



St. Multose National School

Child Safeguarding Statement

Ratified: 08/03/2018

Reviewed: 27/01/2020

Date of next review: 30/09/2020 or earlier as necessary

St. Multose N.S. is a primary school providing primary education to pupils 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 Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools 2017 and Tusla Guidance on the preparation of Child Safeguarding Statements, the Board of Management of St. Multose N.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 2017 as part of this overall Child Safeguarding Statement
- 2 The Designated Liaison Person (DLP) is Jill Horan (Principal)
- 3 The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is Lorraine Kingston (Deputy Principal)
- 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. 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.

- 5 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 2017 and to the relevant agreed disciplinary procedures for school staff which are published on the DES 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 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

- 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 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 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. A written assessment setting out the areas of risk identified and the school's procedures for managing those risks is attached as an appendix to this statement.
 - 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.

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.

- 6 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.
- 7 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 08/03/2018. It was reviewed on 30/09/19.

Signed: _____

Chairperson of Board of Management

Signed: _____

Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Date: _____

Date: _____

Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment Template

Written Assessment of Risk of St. Multose N.S.

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. Multose N.S.

1. List of school activities

- Arrival and departure from school and classroom
- Support teaching
- iPad and laptop teaching/usage/other media
- Visitors to the school: sports coaches, substitute teachers, Heritage in Schools scheme, school photographer, choir teacher, plumber etc.)
- Break time and lunch time
- School trips/tours
- Activities outside school hours: sports, swimming, Cór Fhéile, carol service, concerts, Credit Union quiz etc.
- Sports hall and outdoor education
- Fundraising events involving children

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

- One-to-one teaching – unsupervised interaction
- SNA taking children on breaks
- Children sent on messages or going to the water fountain
- Turn wheel lock front door allowing unimpeded access to the school when the secretary has left for the day
- Bullying including cyber-bullying
- Individual chastisement of a child in the office or a classroom
- Children going inside to the bathroom, to hang up a coat etc. during break time, hockey
- Children preparing for sports: i.e. swimming, hockey etc.
- Infants need to leave the room to go to the toilet in another classroom
- Routinely, children may not have adequate nutritious lunch
- Access to inappropriate content using IT
- Managing of challenging behaviour
- Restraint of children
- Administration of medication and first aid
- Children going to the office for photocopying, phone etc. Secretary alone with children.

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

- School Anti-bullying policy
- School Code of Behaviour
- School has a policy for school outings: Insurance, adequate supervision, assessment of the destination and its staff and facilities
- Parents must give written permission and training should care needs apply to any child in the school
- All staff, all visiting teachers/speakers and all volunteers who will have contact with the children are Garda vetted
- Visitor lanyards will be provided to all visitors coming into the school between 8.30 a.m. and 2.30 p.m.
- Contractors must go to the office to sign in and out
- All classrooms have glass panels
- Additionally, support teachers and SNAs keep classroom doors ajar for one-to-one teaching and teachers/SNAs sit across from children rather than beside them
- Pupils are never alone in a room with a teacher when they need to be spoken to about behaviour etc. Either they are spoken to in the corridor or two or more staff is present.
- S.P.H.E. lessons: Stay Safe programme is fully implemented
- Toilets are within classrooms, apart from Infants, so no more than one child has access at a time
- Infants must inform the teacher when they are leaving the classroom for the toilet (or any other reason). Only one boy and one girl may go across the corridor to the bathroom where the class teacher present can supervise them
- Children must ask the supervising teacher's permission to go inside at break time. Only one child is allowed inside at a time to use the toilet, get a coat or lunch etc.
- Children are accompanied to the water fountain. Discretion is used when sending children to the water fountain
- School Acceptable Usage policy and high security filters
- Consent forms for Internet use, posting of photos of children online and school trips signed by parents are kept in pupil files
- School Administration of Medication policy: signed letters of indemnification by parents
- Pupils are admitted to school by a teacher. Infants are escorted to the main door by the class teacher and released only to the assigned parent/aupair/child minder etc. Full day children are escorted to the main gate by 2 teachers and supervised until they are either on the school bus, collected by the relevant person or have been given permission to walk/cycle home.
- If someone other than the designated person will be collecting a child from school, parents are required to inform the school in advance.
- At least one teacher is present at all school activities outside school hours.
- Parents give written permission for support teaching withdrawal
- The school has a DLP and a DDLP
- School Attendance Policy
- Child Protection Policy and Child First
- Data Protection Policy
- Yard is adequately supervised during lunch breaks and outdoor activities
- Special Educational Needs policy and SNA policy
- Secretary keeps her door open while in school. Children are sent in pairs to the office.

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 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 08/03/2018. It was reviewed on 30/09/2019 and will continue to be reviewed as part of the school’s annual review of its Child Safeguarding Statement.

Signed _____ Date _____

Chairperson, Board of Management

Signed _____ Date _____

Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management