



Child Safeguarding Statement

St Christopher's Primary School provides education to children 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 Department of Education and Skills' Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools 2017 and Tusla Guidance on the preparation of Child Safeguarding Statements, the Board of Management (BOM) of St Christopher's Primary School has agreed the Child Safeguarding Statement set out in this document.

- 1 The BOM 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: Annemarie Hogan (School Principal)
- 3 The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is: Margaret Irwin (Deputy Principal)
- 4 The BOM 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. 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.
 - continue our practice of openness with parents and encourage parental involvement in the education of their children.
 - fully respect confidentiality requirements in dealing with child protection matters.
- 5 The following procedures/measures are in place in our school:
 - 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 website of the Department of Education & Skills.

- 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 DES and available on the DES 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 and Risk Assessment.
 - ✓ Has provided each member of the teaching staff with a copy of DES Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Secondary Schools 2017.
 - ✓ Ensures all new staff are provided with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement.
 - ✓ Encourages staff to avail of relevant training.
 - ✓ Encourages BOM members to avail of relevant training.
 - ✓ Maintains records of all staff and Board member training on behalf of the BOM.
- 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.

6. All registered teachers employed by the school are mandated persons under the Children First Act 2015.
7. In accordance with the Children First Act 2015, 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 below, beginning on page 4. The risk assessment document can be updated as often as necessary and the most recent update will be available on our website.
8. The various procedures referred to in this Statement can be accessed via the school's website, the DES website or will be made available on request by the school. The document provided on our website includes links to further documents and policies available on our website, on the website of the Department of Education & Skills or the Department of Children and Youth Affairs. This statement has been published on the

school's website and has been provided to all members of school personnel and the patron. It is readily accessible to parents and guardians. A copy of this Statement will be made available to Tusla and the Department of Education and Skills if requested.

9. 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. We anticipate a complete review prior to our amalgamation and move to our new school building.

This Child Safeguarding Statement was adopted by the BOM on March 6th 2018.

Signed: _____

Chairperson of BOM

Date: _____

Signed: _____

Principal/Secretary to the BOM

Date: _____

Links to relevant websites:

The school website is:

www.stbrigidprimaryschool.ie

The DES website is www.education.ie

The Tusla website is www.tusla.ie

The DCYA website is www.dcy.a.ie

Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment

**St Christopher's Primary School, Haddington Road, Ballsbridge, Dublin 4
September 2019**

To be reviewed annually or more frequently as appropriate

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 Christopher's Primary School.

The school has identified areas of potential risk of harm to pupils in the school environment. The table below lists those potential risks and the procedures and/or policies in place for managing those risks.

	List of School Activities	The school has the following procedures in place to address the risk identified in this assessment.
1.	Training of school personnel in Child Protection Matters	Child Safeguarding Statement and DES procedures made available to all staff. DLP and DDLP to attend PDST face to face training. All staff to view Tusla training module and any other training offered by the PDST. BOM retains all records of staff and Board training. Visiting staff and part-time teachers to comply with garda vetting and to be familiar with Child Safeguarding Statement.
2.	One to one teaching	School has glass panels in doors of all classrooms where one to one teaching takes place. In Room 5 (a support room) teacher will move to section of room near door, if teaching one-to-one.
3.	Care of children with special needs including intimate care needs	School has Intimate Care Needs Policy (available on website) Two adults are present for all intimate care needs procedures. This may be

		SNAs or teachers depending on availability. RSE and SPHE can be differentiated as appropriate
4.	Toilet areas	Toilet procedures. Supervision policy
5.	Curricular provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe Programme	School implements SPHE (Social, Personal and Health Education) RSE (Relationships and Sexuality Education), Stay Safe Programmes & Weaving Well-Being Programme and facilitates staff training when available.
6.	Recruitment of new staff	Child Safeguarding Statement and DES procedures made available to all staff. Staff to view Tusla training module and any other online training offered by PDST (Professional Development Service for Teachers) or provide certificate to prove training has previously been undertaken.
7.	Management of challenging behaviour amongst pupils	Health and Safety Policy Code of Behaviour
8.	External Sports Coaches – including extra-curricular activities coaches/teachers	Garda vetting procedures in place.
9.	Cycle safety training	Garda vetting procedures in place.
10	Students participating in work experience	Work Experience Policy in place (available on our website). All students over 16 years of age Garda vetted. School has signed agreement to accept St Conleth's College as a vetting partner. Child Safeguarding Statement.
11.	3 rd Level students participating in School Placement	All students over 16 years of age Garda vetted. Letter of agreement completed with 3 rd Level College. Child Safeguarding Statement
12.	Volunteers / Parent Helpers	Supervised by staff in open areas

		Garda vetting procedures in place
13.	International Interns (incl.Eramus+)	Vetting procedures from home country. Selected by college; reference supplied by college. Statutory Declaration and Form of Undertaking provided. Irish Garda Vetting also completed.
14.	Swimming lessons	Coaches have completed Garda vetting. Teachers enter changing rooms to supervise only as necessary. Staff do not assist with drying/dressing with the exception of children with special needs who are assisted by an SNA, in view of the accompanying teacher. No child to be alone with a staff member or coach at anytime.
15.	Sports Day in Herbert Park	Supervision by parents and teachers; unaccompanied children supervised by staff. Detailed information letter to parents outlining roles, responsibilities, safety areas etc. Event Management Company safety procedures and First Aid responsible.
16.	Piano lessons after school Ballet lessons after school	Piano teacher is Garda Vetted and has a copy of Child Safe Guarding Statement and Risk Assessment. Glass panels in door of teaching room. Ballet teacher is Garda Vetted. Parents welcome to stay during lesson.
17.	Homework Clubs One-to-one tuition after school	Supervised by St Christopher's teachers. Children are brought to the front door for collection. Doors of rooms remain open.
18.	Supervision of children at playtime	Supervision policy and procedures in place. Rota maintained by Dep Principal.
19.	After-School activities Seasonal Art Camps/Summer Camps	Activities organised by St Christopher's teachers. External personnel also Garda Vetted.
20.	Use of church, parish centre and community room	Children are always supervised by teachers when using the church, parish centre or community room.

		Children are supervised when using toilets in these locations.
21.	Visiting speakers	Teachers remain in class with visiting speakers.
22.	Time to Read Programme Volunteers	Garda Vetted through Business in the Community; school has a signed agreement to accept BITC as a vetting partner.
23.	Use of ICT by pupils or staff	ICT and Acceptable Use policies in place. Internet Content Filtering Level 4 is provided by the Schools' Broadband Service. Internet Safety lessons taught to pupils from 4 th -6 th classes.
24.	Use of mobile phones by pupils	Mobile phone policy; not permitted to be used without authorisation.
25.	Bullying	Anti-bullying Policy and Procedures in place. Weaving Well-Being programmes taught in all classes (linked to SPHE).
26.	School Access	Front door access by bell & security camera. Access during school day through front door only. Gates locked while children outside Visitors must sign in at office. Access to classrooms during the school day is restricted and monitored. CCTV cameras in place to monitor access. Deliveries during school hours through back door supervised by ancillary staff.
27.	LGBT pupils, trans-pupils, ethnic minorities etc.	Code of Behaviour Anti-Bullying Policy SPHE programmes
28.	Administration of First Aid/Medicine	Administration of Medicine policy. Training provided on specific conditions as necessary. Trained First Aiders on staff (3). First Aid kits available.

		Defibrillator available in sacristy of church (keys available in offices in both schools)
29	School trips	Bus Safety Policy Fully supervised by teachers. Venues chosen after careful consideration of safety and educational value.

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.

This risk assessment has been completed by the BOM on March 6th 2018. It shall be reviewed as part of the school's annual review of its Child Safeguarding Statement.

Signed _____ Date _____

Chairperson, BOM

Signed _____ Date _____

Principal/Secretary to the BOM

Acronyms explained:

1. DES: Department of Education and Skills
2. BOM: Board of Management
3. DCYA: Department of Children and Youth Affairs
4. Tusla: Child and Family Agency
5. PDST: Professional Development Service for Teachers
6. DLP: Designated Liaison Person
7. DDLP: Deputy Designated Liaison Person
8. SPHE: Social, Personal and Health Education
9. RSE: Relationships and Sexuality Education
10. ICT: Information and communications technology
11. AUP: Acceptable Use policy
12. BITC: Business in the Community

Ratified by Board Of Management
3rd December 2019