

**St Vincent’s Infant Boys’ School** is a primary school providing primary education to pupils from Junior Infants to First 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 St Vincent’s Infant Boys’ School has agreed the Child Safeguarding Statement set out in this document.

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

**The Designated Liaison Person (DLP) is:** **Caoimhe Sheehan**

**The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is: Dee Coleman**

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 or 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; and
* 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 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.

1. 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.
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 21st September 2020 and will be reviewed in June 2021.



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

 **Chairperson of Board of Management** **Principal**

**Date:** 11th October 2021 **Date:** 11th October 2021

**Date of next review**:

June 2022

**Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment**

**(of any potential harm)**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  **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 Staff Training not up to dateNew StaffAncillary Staff | Child Safeguarding Statement & DES procedures made available to all staffDLP& DDLP to attend PDST face to face trainingAll Staff to view Tusla training module & any other online training offered by PDSTBOM records all records of staff and board trainingTraining Register Induction Programme for New StaffAll Staff included in school Training on CP |
| Classroom teaching  | Med | New Teachers unaware of risksHarm from other pupil | Teacher Induction ProgrammeVetting ProceduresGolden RulesListening Systems :Bubble Time/Circle Time |
| One to one teaching | Med | Harm by school personnel | School has policy in place for one to one teachingTimetableParental ConsentGlass in window |
| Care of children with special needs, including intimate care needs | High | Harm by school personnel | Policy on intimate careStay Safe Programme |
| Use of Boy’ toilet  | High | Inappropriate Behaviour Harm from other childHarm from Adult | Usage and supervision policy and Procedures  |
| **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** |
| Care of pupils with specific vulnerabilities/ needs such as * Pupils from ethnic minorities/migrants
 | High | Pupils unaware of Safety Procedures  | Induction Programme /Procedures /HSC for pupilsand Parents  |
| * Members of the Traveller community

/Roma  | High | Harm to Child | Support for English as 2nd LanguageProcedures for Communication Support/Translators |
| * Lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender (LGBT) children
* Pupils perceived to be LGBT
 | LowLow | Harm to Pupils and AdultsHarm to Pupils and Adults | Anti Bullying PolicyAnti Bullying Policy |
| * Pupils of minority religious faiths
 | High | Harm to Pupils and Adults | Anti Bullying Policy |
| * Children in care
 | HighHigh | BullyingHarm to Child | Anti bullying Policy/Induction PolicyCare Team Procedures |
| Administration of First Aid | Med | Harm to pupils | Policy in Place |
| Administration of Medicine | Med | Harm to pupils | Policy in Place |
| Dismissal /Transfer Parents/Guardians | High | Pupil is harmed by Stranger | Dismissal Procedures |
| **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** |
| Morning Arrivals and School Visitors  | High | Pupil harmed by Stranger in School | Arrivals ProceduresVisitor Procedures |
| Curricular provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe | High | Gaps in Teaching Children with Additional Needs | Monthly Report RecordProgress Report to Board of ManagementReport to Parents Council |
| Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst pupils | Med | Bullying peer to peer | Anti Bullying policy |
| Sports Coaches | Med | Harm to pupils  | Policy & Procedures in place  |
| Football in O’Connell’s  | Med | Use of Toilets | Procedures in Place |
| Swimming | High | Harm in Changing RoomHarm in Toilet | Swimming Procedures in PlaceCode of BehaviourSupervision PolicyListening Systems |
| Outdoor /Roof Play | High | Pupils Accessing ToiletRough PlayHarm from other pupil | Policy & Procedures in place Health & Safety PolicyCode Of Behaviour |
| St Agatha’s Hall | High | Pupils accessing ToiletRough Play | Procedures for use of Hall Safely |
|  |  |  |  |
| **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** |
| Violin/Music Lessons | Low | Harm to Pupils | Policy and Procedures in place |
| Play Therapy  | Med | Harm to pupils  | Policy & Procedures in place |
| Annual Sports Day | High | Harm from Parent/VisitorHarm from other PupilHarm from Volunteer | Procedures for Supervision.VettingHSC Training/Messages to Parents |
| Annual Intercultural Week | High | Harm /Bullying from Adult/Parent | ProceduresHSC Support |
| Annual Football Blitz | High | Harm from other PupilHarm from Adult/Supporter attendingHarm using Bathrooms | Procedures/Supervision Policy |
| Trips  | High | Harm from Adult in attendanceHarm from Bus operator | Educational Trips Policy/Bus hire Policy  |
| School transport arrangements including use of bus escorts | Med | Harm to pupils Harm not recognised or properly or promptly reported  | Bus Safety Policy Policy for Bus Escort |
| Use of Information and Communication Technology by pupils in school | High  | BullyingHarm to Child | ICT policyAnti-Bullying PolicyCode of Behaviour |
| **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** |
| Volunteers/Parents  | Med | Harm to pupils | Vetting Procedures Policy for Parents/Volunteers |
| Use of external personnel to supplement curriculum  | Med | Harm to Pupils | Vetting Procedures Procedures for external personnel to supplement curriculum |
| Students participating in work experience in the school | High | Risk of Harm from StudentsStudents unaware of Procedures/Practice | Vetting ProceduresInduction ProgrammeProcedures and Policy |
| Student teachers undertaking training placement in school | Med | Risk of Harm from StudentsStudents unaware of Procedures/Practice | Induction ProgrammeProcedures and Policy |
| Use of video/photography/other media to record school events  | High | Abuse of content Harm to Child | ICT PolicyConsent from ParentsSharing 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 17th June 2019. It will be reviewed as part of the school’s annual review of its Child Safeguarding Statement.



Signed \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date 11th October 20021

Chairperson, Board of Management



Signed \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date 11th October 2021

 Principal/Secretary Board of Management