



**Sacred Heart Secondary School,
Drogheda**

**Child Safeguarding Statement &
Risk Assessment**

February 2021



Sacred Heart Secondary School

Child Safeguarding Statement

The Sacred Heart Secondary School is a post-primary school providing post-primary education to pupils from First Year to Leaving Certificate Year.

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 **The Sacred Heart Secondary School** 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 **Ms. Leoni Carroll**
- 3 The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is **Ms. Deirdre Lynch**
- 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 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 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 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.
- 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 CEIST (Trustee). 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 2021. This Statement and Risk Assessment was reviewed and updated on 2021.

Signed: *Vincent Donovan*

Signed: *Leoni Carroll*

Chairperson of Board of Management

Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Date: 3rd February 2021

Date: 3rd February 2021



Appendix to Child Safeguarding Statement – Risk Assessment

Sacred Heart School, Drogheda Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment

This Risk Assessment has been instigated by the Board of Management of Sacred Heart School, Drogheda in order to establish if there are any practices or features that have the potential to place a student at risk. This Risk Assessment forms part of our overall Child Safeguarding Statement. The Board of Management has an Oversight role in relation to Child Safeguarding.

Written Assessment of Risk in Sacred Heart School, Drogheda.

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 the Sacred Heart School.

1. List of school activities

General Daily Activities:

- Daily arrival, dismissal, departure of pupils
- Entrance from visitors to the school including parents etc.
- Recreation breaks for pupils at break and lunchtime
- Use of bathroom facilities
- Use of changing/shower areas in schools
- Staff giving students a lift for school related activities
- Locker use

Teaching and Learning Activities:

- Classroom teaching to include remote teaching
- One-to-one teaching to include remote teaching
- One-to-one counselling
- Guidance & Counselling to include input remotely
- Outdoor teaching activities
- Curricular provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Wellbeing
- Students participating in work experience in the school
- Students participating in work experience elsewhere
- Students participating in community links
- Students participating in workshops/presentations/seminars in person and online
- Use of substitute teachers in the case of absenteeism
- Participation by pupils in religious ceremonies/religious instruction external to the school



Extra-Curricular Activities: To include in-person and remote activities

- Sporting Activities
- Annual Sports Day/Last Day Activities
- Fundraising events involving pupils
- Fundraising events involving pupils outside the school premises
- Use of off-site facilities for school activities e.g. Other school gyms for matches or competitions
- Use of external personnel to support sports and other extra-curricular activities.
- After School activities such as: Breakfast club/After school clubs/Evening study/Detention/Tuition after school
- After school use of school premises by other organisations
- Use of school premises by other organisation during school day (delete)
- Student Representative Council/Student Leadership Council/Green School/ other meetings with students/teachers/outside visitors

School Trips/Tours:

- School outings
- School trips involving overnight stay
- School trips involving foreign travel
- School transport arrangements including use of bus escorts

Pastoral Care:

- Care of children with special educational needs, including intimate care where needed,
- Management of challenging behaviour amongst pupils
- Administration of Medicine
- Administration of First Aid
- Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst pupils
- Care of pupils with specific vulnerabilities/ needs such as : Pupils from ethnic minorities/migrants, Members of the Traveller community , Lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender (LGBT) pupils, Pupils perceived to be LGBT, Pupils of minority religious faith, Pupils in care, Pupil on CPNS
- Participation by pupils in religious ceremonies/religious instruction external to the school
- Use of ICT by pupils in school and whilst learning from home remotely
- Misuse of Social Media
- Application of sanctions under the school's Code of Behaviour including detention of pupils, confiscation of phones etc.
- Use of video/photography/other media to record school events



- Misuse of illegal substances

Recruitment:

- Staff Recruitment including teachers, SNAs
Caretaker/Secretary/Cleaners, Sports coaches
- External Cleaning contractors
- Training of school personnel in child protection matters
- Use of external personnel to supplement curriculum
- Student teachers (PME) undertaking training placement in school
- Volunteers/Parents in school activities
- Visitors/contractors present in school during school hours
- Visitors/contractors present during after school activities

12. The school has identified the following risk of harm in respect of its activities –

1. Risk of harm not being recognised by school personnel
2. Risk of harm not being reported properly and promptly by school personnel
3. Risk of child being harmed in the school by a member of school personnel
4. Risk of child being harmed in the school by another child
5. Risk of child being harmed in the school by volunteer, visitor, contractor to the school
6. Risk of child being harmed by a member of school personnel, a member of staff of another organisation or other person while child participating in out of school activities or whilst learning from home e.g. school trip, swimming lessons, work experience, community links
7. Risk of harm due to bullying of child
8. Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children in school
9. Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children while attending out of school activities e.g. Work experience
10. Risk of harm due to inappropriate relationship/communications between child and another child or adult
11. Risk of harm due to children inappropriately accessing/using computers, social media, phones and other devices while at school or learning remotely from home.
12. Risk of harm to children with SEN who have particular vulnerabilities
13. Risk of harm to child while a child is receiving intimate care
14. Risk of harm due to inadequate code of behaviour
15. Risk of harm in one-to-one teaching, counselling, coaching situation
16. Risk of harm caused by member of school personnel communicating with pupils in appropriate manner via social media, texting, digital device or other manner
17. Risk of harm caused by member of school personnel accessing/circulating inappropriate material via social media, texting, digital device or other manner
18. Risk of harm due to staff/personnel not following the relevant procedures
19. Risk of harm due to concerns not being reported promptly



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

1. All school personnel are provided with a hard copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement. This is displayed in all classrooms of the school(delete) , at the reception and on the website. Teachers are requested to sign stating they have read and understood the policy.
2. The Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017 are made available to all school personnel on Office 365
3. 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
4. The school implements the SPHE curriculum
5. The school implements the Wellbeing Programme at Junior Cycle
6. The school has an Anti-Bullying Policy which fully adheres to the requirements of the Department's Anti-Bullying Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools. Antibullying Ambassadors support the implementation of the Anti-Bullying Policy
7. The school has supervision procedures to ensure appropriate supervision of children during, entrance to school, assembly, dismissal and breaks and in respect of specific areas such as toilets, changing rooms etc.
8. The school has in place a policy and clear procedures in respect of school outings. See School Tour Policy
9. The school has in place a protocol and clear procedures in respect of Blended Learning
10. The school has a Health and Safety Statement and Policy
11. The school has an Attendance and Punctuality policy
12. The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation and relevant DES circulars in relation to recruitment and Garda vetting
13. The school has a dignity in the workplace policy for school personnel (teaching and non-teaching staff)
14. The school complies with the agreed disciplinary procedures for teaching staff
15. The school has a Special Educational Needs policy
16. The school has a plan in respect of students who require such specific care
17. The school has in place a policy and procedures for the administration of medication to pupils
18. The school has trained a number of school personnel as First Responders
19. The school –
 - Has provided each member of school 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
 - Requires and 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
20. The school has in place a procedures for the administration of First Aid. See Health and Safety Statement and Policy.
21. The school has in place a code of behaviour for pupils which includes the use of mobile phones. See Code of Behaviour Policy.



22. The school has in place an Acceptable Use policy of usage of ICT by pupils
23. The school has procedures in place to ensure access from people from outside the school community is restricted.
24. The school has in place a Critical Incident Management Plan
25. The school has in place procedures for employing the use of external persons to supplement delivery of the curriculum
26. The school has in place procedure for the use of external sports coaches
27. The school has in place procedures for one-to-one teaching activities.
28. The school has in place a policy and procedures for one-to-one counselling. See Guidance Plan & Policy.
29. The school has in place procedures in respect of student teacher placements and members of staff are trained in the Droichead Process
30. The school has in place a policy and procedures in respect of students undertaking work experience in the school. See Work Experience and Placement policy.
31. The school has in place a policy and procedures in respect of pupils of the school undertaking work experience/community placements in external organisations.
32. The school has in place procedures in respect of students attending evening study, after school clubs.
33. The Board of Management has Oversight role regarding Child Safeguarding
34. School lock door system on entering the school ensuring the safety of students.

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 3rd February 2021. This Statement and Risk Assessment was reviewed and updated on 3rd February 2021.

Signed: *Vincent Donovan*

Date 3rd February 2021

Chairperson, Board of Management

Signed: *Leoni Carroll*

Date 3rd February 2021

Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management



Checklist for Review of the Child Safeguarding Statement

The *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017* require the Board of Management must undertake a review of its Child Safeguarding Statement and that the following checklist shall be used for this purpose. The review must be completed every year or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which the Child Safeguarding Statement refers. Undertaking an annual review will also ensure that a school also meets its statutory obligation under section 11(8) of the Children First Act 2015, to review its Child Safeguarding Statement every two years.

The checklist is designed as an aid to conducting this review and is not intended as an exhaustive list of the issues to be considered. Individual Boards of Management shall include other items in the checklist that are of relevance to the school in question.

As part of the overall review process, Boards of Management should also assess relevant school policies, procedures, practices and activities vis a vis their adherence to the principles of best practice in child protection and welfare as set out in the school's Child Safeguarding Statement, the Children First Act 2015 and the *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017*.

	Yes/No
1. Has the Board formally adopted a Child Safeguarding Statement in accordance with the 'Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools 2017'?	Y
2. As part of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement, has the Board formally adopted, without modification, the 'Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools 2017'?	Y
3. Does the school's Child Safeguarding Statement include a written assessment of risk as required under the Children First Act 2015?	Y
4. Has the Board reviewed and updated where necessary the written assessment of risk as part of this overall review?	Y
5. Has the DLP attended available child protection training?	Y
6. Has the Deputy DLP attended available child protection training?	Y
7. Have any members of the Board attended child protection training?	Y
8. Are there both a DLP and a Deputy DLP currently appointed?	Y
9. Are the relevant contact details (Tusla and An Garda Síochána) to hand?	Y
10. Has the Board arrangements in place to communicate the school's Child Safeguarding Statement to new school personnel?	Y
11. Is the Board satisfied that all school personnel have been made aware of their responsibilities under the 'Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools 2017' and the Children First Act 2015?	Y
12. Has the Board received a Principal's Child Protection Oversight Report at each Board meeting held since the last review was undertaken?	Y



	Yes/No
13. Since the Board's last review, was the Board informed of any child protection reports made to Tusla/An Garda Síochána by the DLP?	Y
14. Since the Board's last review, was the Board informed of any cases where the DLP sought advice from Tusla/and as a result of this advice, no report to the HSE was made?	N
15. Since the Board's last review, was the Board informed of any cases where an allegation of abuse or neglect was made against any member of school personnel?	N
16. Has the Board been provided with and reviewed all documents relevant to the Principal's Child Protection Oversight Report?	Y
17. Is the Board satisfied that the child protection procedures in relation to the making of reports to Tusla/An Garda Síochána were appropriately followed in each case reviewed?	Y
18. Is the Board satisfied that, since the last review, all appropriate actions are being or have been taken in respect of any member of school personnel against whom an allegation of abuse or neglect has been made?*	N/A
19. Were child protection matters reported to the Board appropriately recorded in the Board minutes?	Y
20. Is the Board satisfied that all records relating to child protection are appropriately filed and stored securely?	Y
21. Has the Board been notified by any parent in relation to that parent not receiving the standard notification required under section 5.6 of the 'Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools 2017' (allegation towards school personnel)	N/A
22. In relation to any cases identified at question 21 above, has the Board ensured that any notifications required section 5.6 of the 'Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools 2017' were subsequently issued by the DLP?	N/A
23. Has the Board ensured that the Parents' Association (if any), has been provided with the school's Child Safeguarding Statement?	Y
24. Has the Board ensured that the patron has been provided with the school's Child Safeguarding Statement?	y
25. Has the Board ensured that the school's Child Safeguarding Statement is available to parents on request?	y
26. Has the Board ensured that the Wellbeing Programme for Junior Cycle students is implemented in full in the school? (applies to post- primary schools)	y
27. Has the Board ensured that the SPHE curriculum is implemented in full in the school?	y
28. Is the Board satisfied that the statutory requirements for Garda Vetting have been met in respect of all school personnel (employees and volunteers)? *	Y
29. Is the Board satisfied that the Department's requirements in relation to the provision of a child protection related statutory declaration and associated form of undertaking have been met in respect of persons appointed to teaching and non-teaching positions?*	Y



	Yes/No
30. Is the Board satisfied that, from a child protection perspective, thorough recruitment and selection procedures are applied by the school in relation to all school personnel (employees and volunteers)?*	Y
31. Has the Board considered and addressed any complaints or suggestions for improvements regarding the school's Child Safeguarding Statement?	Y
32. Has the Board sought the feedback of parents in relation to the school's compliance with the requirements of the child safeguarding requirements of the 'Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools 2017'	Y
33. Has the Board sought the feedback of pupils in relation to the school's child safeguarding arrangements?	Y
34. Is the Board satisfied that the 'Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools 2017' are being fully and adequately implemented by the school?	Y
35. Has the Board identified any aspects of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement and/or its implementation that require further improvement?	Y
36. Has the Board put in place an action plan containing appropriate timelines to address those aspects of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement and/or its implementation that have been identified as requiring further improvement ?	Y
37. Has the Board ensured that any areas for improvement that that were identified in any previous review of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement have been adequately addressed?	Y

*In schools where the ETB is the employer the responsibility for meeting the employer's requirements rests with the ETB concerned. In such cases, this question should be completed following consultation with the ETB.

Signed: *Vincent Donovan*

Date 3rd February 2021

Chairperson, Board of Management

Signed: *Leoní Carroll*

Date 3rd February 2021

Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management



Notification regarding the Board of Management's review of the Child Safeguarding Statement

To: All School Personnel, SHS Parents' Council and all members of The Sacred Heart Secondary school wider school community.

The Board of Management of The Sacred Heart Secondary School wishes to inform you that:

- The Board of Management's annual review of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement was completed at the Board meeting of 3rd February 2021
- This review was conducted in accordance with the "Checklist for Review of the Child Safeguarding Statement" published on the Department's 'website www.education.ie

Signed: *Vincent Donovan*
Chairperson, Board of Management

Date 3rd February 2021

Signed: *Leoní Carroll*
Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Date 3rd February 2021