



SAOL *Christian School*

Teaching children how to live, not just how to make a living.

Child Safeguarding Statement

Name of service being provided:

Saol Christian School

Nature of service and principles to safeguard children from harm:

We are an independent school offering education services to children from 4 years of age. We believe that the safeguarding of children in the care of our school is our primary responsibility.

1. The Designated Liaison Person (DLP) is Sharon Reilly (Principal).
2. The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is Jacqueline McGlone.
3. 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.
4. 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 cooperate 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 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
- 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 school safeguarding policy documents.
- 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 child safeguarding statement.
- 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 Board has carried out an assessment of any potential for harm to a child while attending the school or participating in school activities.
- The various procedures referred to in this Statement can be accessed via the school's website

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. 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.

Risk assessment:

List of School Activities:

- Training of school personnel in Child Protection matters
- One to one teaching -
- Care of Children with special needs, including intimate care needs
- Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils
- Managing of challenging behaviour amongst pupils, including appropriate use of restraint
 - Recreation breaks for pupils
 - Classroom teaching
 - Outdoor teaching activities
 - Sporting Activities -
 - School outings -
 - Use of toilet areas in schools -
 - Events involving other adults onsite in large numbers
 - Fundraising events involving pupils
 - School transport arrangements including use of bus escorts
 - Administration of Medicine
 - Administration of First Aid
 - Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst pupils -
 - Care of pupils with specific vulnerabilities/needs
 - Recruitment of school personnel including
 - Teachers
 - SNA's
 - Caretaker/Secretary/Cleaners -
 - 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
 - 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. -
 - Use of video/photography/other media to record school events

The School has identified the following Risk of Harm:

- Risk of harm not recognised or reported promptly
- Risk of harm by school personnel
- Risk of harm due to inappropriate behaviour and/or supervision of children in all toilet areas
- Risk of harm due to bullying by other students - physical, emotional or psychological
- Risk of harm in school by visitors

- Risk of injury to pupils and staff due to challenging behaviour amongst pupils, including restraint where required
- Risk of harm in one -to-one teaching, counselling, coaching situation
- Risk of harm caused by a member of school personnel accessing/circulating inappropriate materials via phones, social media, texting, digital devices or other manner.
- Risk of harm caused by another child accessing/circulating inappropriate materials via phones, social media, texting, digital devices or other manner.
- Risk of harm caused by a member of staff of other organisations or other persons while travelling /attending school activities including sporting activities.
- Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children while attending out of school activities.
- Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children while in school including sporting activities.
- Risk of harm by inadequate vetting of tour venue staff and other unknown adults on out of school activities.
- Risk of harm due to an inappropriate relationship/communication between child and another child or child and another adult.
- Risk of harm to children with SEN, those with particular vulnerabilities and those with intimate care needs.
- Risk of harm due to inadequate first aid procedures, including the administration of medicine.
- Risk of inaction due to duties/responsibilities under Child Safeguarding not being understood properly by all stakeholders
- Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision as a result of the Code of Behaviour.

The School has the following procedures in place to address the risks of harm identified in this assessment:

→ 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
- ◆ Maintains records of all staff and board member training.
- The Child Protection Procedures are made available to all school personnel
- School personnel have completed online Túlsa training module and received certificates for same.
- The staff are reminded of the Child Protection safeguarding during the year at staff meetings.
- The school adheres to the Garda Vetting legislation in relation to recruitment and Garda vetting
- Intimate care and Toileting/accident procedures are outlined in the Special Education Policy.

- Student Toilet monitors are trained appropriately with different procedures for the junior and senior yard, the toilet monitors are supervised by the teacher assigned to yard for the specific areas.
- The school has an Anti-Bullying Policy
- The school has in place a Code of Behaviour for all pupils.
- The school has a supervision roster and Supervision Policy in place to ensure the appropriate supervision of students before school, at break times and in class (where a class teacher is absent). Substitute teachers are briefed on rosters.
- The school has a ratio of 1:5 ratio of supervision for all outside school activities including tours, walks, matches, bus journeys etc. The children wear their uniforms or tracksuit unless deemed unsuitable to all school tours. The school follow the School Tour/Outing Policy. The Child Safeguarding Statement from the tour operator will be asked for by the school before going.
- The school follows our Safety Statement and first aid procedures.
- Administration of Medicine procedures are outlined in the Medicine Policy.
- A list of the staff members who have completed first aid training course are kept in the Principal's office.
- All visitors to the school sign in and out at the office and wear a visitor's badge. The security doors are kept locked during school times.
- The school has in place an Acceptable Use Policy in respect of usage of ICT and mobile phones.
- The school has in place a Critical Incident Management Plan.
- All teachers (including new staff members) are provided with a folder containing information that includes policies, maps and other relevant information at the start of every year. Substitute teachers are given a "sub-pack" which includes information pertaining to Supervision, Code of Behaviour, Anti-Bullying Policies and a reminder to sign Child protection forms.
- It is incumbent on the parent/guardian in possession of the barring order/safety order to notify the school of any child safety/barring orders in relation to a pupil attending the school.

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.

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. This risk assessment has been completed by the Board of Management on August 2020. It shall be reviewed as part of the school's annual review of its Child Safeguarding Statement.

Signed: _____

Date: _____

For queries, please contact Sharon Reilly, 0879576638
Relevant Person under the Children First Act 2015