

Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment

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

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.

1. List of school activities

- 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 extracurricular 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.
- Use of Relaxation Areas by pupils with sensory needs
- 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 the 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.

- Use of Information and Communication Technology by pupils while engaging in distance learning .
- 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 -
 - Teachers
 - Substitute teachers
 - SNAs
 - Substitute SNAs
 - Caretakers/Secretaries/Cleaners
 - Sports Coaches
 - External Tutors/Guest Speakers
 - Volunteers/Parents in school activities
 - Visitors/Contractors present in school during school hours
 - Visitors/Contractors present during after school activities

2. The school has identified the following risk 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 a child is participating in out of school activities e.g. school trip, swimming lessons
- by a member of the public while the child is going to/ coming from school.
- 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
- 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 child/ren inappropriately accessing/using computers, social media, phones and other devices while engaging in distance learning
- due to SEN or other particular vulnerabilities
- due to their requirement for intimate care
- in one-to-one teaching/SNA support situation

3. The school has the following procedures in place to address the risks of harm identified in this assessment -

The school –

- Has provided each member of school staff with a copy of the school’s Child Safeguarding Statement and (A copy is available in every classroom and accessible to all staff members)
- Has made available to all staff 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 (A copy is available in every classroom and accessible to all staff members)
- 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 Programme
- 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, in relation to all teaching and non-teaching staff in a permanent/temporary/substitute or visiting capacity.
- Adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation and relevant DES circular 31/2016 relation to volunteers in the school.
- Adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation and relevant DES circular 31/2016 trainee teachers/ SNAs working with children in the school.
- Adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation and relevant DES circular 31/2016 Transition Year students completing work placement in the school. Only students aged 16 and older are therefore eligible to apply for work experience.

- Maintains records of Garda vetting for all teaching and non-teaching staff, including substitute staff.

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 (updated February 2019)
- 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.
- An Acceptable Use Policy (AUP) for ICT. (updated in April 2020 to include safety measures for children engages in digital distance learning)

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 are required to adhere to the Teaching Council's Code of Professional Conduct.
- SNAs adhere to the school's SNA 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*.

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. It has been most recently reviewed in September 2020 and updated in July 2021.

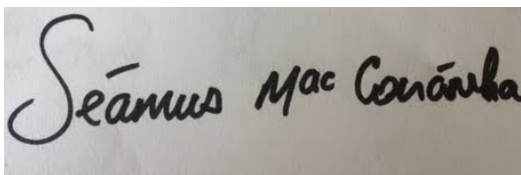
Signed

Date: 1/07/21

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Penny', written over a horizontal line.

Signed

Date: 1/07/21

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Seamus Mac Conaibha'.

