

Child Safeguarding Statement

St. Louise de Marillac 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 Addendum to Children First \(2019\)](#), 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. 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 DE 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 Department of Education and available on the DE 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 school'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 and the Addendum to Children First (2019), 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 included with the Child Safeguarding Statement.
- The various procedures referred to in this Statement can be accessed via the school's website, the DE 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 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.

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 8th February 2022.

This Child Safeguarding Statement was reviewed by the Board of Management on 8th February 2022.

Dr Gerry Berry

Signed:

Chairperson of Board of Management

Date: 17/5/23

Karen O'Maherty

Signed:

Acting Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Date: 17/5/23

Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment

Written Assessment of Risk of St. Louise de Marillac Primary School

In accordance with section 11 of the Children First Act 2015 and with the requirement of Chapter 8 of *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017*, the following is the Written Risk Assessment of St. Louise de Marillac.

1. List of school activities	2. The school has identified the following risk of harm in respect of its activities	3. The school has the following procedures in place to address the risks of harm identified in this assessment
Training of school personnel in Child Protection matters	Risk of harm not being recognised by school personnel Risk of harm not being reported properly and promptly by school personnel	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. BOM records all records of staff and board training.
One to one Teaching	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	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	Inappropriate behaviour	Supervision Policy in place.
Curricular Provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe.	Non-teaching of same	School implements SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe in full.
LGBTQ+ Children / Pupils perceived to be LGBTQ+	Bullying Risk of child being harmed in the school by another child	The school has an Anti-Bullying Policy, which fully adheres to the requirements of the Department's <i>Anti-Bullying Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools</i> . The following policies / programmes are in place: Code of Behaviour SPHE Policy Friends for Life Programme Botvins Lifeskills Programme Working Things Out Programme (6 th Class) Psychologists in Primary Schools (PIPS) service is availed of.
Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils	Harm from older pupils, unknown adults on the playground	The school has 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. Arrival and dismissal supervised by teachers Supervision Policy is in place.
Managing of challenging behaviour amongst pupils, including appropriate use of restraint	Injury to pupils and staff	Guidelines for Using & Reducing Restrictive Physical Interventions Policy in place. Health & Safety Policy is implemented. Code Of Behaviour is implemented.
Sports Coaches	Harm to pupils	Guidelines & Procedures in place by School Completion Programme for SCP staff members.

Students participating in work experience	Harm by student	The school has a Work Experience Policy in place. The school has in place a policy and procedures in respect of student teacher placements. Child Safeguarding Statement Supervision of students by school personnel . Garda vetting is in place.
Recreation breaks for pupils	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children in school Inappropriate behaviour	Supervision Policy in place.
Outdoor teaching activities	Harm to pupils	Teacher supervision Garda vetting in place.
Sporting Activities	Harm to pupils	Teacher supervision Code of Behaviour is in place.
Homework club	Harm to pupils	Guidelines & Procedures in place by School Completion Programme for their staff.
School Outings including rowing and horse-riding	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	The school has in place a policy and clear procedures in respect of school outings. 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	Inappropriate behaviour	Pupils use individual cubicles. Code of Behaviour is implemented.
Swimming	Risk of child being harmed by a member of school personnel, a member of staff of	Two adults to accompany pupils - balance struck between child's right to privacy and the

	another organisation or other person while child is participating in out of school activities e.g. school trip, swimming lessons	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	Unknown adults Inappropriate behaviour	The school has a Supervision Policy and a Health & Safety Statement.
Fundraising events involving pupils	Risk of child being harmed by unknown adult.	Garda vetting in place for parents on PA School personnel to accompany pupils
Use of off-site facilities for school activities	Risk of child being harmed by unknown adult.	Class group accompanied by two members of school personnel Office notified of whereabouts of any excursion / trip
Transport arrangements including use of buses for school trips	Risk of child being harmed by unknown adult.	School Tours & Trips Policy in place. Parents as Partners Policy in place.
Use of multi-sensory room	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	Harm to pupils	The school has in place a policy and procedures for the administration of medication 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	Harm to pupils Inappropriate behaviour	The school has an Anti-Bullying Policy which fully adheres to the requirements of the Department's <i>Anti-Bullying Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools</i> . Code of Behaviour
Use of external personnel to supplement curriculum	Harm to pupils from unknown adults	The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation and relevant DE circulars in relation to recruitment and Garda vetting. Teacher supervision at all times
Care of pupils with specific vulnerabilities/ needs such as • Pupils from ethnic minorities/migrants • Members of the Traveller community • Lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender (LGBTQ+) children	Harm to pupils	The following policies are in place: Anti-Bullying Policy Code of Behaviour SPHE Policy Friends for Life Programme Botvins Lifeskills Programme (building resilience) Working Things Out Programme

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pupils perceived to be LGBTQ+ • Pupils of minority religious faiths • Children in care • Children on CPNS 		<p>Pastoral care aspect of post-holders' responsibilities</p>
<p>Recruitment of school personnel including:</p> <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 	<p>Harm not recognised or properly or promptly reported</p>	<p>Child Safeguarding Statement & DES procedures made available to all staff</p> <p>Staff to view Tusla training module & any other online training offered by PDST</p> <p>Vetting Procedures are adhered to.</p> <p>Parents as Partners Policy in place.</p> <p>Health & Safety Statement in place.</p> <p>Work Experience Policy in place.</p>
<p>Use of Information and Communication Technology by pupils in school / use of social media</p>	<p>Risk of harm due to inappropriate use of online remote teaching and learning communication platform such as an uninvited person accessing the lesson link, students being left unsupervised for long periods of time in breakout rooms</p> <p>Potential for bullying</p> <p>Potential for grooming of pupils</p>	<p>The school has an Acceptable Use Policy in place, to include provision for online teaching and learning remotely, and has communicated this policy to parents.</p> <p>Digital Learning Plan</p> <p>Anti-Bullying Policy</p> <p>Code of Behaviour</p> <p>Mobile Phone Policy for Pupils</p>

		Information sessions for pupils / parents
Application of sanctions under the school's Code of Behaviour including detention of pupils, confiscation of phones etc.	Harm to pupils Inappropriate behaviour	The school has in place a Code of Behaviour for pupils. Policy on Pupils' Use of Mobile Phones
Student teachers undertaking training placement in school	Unknown adults Harm to pupils	The school has in place a policy and procedures in respect of student teacher placements in our Work Experience Policy. Garda Vetting is adhered to. College Guidelines are in place.
Use of video/photography/other media to record school events	Risk of harm caused by member of school personnel accessing/circulating inappropriate material via social media, texting, digital device or other manner Inappropriate behaviour Access to images of pupils by strangers	Code of Behaviour in place. The school has a 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 BoM 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.

