



Child Safeguarding Statement

**St. Louise de Marillac
Primary School,
Drumfinn Rd.,
Ballyfermot,
Dublin 10**

Child Safeguarding Statement

St. Louise de Marillac Primary School is a primary school providing primary education to pupils from Junior Infants to Sixth Class. In all dealings with the children in our care a balance is struck between the rights of the child and the need for intervention. The protection of staff from the necessity to take unnecessary risks that may leave themselves open to accusations of abuse or neglect is also of paramount importance.

As a general rule any physical contact between school personnel and the child should be in response to the needs of the child and not the needs of the adult. While physical contact can be used to comfort, reassure or assist a child, the following should be factors in assessing its appropriateness:

- It is acceptable to the child concerned
- It is open and not secretive
- It is appropriate to the age and development stage of the child.

School personnel should not do things of a personal nature for a child, which the child can do for him/herself.

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. Louise de Marillac 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 Alma Quinn.
- 3 The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is Una Sheahan.
- 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. The school will adhere to the following principles of best practice in child protection and welfare. The school will:
 - a. recognise that the protection and welfare of children is of paramount importance, regardless of all other considerations
 - b. fully comply with its statutory obligations under the Children First Act 2015 and other relevant legislation relating to the protection and welfare of children
 - c. fully co-operate with the relevant statutory authorities in relation to child protection and welfare matters
 - d. 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
 - e. develop a practice of openness with parents and encourage parental involvement in the education of their children; and
 - f. 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:
 - a. 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
 - b. 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
 - c. 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:
 - i. Has provided each member of staff with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement
 - ii. Ensures all new staff are provided with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement
 - iii. Encourages staff to avail of relevant training
 - iv. Encourages Board of Management members to avail of relevant training
 - v. The Board of Management maintains records of all staff and Board member training.
 - d. 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
 - e. 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 school's child safeguarding statement.
- 6 All registered teachers employed by the school are mandated persons under the Children First Act 2015
- 7 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
- 8 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

- 9 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.
- 10 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 10th March 2018.

Signed: *Sr. Claire McKinnan*

Chairperson of BoM

Date: 10/3/2018

Signed: *Alma Quinn*

Principal/Secretary to the BoM

This Child Safeguarding Statement was reviewed by Board of Management at its annual review on 15th June 2021 and by the staff of St. Louise's in August 2021.

Dr. Geray Berry

Signed:

Chairperson of BoM

Date: 15/6/2021

Signed: *Alma Quinn*

Principal/Secretary to the BoM

Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment (of any potential harm)

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	Child Safeguarding Statement & DES procedures made available to all staff. DLP & DDLP attend training on offer. All Staff to view Túsla training module & any other online training offered by PDST & provide the principal with a certificate of completion. BOM records all records of staff and board training.
One to one teaching	Med	Harm by school personnel	School has a policy in place for one-to-one teaching. Open doors Table between teacher and pupil Glass panel in doors & teacher is visible through the glass.
Care of children with special needs, including intimate care needs	High	Harm by school personnel	Policy on the Provision of Intimate Care of Pupils jointly agreed between the staff and child's parents / guardians as soon as is practicable on enrolment.
Toilet areas	High	Inappropriate behaviour	Supervision policy
Curricular Provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe.	Med	Non-teaching of same	School implements SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe in full (see curricular policies)
LGBTQ+ Children/Pupils perceived to be LGBTQ+	Low	Bullying	Anti-Bullying Policy Code of Behaviour SPHE Policy Friends for Life Programme Botvins Lifeskills Programme Psychologists in Primary Schools (PIPS) Service is availed of.
Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils	Med	Harm from older pupils, unknown adults on the playground	Arrival and dismissal supervised by teachers Supervision Policy
Managing of challenging behaviour amongst pupils, including appropriate use of restraint	High	Injury to pupils and staff	Guidelines for Using & Reducing Restrictive Physical Interventions Policy Health & Safety Policy Code Of Behaviour

St. Louise de Marillac Primary School

Sports Coaches	Med	Harm to pupils	Guidelines & Procedures in place by School Completion Programme for SCP staff members.
Students participating in work experience	Low	Harm by student	Work Experience Policy Child Safeguarding Statement Supervision of students by school personnel Garda vetting is in place.
Recreation breaks for pupils	Low	Inappropriate behaviour	Supervision Policy
Outdoor teaching activities	Low	Harm to pupils	Teacher supervision Garda vetting in place.
Sporting Activities	Low	Harm to pupils	Teacher supervision Code of Behaviour
Homework club/evening study	Low	Harm to pupils	Guidelines & Procedures in place by School Completion Programme for their staff.
School outings	Low	Harm to pupils	Children use the toilet in pairs on outings. An adult would bring more than one child / group to use the toilet while on an outing.
Use of toilet/changing areas in schools	Low	Inappropriate behaviour	Pupils use individual cubicles. Code of Behaviour
Swimming	High	Harm by school personnel Harm to pupils	Two adults to accompany pupils – balance struck between child's right to privacy and the need for adequate supervision – group dressing room used. Children required to dress and undress themselves except perhaps in the case of a child with SEN. Parents informed of start / finish time and may change own child in a separate changing area if they wish.
Annual Sports Day	High	Unknown adults Inappropriate behaviour	Supervision Policy Health & Safety Statement
Fundraising events involving pupils	Med	Unknown adults	Garda vetting in place for parents on PA School personnel to accompany pupils
Use of off-site facilities for school activities	Med	Unknown adults	Class group accompanied by two members of school personnel Office notified of whereabouts of any excursion / trip

St. Louise de Marillac Primary School

Transport arrangements including use of buses for school trips	Med	Unknown adults	School Tours & Trips Policy Parents as Partners Policy
Use of multi-sensory room	Med	Harm by school personnel	Whenever possible two children are accompanied by the SNA. On occasion it may be necessary for the SNA to leave the door of the multi-sensory room open & sit at the door while the child is in the room.
Administration of Medicine Administration of First Aid	Low	Harm to pupils	Managing Chronic Health Policy Administration of Short-term Medication Policy Health & Safety Policy Guidelines on administering First Aid
Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst pupils	Med	Harm to pupils Inappropriate Behaviour	Anti-Bullying Policy Code of Behaviour
Use of external personnel to supplement curriculum	High	Harm to pupils from unknown adults	Garda vetting in place Teacher supervision at all times
Care of pupils with specific vulnerabilities/needs such as <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pupils from ethnic minorities/migrants • Members of the Traveller community • Lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender (LGBTQ+) children • Pupils perceived to be LGBTQ+ • Pupils of minority religious faiths • Children in care • Children on CPNS 	Med	Harm to pupils	Anti-Bullying Policy Code of Behaviour SPHE Policy Friends for Life Programme Botvins Lifeskills Programme (building resilience) Pastoral care aspect of postholders' responsibilities
Recruitment of school personnel including - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teachers • SNAs • Caretaker/Secretary/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 	High	Harm not recognised or properly or promptly reported	Child Safeguarding Statement & DES procedures made available to all staff Staff to view Tusla training module & any other online training offered by PDST Vetting Procedures Parents as Partners Policy Health & Safety Statement Work Experience Policy

Use of Information and Communication Technology by pupils in school / use of social media	Med	Potential for bullying Potential for grooming of pupils	ICT policy Anti-Bullying Policy Code of Behaviour Mobile Phone Policy Information sessions for pupils / parents
Application of sanctions under the school's Code of Behaviour including detention of pupils, confiscation of phones etc.	Low	Harm to pupils Inappropriate behaviour	Code of Behaviour Policy on Pupils' Use of Mobile Phones
Student teachers undertaking training placement in school	Med	Unknown adults Harm to pupils	Garda Vetting College Guidelines in Place Work Experience Policy
Use of video/photography/other media to record school events	Med	Harm to pupils Inappropriate behaviour Access to images of pupils by strangers	Code of Behaviour Health & Safety Statement Parental consent forms Supervision of media published & printed

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 10/3/2018. It will be reviewed as part of the school's annual review of its Child Safeguarding Statement.

Signed: Sr. Claire McKiernan

Chairperson, Board of Management

Signed: Ailua O'Sullivan

St. Louise de Marillac Primary School
Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

This Child Safeguarding Statement was reviewed by Board of Management at its annual review on 15th June 2021 and by the staff of St. Louise's in August 2021.

In Gerry Berry

Signed:

Signed: *Alma Quinn*

Chairperson of BoM

Principal/Secretary to the BoM

Date: 15/6/2021

