

**St. Senan’s N.S.**

**CHILD PROTECTION POLICY**

**Document Status and Issue Control:**

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Date: August 2020

**Child Safeguarding Statement**

St. Senan’s N.S. is a primary school providing primary education to pupils from Junior Infants 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 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 **Kieran Walsh**
3. The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is **Margaret Duggan**
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.

1. 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-
* 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 above named 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, 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 these procedures.
* 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.

1. 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.
2. 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 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ [date].

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Signed: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Chairperson of Board of Management Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_­­­­­­­\_

**Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment**

**Written Assessment of Risk of St. Senan’s N.S., Kilmacow**

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. Senan’s N.S.

1. **List of school activities**

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| 1. Opening and Closing Time 2. Yard Times 3. School Access 4. Swimming Lessons 5. School Trips 6. Sports Coaches 7. Social Media 8. One-to-one teaching 9. Curricular Provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe 10. Training of school personnel in Child Protection matters 11. Toilet Areas 12. Students participating in work experience 13. Change of Clothes/Toileting Issues 14. Children altar serving at Mass during school time 15. Children being brought to matches by other parents 16. Children being transported by teachers to matches and other school events 17. External Speaker 18. Online Learning. |

1. **The school has identified the following risk of harm in respect of its activities -**

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| 1. Opening and Closing Time - Access to students from strangers and other adults. Risk of harm from other pupils. 2. Yard Times – Access to students from strangers and other adults. Risk of harm from other pupils. 3. School Access – Access to students from strangers and other adults. 4. Swimming Lessons – Potential for unsupervised times in changing areas. Access to pupils by strangers or other adults. 5. School Trips – Access to pupils by strangers. Inappropriate activity by pupils. Dangers posed by unfamiliar environment. 6. Sports Coaches – Coaches behaving inappropriately. Coaches lacking awareness of child safety issues. 7. Social Media – Potential for bullying. Potential for grooming of pupils. 8. One-to-one teaching – Harm by school personnel. 9. Curricular Provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe – Non-teaching of same. 10. Training of school personnel in Child Protection matters – Harm not recognised or reported promptly. 11. Toilet Areas – Inappropriate behaviour. 12. Students participating in work experience – Harm by student. 13. Change of Clothes/Toileting Issues – Child requiring to undress during school. 14. Children altar serving at Mass during school time – Child is under the care of non-school staff during school time. 15. Children being brought to matches by other parents – Children are under the care of non-school staff. 16. Children being transported by teachers to matches and other school events - Children are under the care of a single teacher. 17. External Speaker 18. Teachers engaging with children / parents in distance learning using email, digital learning platforms and video conferencing. |

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

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| 1. Opening and Closing Time - Supervision by SNA in Junior Building from 9.10. Supervision by teachers at home time until last pupil is collected. 2. Yard Times - Adequate supervision at break times. If First Aid is required it will be performed by a staff member in the presence of other staff. 3. School Access - Front door is kept locked in Junior Building, visitors must ring bell for entrance. Observation of visitors to Senior Building - 4. Swimming Lessons – Adequate supervision provided. Trained lifeguards in pool 5. School Trips - Adequate supervision. Adequate planning and preparation by staff. 6. Sports Coaches - Visiting coaches from reputable organisations with appropriate vetting. Adequate supervision provided by class teacher. 7. Social Media - Pupils’ mobile phones are not permitted in school. Anti-Bullying Policy. Information sessions for pupils, parents and staff. 8. One-to-one teaching - School has policy in place for one to one teaching. Open doors. Transparent glass in window. 9. Curricular Provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe - School implements SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe in full. 10. Training of school personnel in Child Protection matters - Child Safeguarding Statement & DES procedures made available to all staff. DLP& DDLP to attend 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. 11. Toilet Areas - Usage and supervision policy. 12. Students participating in work experience - Work experience Policy. Child Safeguarding Statement. 13. Change of Clothes/Toileting Issues - 2 members of staff present. As much privacy as possible provided for the child. 14. Children altar serving at Mass during school time - Member of staff bring children to the church. They remain under the care of the Church sacristan until he/she returns them to school. The Church sacristan is Garda vetted. Parents will provide a letter of consent. 15. Children being brought to matches by other parents - Children are to travel in groups. Parents to be Garda vetted. 16. Children being transported by teachers to matches and other school events - Teacher will only transport children in pairs or in larger groups. Child safeguarding statement. Permission granted by BOM. 17. External Speaker - Visiting speakers from reputable organisations with appropriate vetting. Adequate supervision provided by class teacher. 18. Distance learning     1. Email and online learning platforms, parents will be communicated to in advance by the class teacher regarding how the system will operate and what material will be covered.     2. Video conferencing, safety procedures followed in setting up video conferencing, a waiting room (if available), link to be sent to parents in advance, the teacher to be present before the meeting starts. Teacher will ensure there are always three or more children present at all times of the video conference or in small group settings that the child’s parent/guardian is present. |

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| **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 16th April 2020. 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