



**St Colmcille's Senior National School, Knocklyon, Dublin:**

**Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment**

**Child Safeguarding Statement**

St Colmcille's SNS, Knocklyon, Dublin 16 is a primary school providing primary education to pupils from Third 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 \(revised 2023\)](#) and [Tusla Guidance on the preparation of Child Safeguarding Statements](#), the Board of Management of St. Colmcille's Senior National School 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 (revised 2023)* as part of this overall Child Safeguarding Statement
- 2 The Designated Liaison Person (DLP) is **Mary Cleary (Principal)**
- 3 The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is **Mr. Donal McGovern (Deputy Principal)**
- 4 The Relevant Person is **Mary Cleary (Principal)**
- 5 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.

- 6 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 (revised 2023)* and to the relevant agreed disciplinary procedures for school staff which are published on the gov.ie 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 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 Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools (revised 2023)*, including in the case of registered teachers, those in relation to mandated reporting under the Children First Act 2015.
- 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 gov.ie 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.

- 7 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 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.
- 8 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 **27 September 2023**.

**Signed: Catherine Collins**

**Chairperson of Board of Management**

**Date: 27/09/23**

**Signed: Mary Cleary**

**Principal**

**Date: 27/09/23**

**Date of next Review:** September 2024.



## Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment

### Written Assessment of Risk of St Colmcille's SNS

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 (revised 2023)*, the following is the Written Risk Assessment of St Colmcille's SNS, Knocklyon, Dublin 16.

#### 1. List of school activities

- Opening/Closing Times and Break Times
- Visitors/Visiting Tutors
- School Tours/Outings
- Access/Egress
- Swimming Lessons/Sports Events
- Toilet Areas
- Intimate care needs of Special Needs children
- SET teaching including one-to-one teaching
- Training of school personnel (in particular new staff) in Child Safeguarding matters
- Curricular provision in respect of SPHE, including Stay Safe, RSE etc.
- LGBT pupils/pupils perceived to be LGBT
- Managing of challenging behaviour
- Volunteer parents
- TP/TY placements
- Administration of First Aid
- After-school use of School Premises

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

- Access to pupils by strangers or other adults
- Risk of harm from other pupils
- Tutors behaving inappropriately
- Tutors lacking awareness of child safety issues
- Access to pupils by strangers
- Inappropriate activity by pupils
- Dangers posed by unfamiliar environment
- Access to pupils by strangers or other adults
- Flight risk for some pupils
- Inappropriate behaviour
- Incorrect procedures by staff
- Harm by school personnel
- Harm by visitors/visiting tutors/volunteers etc.
- Harm not recognised or reported promptly
- Non-teaching of appropriate curricular areas

- Injury to pupils and/or staff
- Access to inappropriate online material

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

- Child Safeguarding Statement provided to all staff
- Provision of CPD training to all staff when available
- Supervision by Senior Management Team, Teachers & SNAs from 8.30 a.m.
- Adequate Supervision at break times
- Visiting tutors from reputable organisations with appropriate vetting
- Sign in/Sign out/Visitor lanyards
- Glass panels in doors
- Adequate supervision
- Adequate planning and preparation by staff
- Agreed practice for intimate care
- School Tour procedures followed
- Magnetic locks on doors
- Code changed regularly
- Gates closed at breaktime
- Parents must inform office of alternative collection arrangements
- Letter to parents outlining procedures
- Adequate supervision provided
- Trained lifeguards in pool
- Procedures and supervision policy
- School implements SPHE curriculum including RSE and Stay Safe.
- Anti-bullying policy and Code of Behaviour
- Health and Safety Policy
- Acceptable usage Policy for Internet and Technology
- Critical Incident Policy
- Intimate Care policy and procedures
- SEN Policy

**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 (revised 2023)*

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.