



St. Paul's Special School

Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment Statement

Written Assessment of Risk of St. Paul's Special School

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 Post-Primary Schools 2017*, the following is the Written Risk Assessment of St. Paul's Special School

1. List of school activities

- Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils
- Recreation breaks for pupils
- Classroom teaching
- One-to-one teaching
- Outdoor teaching activities
- Use of toilet/changing/shower areas in schools
- 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
- Administration of Medicine
- Administration of First Aid
- Curricular provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe
- Training of school personnel in child protection matters
- Recruitment of school personnel including -
 - Teachers/SNA's
 - Caretaker/Secretary/Cleaners
 - External Tutors/Guest Speakers
 - Visitors/contractors present in school during or after school hours
- Participation by pupils in religious ceremonies/religious instruction external to the school
- Application of sanctions under the school's Code of Behaviour
- Students participating in work experience in the school
- Student teachers undertaking training placement in school
- Use of video/photography/other media to record school events

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

- 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
- Risk of harm to child while a child is receiving intimate care
- Risk of harm due to inadequate code of behaviour
- Risk of harm caused by member of school personnel accessing/ circulating inappropriate material via social media, texting, digital device or other manner

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 *Privacy Confidentiality & Intimate Care Guidelines*
- 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 covers the 'sensitive areas' in RSE & SPHE curriculums and Stay Safe Programmes and these are taught at a level appropriate to the needs of each individual student
- 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*
- The school has 'Pupil Supervision Guidelines' which include yard/playground supervision guidelines and 'Privacy, Confidentiality & Intimate Care Guidelines' to ensure appropriate supervision of children during, assembly, dismissal and breaks and in respect of specific areas such as toilets, changing rooms etc.
- The school has a Health, Safety and Welfare policy
- The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation and relevant DES circulars in relation to recruitment and Garda vetting
- The school has an 'Information regarding Employment' plan for school personnel (teaching and non-teaching staff)
- The school complies with the agreed disciplinary procedures for teaching

staff

- The administration of medicine and First Aid is covered by St. Paul's Hospital and the School Nursing Policy
- The School has provided each member of school staff with a copy of the school's *Privacy Confidentiality & Intimate Care Guidelines*
 - Ensures all new staff are provided with a copy of the school's *Privacy, Confidentiality & Intimate Care Guidelines'*
 - Encourages staff to avail of relevant training
 - Maintains records of all staff training
- The school has in place a code of behaviour for pupils
- The school has in place a Critical Incident Management Plan
- The school has in place a policy and procedures in respect of student teacher placements
- The school has in place records of permissions from parents with regard to their child's photograph/video etc. being recorded or otherwise

The above 3 lists are not exhaustive. Additions, subtractions and revisions will occur when necessary