

St Michael’s NS

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Principal: Ms F Whelan

**Child Safeguarding Statement**

St Michael’s National School is a primary school providing primary/post-primary education to pupils from Junior Infants to Sixth Class. St Michaels National School have two classes for pupils with Autism, sanctioned by the NCSE and opened in September 2024.

In accordance with the requirements of the [Children First Act 2015](http://www.irishstatutebook.ie/eli/2015/act/36/enacted/en/pdf), [Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children 2017](https://assets.gov.ie/25844/b90aafa55804462f84d05f87f0ca2bf6.pdf), [the Addendum to Children First (2019)](https://assets.gov.ie/25819/c9744b64dfd6447985eeffa5c0d71bbb.pdf), the [Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools (revised 2023)](https://www.gov.ie/en/collection/12bee3-child-protection-procedures-in-schools/) and [Tusla Guidance on the preparation of Child Safeguarding Statements](https://www.tusla.ie/uploads/content/4214-TUSLA_Guidance_on_Developing_a_CSS_LR.PDF), the Board of Management of St Michael’s 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 Fiona Whelan**
3. **The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is Róisin Campbell**
4. **The Relevant Person is Aileen Lennon**
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.

1. 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)](https://revisedacts.lawreform.ie/eli/2012/act/47/revised/en/pdf) 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.

1. This statement has been published on the school’s website and has been provided to all members of school personnel, the Parents’ Association 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.
2. 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

Signed: John Doolan Signed: Fiona Whelan

Chairperson of Board of Management Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Date: 07/11/2024 Date: 07/11/2024

**Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment**

**Written Assessment of Risk of St Michael’s National School**

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 Michael’s National School

1. **List of school activities**

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| Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils  Arrival on bus by pupils in Autism classes  Recreation breaks for pupils  Classroom teaching  One-to-one teaching  One-to-one counselling  Outdoor teaching activities  Use of sensory room by pupils , accompanied by an adult  Sporting Activities  School outings  School trips involving overnight stay  Use of toilet/changing/shower areas in schools  Annual Sports Day  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,  Management of challenging behaviour amongst pupils, including appropriate use of restraint where required  Administration of Medicine  Administration of First Aid  Administration of emergency medication  Curricular provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe  Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst pupils  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 (LGBT) children * Pupils perceived to be LGBT * Pupils of minority religious faiths * Children in care * Children on CPNS   Recruitment of school personnel including -   * Teachers/SNA’s * Caretaker/Secretary/Cleaners * School Cook * Bus escorts * Sports coaches * External Tutors/Guest Speakers * Volunteers/Parents in school activities * Visitors/contractors present in school during school hours * Visitors/contractors present during after school activities   Participation by pupils in religious ceremonies/religious instruction external to the school  Use of Information and Communication Technology by pupils in school  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  Student teachers undertaking training placement in school  Use of video/photography/other media to record school events  After school use of school premises by other organisations  Use of school premises by other organisation during school day  After school extra -curricular activities |

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

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| 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 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 particular 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  Risk of harm caused by member of school personnel communicating with pupils in appropriate 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 harming to cook while operating hot oven  Risk of harm to bus escorts while travelling on bus |

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

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| All school personnel are provided with a copy of the school’s *Child Safeguarding Statement*  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 Stay Safe Programme  The school implements in full the SPHE curriculum  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 a yard/playground supervision policy 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 in place a policy and clear procedures in respect of school outings  The school has a Health and safety 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 a code of conduct for school personnel (teaching and non-teaching staff)  The school complies with the agreed disciplinary procedures for teaching staff  The school has a Special Educational Needs policy  The school has an intimate care policy/plan in respect of students who require such care  The school has in place a policy and procedures for the administration of medication to pupils  The school –   * + - Has provided each member of school 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     - Maintains records of all staff and board member training   The school has in place a policy and procedures for the administration of First Aid  The school has in place a code of behaviour for pupils  The school has in place an ICT policy in respect of usage of ICT by pupils  The school has in place a mobile phone policy in respect of usage of mobile phones by pupils  The school has in place a Critical Incident Management Plan  The school has in place a policy and procedures for the use of external persons to supplement delivery of the curriculum  The school has in place a policy and procedures for the use of external sports coaches  The school has in place a policy and clear procedures for one-to-one teaching activities  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 students undertaking work experience in the school. |

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| **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.