at school
- due to SEN or other particular vulnerabilities
- due to their requirement for intimate care
- in one-to-one teaching/SNA support situation
- by a member of school personnel communicating with pupils via digital media
- by a member of the school community accessing/circulating photographs, inappropriate material via social media, texting, digital devices

The school has the following procedures in place, to address the risks of harm identified in this assessment – click here to go to Policies section of our website <http://www.stpatricksns.ie/policies.php>

The school –

- Has provided each member of school staff with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement and the *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017*
- 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
- Maintains records of all Staff and Board member training
- Implements in full the Stay Safe Programme
- Implements in full the SPHE curriculum
- Implements Wellbeing Programmes ... Friends First, You Can Do It, Friends for Life, Get Up Stand Up.
- Complies with the agreed Complaints/Grievances procedures for teaching staff
- Adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation and relevant DES circulars in relation to recruitment and Garda vetting.

The school has in place:

- an Anti-Bullying Policy which fully adheres to the requirements of the Department's *Anti-Bullying Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools*.
- a policy and clear procedures in respect of school outings.
- a Special Educational Needs Policy
- a policy and clear procedures for the administration of medication and First Aid to pupils
- a Code of Behaviour for pupils
- a policy and clear procedures for the use of external persons to supplement delivery of the curriculum
- a policy and clear procedures for the use of external sports coaches
- a policy and clear procedures for one-to-one teaching activities
- a policy and clear procedures in respect of student teacher placements
- a policy and clear procedures in respect of students undertaking work experience in the school
- a Health and Safety Statement
- a Critical Incident Management Plan
- an Intimate Care Policy in respect of students who require such care.
- a yard/playground supervision policy to ensure appropriate supervision of children during assembly, dismissal and breaks and in respect of specific areas such as toilets, etc.

In addition

- School Personnel are required to adhere to the *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017* and all registered teaching staff are required to adhere to the *Children First Act 2015*.
- The teaching staff adheres to the Teaching Council's Code of Professional Conduct.
- SNAs adhere to the school's SNA Policy
- A Social Media Policy is currently being drafted.

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 completed by the Board of Management on 05 March 2018. It shall be reviewed as part of the school’s annual review of its Child Safeguarding Statement.

Signed 

Date 05 March 2018

Chairperson, Board of Management

Signed Mary Power.

Date 05 March 2018

Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management