

St. Michael's House Special National School, Raheny, Dublin 5

Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment

St. Michael's House Special National School (SMH SNS) is a special school providing primary & post-primary education to pupils from age four to eighteen Child Safeguarding Statement

Safeguarding Statements, the Board of Management of SMH SNS has agreed the Child Safeguarding Statement set out in this document. to Children First (2019), the Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools (revised 2023) and Tusla Guidance on the preparation of Child The Board of Management has adopted and will implement fully and without modification the Department's Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post

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

2 The Designated Liaison Person (DLP) is

Primary Schools (revised (2023) as part of this overall Child Safeguarding Statement

- Rachel McGrath
- 3 The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is Tadgh Martin
- 4 The Relevant person is one who can provide information in respect of how

on request. In a school setting the relevant person shall be the designated liaison person. (The relevant person is one who can provide information in respect of how the child safeguarding statement was developed and will be able to provide the statement

S in child protection and welfare: policies, procedures, practices and activities. In its policies, procedures, practices and activities, the school will adhere to the following principles of best practice 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

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

- 6 The following procedures/measures are in place:
- 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 (revised 2023) and to the relevant agreed disciplinary procedures for school staff which are published on the gov.ie website 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
- 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 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 recruitment circulars published by the Department of Education and available on the gov.ie 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 the Children First Act 2015 Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools (revised 2023), including in the case of registered teachers, those in relation to mandated reporting under

- 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 procedures for managing those risks is included with the Child Safeguarding Statement. 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
- The various procedures referred to in this Statement can be accessed via the school's website, the gov.ie website or will be made available on request by

relevance to the school in question. 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

- 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. This statement has been published on the school's website and has been provided to all members of school personnel, the Parents' Association (if any) and the
- 00 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

This Child Safeguarding Statement was adopted by the Board of Management on 16th April 2024.

Chairperson of Board of Management

Signed: Jun

Signed: * * Yachel MKak

Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Date:

Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment

Written Assessment of Risk of St. Michael's House Special National School, Raheny

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 PostPrimary Schools (revised 2023), the following is the Written Risk Assessment of [name of school].

1. List of school activities	2. The risk	2. The school has identified the following risk of harm in respect of its activities –	 The school has the following procedures in place to address the risks of harm identified in this assessment -
 Training of school personnel 	•	Indicators of harm /abuse not being	Child Safeguarding Statement & Risk
in Child Protection matters		recognised by school personnel	Assessment and the DES procedures
	•	Harm / Abuse not being reported	made available to all staff. All staff
		properly and promptly by school	will sign that they have read it.
		personnel	 DLP& DDLP keep up to date with
	•	Risk of child being harmed in the	Child protection training
		school by a member of school	 All current staff have completed Túsla
		personnel	Children First Training & online
	•	Risk of child being harmed by a	training offered by PDST and
		volunteer / parent while child	refreshers undertaken every 3 to 4
		participating school activities	years.
	•	Risk of child being harmed by a	 New permanent staff complete Tusla
		member of staff of another	online course
		organisation or other person while	 BOM to maintain records of staff and
			board training

Classroom Teaching & Supervision	
 Harm by pupil to other pupils and staff Harm by school personnel Physical abuse, bullying 	
 Adequate staffing Awareness that other staff members can/ will enter the room at any time Glass in door of classroom to allow other staff to look in and view staff and pupil activities (If a decision has been made by the class teacher to cover part of the window, this action must be explained/ justified by a separate risk assessment, showing all other strategies that were used first). Code of Behaviour 	 Anti-Bullying Policy Behaviour guidelines for individual pupils Yard Supervision Rota OT/ Physiotherapy recommendations and guidelines are followed/implemented where relevant CALM Training and annual reaccreditation Teaching Council Code of Practice in place

One to one teaching/ One to one activities	
 Risk of child being harmed by a member of school personnel Risk of allegations being made against a member of staff Harm by school students 	
ents	
Whenever, 1:1 occurs open doors until 2.1 restored If there is table work taking place teacher/SNA will sit opposite pupil, unless using a TEACCH station Mindful of the nature and appropriateness of activity if you are 1:1	Recording and documentation of behaviours of concern CALM training and annual reaccreditation Anti-Bullying Policy Health and Safety Statement and Policy Classroom organised to meet the needs of pupils Teaching Council Code of Practice Sexual Harassment/ Staff Code of Conduct "Working Together-Procedures and Policies for Positive Staff Relations" document in place

		-					•			
						needs	Care of Children with special needs, including intimate care			
,		•		•		•	•			
	school personnel	Risk of allegation being made against	protocols and procedures	Risk of school personnel not acting in accordance with agreed school	strategies/skills to report bullying / inappropriate behaviour Harm by school personnel	Risk of harm not being recognised and/or reported correctly and appropriately	Risk of harm to a child by an adult or child			
	•			•	•	•	• •	•	•	•
	Protected disclosure Policy in place	reasons	and pupil for child protection/ safety	All understand that another staff	process When one SNA is only required to assist a child, the door should be left slightly ajar	the staff member is toileting a pupil 2 SNAs required when intimate care is involved during the toileting	Policy on intimate care Other staff to be made aware that	Teacher or other staff member to be informed/ aware that a child is having a 1-1 session	Easy access to room by other members of staff	Glass in window

Harm to pupil – possible flight risk

enrolment.

Consent of Parents in intimate care at

Curricular Provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay safe, Wellbeing	Outdoor teaching activities
 Non-teaching of same Risk of inadequate implementation of the SPHE curriculum and the Stay Safe programme Risk of pupils not learning the skills and strategies necessary to protect themselves 	Harm to pupil-possible flight risk
 School implements SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe and Wellbeing relevant and appropriate to the needs of the students following the 2 year plan for SPHE which is found in the RSE policy. Monitoring of implementation via medium planning & whole school plan. Differentiate the programme to the needs of the child and understand the risk and vulnerability of the children. 	 Code of Behaviour Health & Safety Statement and Policy Policy on pupils who go missing from school

Clinicians working directly with pupils		Managing of challenging behaviour amongst pupils, including appropriate use of restrictive practice
Harm to pupil		 Risk of harm to a child Risk of an allegation being made against a member of school personnel Injury to pupils and sta
 Memorandum of Agreement between St. Michael's House Organisation and St. Michael's House Schools signed on 29.11.2017 Use of room with a door containing a glass panel 	 Positive Behaviour Support Plans in place for some pupils School can refer pupils to PDS via Clinic Team Manager regarding cause and management of behaviours that challenge 	 Policy on Positive Behaviour Support & Use of Restrictive Practice Management of behaviours that challenge including appropriate use of physical and mechanical restraint Recording of behaviours of concern CALM training for teachers and SNAs Health and Safety Statement and Policy

Sporting Activities Use of external personnel to support sports and other extra curricula activities	Communicating with children/pupils in school	
• •	•	•
Harm to pupils Risk of harm to a child by an adult or child	Many pupils cannot disclose any incidence of abuse or any incidence relating to child protection because of their inability to communicate or because of their level of intellectual disability	Risk of an allegation being made against a another child/ren or a member of school personnel
•		• •
Pupils are never left alone or in a group without school staff present.	Staff are trained in total communication. Staff use appropriate method of communication for each child Heightened awareness by staff and vigilance when participating in personal care. Reporting any concerns (e.g. unusual or repeated bruising, burns, cuts etc) to teacher and recording on bodymapping charts. Reporting to DLP/DDLP if it is felt there are child protection issues	Risk assessment completed for the class prior to the commencement of intended activity Risk assessment for 1:1 pupils to attend

School outings					
 Harm by pupil to others Indicators of harm /abuse not being recognised by school personnel 					
• • •		•			
Code of Behaviour All school trips, outings and tours will be sanctioned by the principal. Staffing ratio planned in advance to ensure high level of supervision	physio, O/T disciplines), SMH organisation is required to ensure that all Safeguarding requirements have been met	It is a condition of the school agreeing to facilitate student-placements/ observations by students under the care of SMH personnel (e.g. nursing,	child protection concern or that a child makes a disclosure to them the student must report the matter to the DLP or DDLP in the Principal's absence.	Students not to be left alone with pupils or to give them this responsibility. In the event that students have a	"Acceptance of St. Michael's House Special National School, Raheny CSS including the Risk Assessment"

School trar including u		
School transport arrangements including use of bus escorts		
	• • •	•
Harm to pupii Harm by bus escorts Harm by pupil Harm by bus driver Harm not recognised or promptly/properly recorded	Risk of child being harmed by a member of school personnel, by a volunteer / parent while child participating school activities, by a member of staff of another organisation or other person while child participating in school activities Harm to pupil Harm by bus escorts Harm by bus driver	Harm / Abuse not being reported properly and promptly by school
		•
Vetting of bus drivers by contractor All bus escorts are vetted prior to taking up a position Bus escort to provide supervision Seating plan for pupils designed to prioritise safety Bus Escort Protocol in place re: handover of students, recording and	Appropriate vetting for volunteers or students assisting if applicable Code of Conduct Bus drivers are vetted by own contractor. Ensure that the bus driver is not left alone with pupils Policy on pupils who go missing from school Parents to sign permission slips for all school outings (Senior class parents of pupils taking part in Travel training can sign yearly slip)	Balanced approach to inclusion and consideration of health and safety

Administration of First Aid	Administration of Medicine	
Harm to pupil	Harm to pupil	
 Health and First Aid All injurior parents/ 	 Medical Health a Health a SNA staff Administ All staff t protocol classes 	reporting o sickness/se Reporting p 1:1/2:1 taxi sanctioned Medication Child Safeg Policy
Health and Safety Statement First Aid Training for all SNAs All injuries to the head are reported to parents/ guardians	Medical provision/ Illness in school Health and Safety Statement Health and safety Officer SNA staff trained in basic Safe Administration of Medication All staff to be aware of medication protocols for the pupils in their classes	reporting of incidents, pupil sickness/seizures, etc. Reporting procedure for incidents 1:1/2:1 taxi, if required and sanctioned Medication procedures in place Child Safeguarding Statement and Policy

 Recruitment of school personnel including teachers, special needs assistants, chef, secretary, cleaners, voiunteers/parents visitors, contractors present in school during school hours 	Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst pupils
 Risk of recruiting unsuitable personnel Indicators of harm /abuse not being recognised by school personnel Harm / Abuse not being reported properly and promptly by school personnel 	 Risk of harm due to bullying of child Risk of serious incidents of bullying not being recognised as being a child protection concern Risk of Pupils not having the strategies/skills to report bullying / inappropriate behaviour Harm by pupil
 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 All volunteers and parents on committee and regularly involved in 	 All to be aware of those students in their care who are allergic to certain preparations and/or types of plaster Child Safeguarding Statement and Policy Anti-Bullying Statement and Policy Code of Behaviour Teaching of prevention and dealing with bullying as part of the SPHE programme.

 Use of external personnel to supplement curriculum, support sports and other extra-curricular activities 	
•	•
Harm to pupil	Risk of child being harmed in the school by a member of school personnel, by a volunteer / parent while child participating school activities, by a member of staff of another organisation or other person while child participating in school activities
• •	• • •
Pupils are never left alone or in a group without school staff present Ensuring vetting of personnel by external organisation	school activities must be Garda vetted No child is ever left unsupervised by school staff, in areas where visitors or contractors may be working All school personnel, volunteers/parents involved in school activities will be given a copy of the school's CSS and asked to sign an "Acceptance of St. Michael's House Special National School, Raheny CSS including the Risk Assessment" Memorandum of Agreement between St. Michael's House Organisation and St. Michael's House Schools signed on 29.11.2017

 Use of video/photography/other media to record school events. Display of photographs in school/media/social media Fundraising/school events involving the pupils 	 Use of Information and Communication Technology by pupils in school and at home through remote teaching and learning
 Risk of pupils identity being inappropriately shared Risk of harm to a child through inappropriately sharing of information Harm to pupil by posting images online 	 Access by others at home to online platforms Risk of pupil accessing inappropriate material Risk of pupils being bullied through technology Risk of harm to pupils by school personnel, other adults and children
 Permission Slip signed by parents/guardians of all new children admitted to the school which lasts the duration of their time in the school. No names of pupils are displayed with their image Parental permission to take part in activities 	 Internet safety/ Use of photos Anti-Bullying Policy Code of Behaviour Pupiis always supervised while on computer/tablet and never left alone while engaging in online schoolwork Unique sign in details to relevant Apps to be used for remote learning given to parent/guardian Appropriate filtering level is implemented by NCTE. No access to any social media platforms is possible within the school due to filtering.

• Record Keeping	
 Risk of Sensitive Information not being shared with DLP / DDLP as required Risk of records of a sensitive nature not being properly secured and treated in confidence Risk of loss of records of a sensitive nature 	
 All school personnel are required to ensure that the DLP is aware of any sensitive records e.g. child protection monitoring records they are maintaining and to ensure that all such records are kept in a secure location and are treated with the strictest of confidence. DLP keeps any reports/referrals to TUSLA in a locked cabinet in the office and information about referrals is coded as per guidelines. 	 Child Safeguarding Statement and Policy Reminder on school permission slip not to publish photographs of other children on parents/guardians personal sociai media accounts Mobile phone policy being redeveloped.

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 Schools (revised 2023) health and safety risk. The definition of harm is set out in Chapter 4 of the Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary

should be made and reported to the principal and parents. to adhere to best practice as agreed and outlined above, in the event of an emergency where this is not possible or practicable, a full record of the incident 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. In addition while every effort will be made 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

Safeguarding Statement. This risk assessment has been completed by the Board of Management on 16th April 2024. It shall be reviewed as part of the school's annual review of its Child

Chairperson, Board of Management

Signed

Signed

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Date ___

Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management