

- 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 25th February 2025

This Child Safeguarding Statement was reviewed by the Board of Management on 25th February 2025

The Child Safeguarding Review was announced at the Board of Management Meeting
25th February 2025

This Child Safeguarding Statement was reviewed by the Board of Management on 25th February 2025.

Signed:


Chairperson of Board of Management

25th February 2025

Signed:


Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

25th February 2025

Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment

Written Assessment of Risk of St Mac Dara's Community College

In accordance with section 11 of the Children First Act 2015 and with the requirements of Chapter 8 of the *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017*, the following is the Written Risk Assessment of [name of school].

1. List of school activities

St Mac Dara's CC has in place a Covid-19 Response Plan for infection control which follows HSE / DES Public Health Guidelines in response up to and including pandemic conditions. These guidelines inform decisions on human protocols hygiene and infection control.

Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils

- Recreation breaks for pupils
- Classroom teaching including one to one SNA and SET activities.
- One-to-one teaching
- One-to-one counselling
- Outdoor teaching activities
- Sporting Activities
- School outings / School trips involving overnight stay and foreign travel
- Use of toilet/changing/shower areas in schools
- Annual Sports Day / Open day, Evening / Local Primary School events / TY Shows / Musicals and Variety Shows / Themed events e.g. Seachtain na Gaeilge / History day / Inclusion Awareness.

Canteen use

House and State Exams.

- Fundraising events involving pupils.
- Use of off-site facilities for school activities
- School transport arrangements including use of bus escorts
- Care of children with special educational needs, including intimate care where needed.
- Care of any vulnerable adult students, including intimate care where needed

- Management of challenging behaviour amongst pupils, including appropriate use of restraint where required
- Administration of Medicine and administration of First Aid
- Curricular provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe
- Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst pupils.
- Care of pupils in relation to education of awareness of racism and personal slurs.
- Training of school personnel in child protection matters
- Use of external personnel to supplement curriculum
- Use of external personnel to support sports and other extra-curricular activities
- Care of pupils with specific vulnerabilities/ needs such as pupils from ethnic minorities/migrants / Members of the Traveller community / Lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender, LGBTQI+ children, pupils perceived to be LGBTQI+, pupils of minority religious faiths and of no faith /children in care / children on CPNS.

Recruitment of School Personnel including:

- Teachers/SNA's
- Caretaker/Secretary/Cleaners
- Sports coaches
- External Tutors/Guest Speakers
- Volunteers/Parents in school activities
- Visitors/contractors present in school activities during and after school hours
- Participation by pupils in religious ceremonies/religious instruction external to the school
- Use of Information and Communication Technology by pupils in school
- Online teaching and learning engagement.
- Application of sanctions under the school's Code of Behaviour including detention of pupils, confiscation of phones etc.
- Students participating in work experience in the school
- Students from the school participating in work experience elsewhere
- Student teachers undertaking training placement in school
- Use of video/photography/other media to record school events (GDPR).
- After school and weekend use of school premises by other organisations.
- Use of school premises by other organisation during school day
- Evening / Afterschool Supervised study / Homework Club.
- Male/ female teacher supervision with mixed groups while on trips.
- More than one staff member going to matches with a group.
- Code of behaviour for offsite Senior LC PE
- Curricular provision in respect of SPHE, CSPE, RSE, Stay Safe, Wellbeing.
- School site perimeter and external building exits secure during day.
- First response emergency chronic illness training.

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

- Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children in school.
- Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children in toilets.
- Risk of harm not being recognised by school personnel
- Risk of harm not being reported properly and promptly by school personnel
- Risk of child being harmed in the school by a member of school personnel
- Risk of child being harmed in the school by another child
- Risk of child being harmed in the school by volunteer or visitor to the school
- 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 e.g. school trip, swimming lessons
- Risk of harm due to bullying of child
- Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children in school
- Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children while attending out of school activities
- Risk of harm due to inappropriate relationship/communications between child and another child or adult including on line teaching and learning engagement.
- Risk of harm due to children inappropriately accessing/using computers, social media, phones, and other devices while at school.
- Risk of harm to children with SEN who have vulnerabilities
- Risk of harm to child while a child is receiving intimate care
- Risk of harm due to inadequate code of behaviour
- Risk of harm in one-to-one teaching, counselling, coaching situation, SNA and SET work.
- Risk of harm caused by member of school personnel communicating with pupils in an inappropriate manner via social media, texting, digital device, or other manner.
- Risk of harm caused by member of school personnel accessing/circulating inappropriate material via social media, texting, digital device, or other manner.
- Risk of contracting Covid-19.
- Risks associated with on-line Teaching and Learning.
- Risks associated with traffic flow in the school grounds.
- Base area H has the office presence of management.

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

- All school personnel are provided with a copy of the school's *Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment (Mandatory Templates one, two and three)*. All staff, stakeholders, board of management members to avail of relevant training and management of records of training maintained.
- The *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017* are made available to all school personnel.
- 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*.
- The school implements in full the SPHE/RSE curriculum (Junior and Senior Cycle)

- The school implements in full the Wellbeing Programme at Junior Cycle.
- Student protocol for leaving class and use of toilets.
- 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 and recently ratified LGBTQI+ Policy.
- The school has a yard/playground supervision roster to ensure appropriate supervision of students during, assembly, dismissal and breaks and in respect of specific areas such as toilets, changing rooms etc.
- The school has in place a policy and clear procedures in respect of school trips
- The school has a Health and Safety Statement.
- The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation and relevant DES circulars in relation to recruitment and Garda vetting supported by DDLETB.
- The school has a code of conduct for school personnel teaching and non-teaching staff (ETB Policy)
- The school complies with the agreed disciplinary procedures for teaching staff (ETB).
- The school has in place a policy and procedures for the administration of medication to pupils
- The school has in place a policy and procedures for the administration of First Aid with regular 1st Aid training for staff.
- The school has in place a Code of Positive Behaviour for pupils.
- The school has in place an ICT policy in respect of usage of ICT and AUP (Acceptable User Policy) including Internet Safety Awareness Day / Week.
- The school has in place a smart device policy in respect of usage of smart devices by pupils as part of AUP and ICT policies and procedures.
- The school has in place a mobile phone policy and procedure via ICT/AUP/Code of Positive Behaviour policies.
- Teachers have been upskilled in Microsoft Teams and other remote communication methods in response to supporting student welfare during online teaching and learning.
- The school has in place a Critical Incident Management Plan
- The school has in place a policy and clear procedures for one-to-one teaching activities, SNA and SET work.
- The school has in place a policy and procedures for one-to-one counselling
- The school has in place a policy and procedures in respect of student teacher placements
- The school has in place a policy and procedures in respect of pupils of the school undertaking work experience in external organisations.
- Parents are consulted re contacting St Mac Dara's CC should a matter arise and have been upskilled on use of VS Ware.
- Students are made aware of assessed Health and Safety risks in all subjects especially practical subjects.
- Students are made aware of assessed risk of movement of students around the school building.
- The School has a Special Education Policy as part of Inclusion Policy.
- The school has in place a policy and procedure for use of CCTV cameras (ETB).

- The school has in place a mobile phone policy and procedure via AUP/ICT/ Code of Behaviour Policies.
- The school has in place an enhanced supervision rota with provisions for before and after school and a staggered lunch break.
- All staff are trained in Microsoft Applications such as teams supported by DDLETB.
- A member of management has an office / presence in Base Area H.

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 25th February 2025. It shall be reviewed as part of the school’s annual review of its Child Safeguarding Statement. The Child Safeguarding Review was announced at the Board of Management Meeting 25th February 2025.

This Child Safeguarding Statement was reviewed by the Board of Management on 25th February 2025.

Signed:


Chairperson of Board of Management

25th February 2025

Signed:


Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

25th February 2025

