

## St. Dymphna's School Child safeguarding statement

St. Dymphna's School is a Special school for pupils from 4 to 18 years of age with a MGLN. We also accept a maximum of 8 pupils with a Moderate General learning need who would benefit from the curriculum we offer.

In accordance with the requirements of the Children First Act 2015, Children First National Guidance for the Protection and welfare of children 2017, the Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary schools 2017 and Tulsa Guidance on the preparation of Child Safeguarding Statements, the BOM of St. Dymphna's 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 as part of this overall child protection policy.

The following key personnel have been identified and received training.

2. The Designated Liaison Person (DLP) is Maureen Quinn
3. The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is Clare Jordon
4. 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. 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 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.
- 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.

The following procedures/measures are in place

In relation to any member of staff who is the subject of any investigation (however 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 the relevant agreed disciplinary procedures for school staff which are published on the DES website

In relation to the selection and 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 DES and available on 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

1. Has provided each member of staff with a copy of the Schools Child Safeguarding Statement and it is displayed in the entrance of the school.
2. Ensures all new staff are provided with a copy of the Schools Child Safeguarding Statement
3. Encourages all staff to avail of training and advises staff of training available in the area.
4. Encourages BOM to avail of relevant training and advises BOM of any training available.
5. The BOM maintains records of all staff and BOM member training.

In relation to the 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 St. Dymphna's the BOM has appointed the 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. The DLP is Maureen Quinn

All registered teachers employed by the school are mandated persons under the Children First Act 2015.

In accordance with the Children First Act 2015, the BOM has carried out an assessment of any potential 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 procedures for managing those risks is attached as an appendix to these procedures.

The various procedures referred to in this Statement can be accessed via the schools website, or will be made available on request by the school.

This statement has been published on the schools website and has been provided to all school personnel, and the patron. It is readily available to all parents and guardians on request. (The school has no Parents Association at present.)

A copy of this Statement will be made available to TUSLA and the Dept of Education if requested.

This Child Safeguarding Statement will be reviewed initially after two months and thereafter annually or as soon as practicable if there has been a material change in any matter to which this Statement refers.

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This Safeguarding Statement was adopted by the BOM on.....

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Chairperson of BOM

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Principal/Secretary BOM

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