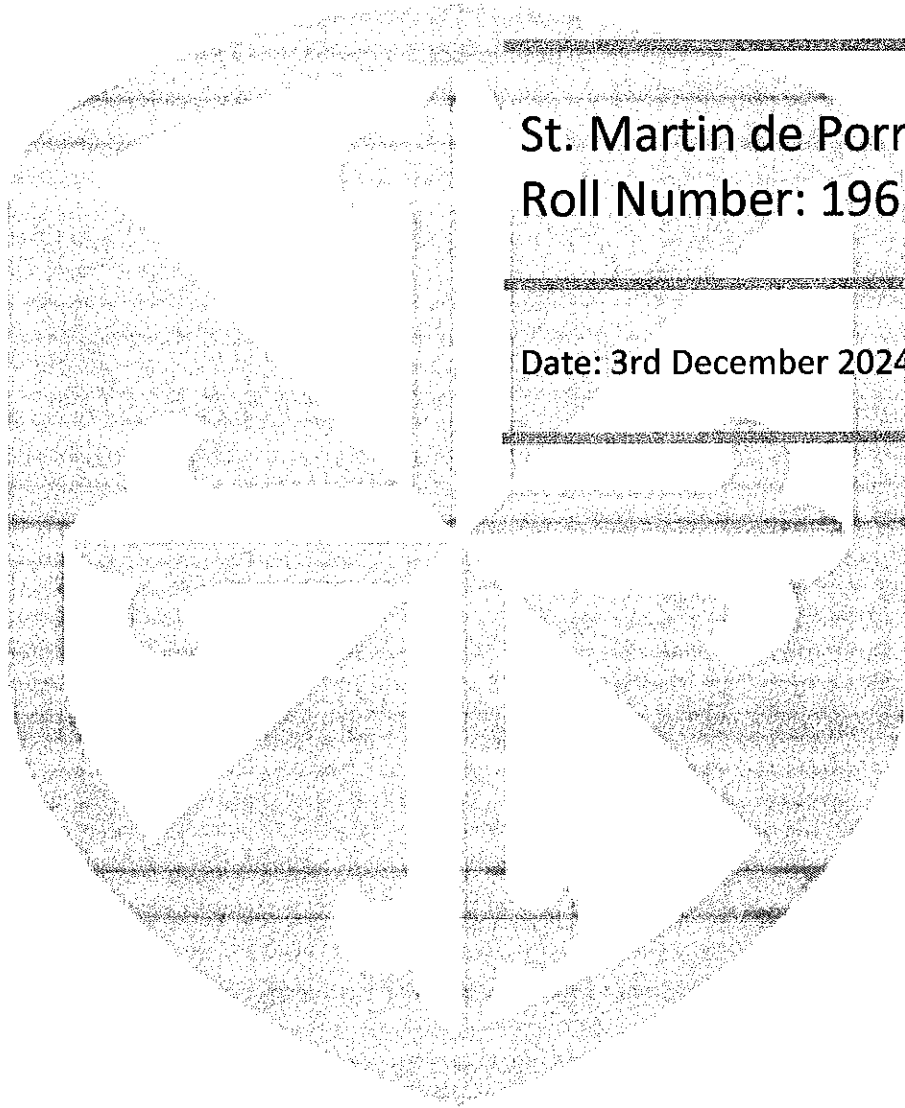

Child Safeguarding Statement

St. Martin de Porres NS
Roll Number: 19617W

Date: 3rd December 2024



Mandatory Template 1: Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment Template

Child Safeguarding Statement

St. Martin de Porres NS 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 Addendum to Children First (2019), the Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools (revised 2023) and Tusla Guidance on the preparation of Child Safeguarding Statements, the Board of Management of St. Martin de Porres NS 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 **Valerie O'Loughlin**
- 3 The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is **Sinéad Devlin**
- 4 The Relevant Person is **Valerie O'Loughlin**

(The relevant person is one who can provide information in respect of how the child safeguarding statement was developed and will be able to provide the statement on request. In a school setting the relevant person shall be the designated liaison person.)

- 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.

6 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) 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.

- 7 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.
- 8 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 **27th November 23.**

This Child Safeguarding Statement was reviewed by the Board of Management on **3rd December 24.**

Signed: *Thomas Leigh* Chairperson of Board of Management

Date: *3/12/2024*

Signed: *Valerie O'Loughlin* Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Date: *3/12/2024*

Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment

Written Assessment of Risk of [name of 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 [name of school].

1. List of school activities

- Training of school personnel in Child Protection matters
- Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils
- One-to-one teaching
- One-to-one teaching remotely
- Teaching small groups/class remotely
- Movement/recreation breaks for pupils
- Care of children with special needs, including intimate care needs
- Recreation breaks for pupils
- Toilet areas
- Administration of Medicine
- Administration of First Aid
- Curricular provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe
- Sporting activities e.g. GAA matches, basketball matches, cross country, athletics, swimming
- Use of off-site facilities for school activities e.g. swimming pool, Astro pitches, public library
- Classroom teaching
- Outdoor teaching activities
- School outings e.g. tours, library visits, church visits, religious retreats
- Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst pupils
- Use of external tutors e.g. Accord, GAA coaches, basketball coaches, TY students, school completion
- Care of pupils with specific vulnerabilities/needs such as:
 - Pupils from ethnic minorities
 - Members of the Traveller community
 - Lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender (LGBT) children
 - Pupils perceived to be LGBT
 - Pupils of minority faiths
 - Children in care
 - Children in CPNS (Child Protection Notification System)
 - Children in Direct Provision
 - Homeless children
 - Children with SEN
 - Children with Speech & Language/Communication Needs
 - Children with ID (Intellectual Disability)
 - Critical Incident
- Participation by pupils in religious ceremonies/religious instruction external to the school

- Application of sanctions under the school's Code of Behaviour including detention of pupils, confiscation of phones etc.
- Managing of challenging behaviour amongst pupils
- Student teachers undertaking placement in school
- After-school use of school premises by other organisations e.g. SCP Homework Club, Speech and Drama, other extra-curricular clubs
- School gatherings
- Use of video/photography/other media to record school events
- Use of Information and Communication Technology by pupils in school
- Use of Information and Communication Technology by staff in school
- Recruitment of school personnel including – Teacher, SNAs, Caretaker, Secretary, Cleaners
- Access to school grounds
- Breakfast Club
- Monitoring of attendance

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

- Risk of harm not being recognised by school personnel
- Risk of harm by school personnel in respect on one-to-one teaching remotely
- Risk of harm through increased barriers to children reporting their concerns in respect of teaching small groups/class remotely
- Risk of harm for children considered a flight risk
- Risk of harm not being reported properly and promptly by school personnel
- Risk of child being harmed in the school by another child
- Risk of harm due to bullying of child
- Risk of harm due to inappropriate relationship/communication between child and another child or adult
- Risk of harm being harmed in the school by a volunteer or visitor to the school
- Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children in school
- Risk of harm due to inadequate Code of Behaviour
- Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children while attending out of school activities
- Risk of harm due to children inappropriately accessing/using computers, social media, phones and other devices while at school
- Risk of harm due to children inappropriately accessing/using computers, social media, phones and other devices outside of school
- Risk of harm caused by member of school personnel communicating with pupils in an inappropriate manner via social media/texting
- Risk of harm caused by a member of school personnel accessing/circulating inappropriate material via social media, texting, digital device of other manner
- Risk of harm in one-to-one teaching, counselling, coaching situations
- Risk of harm to pupils by traumatic event
- 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 to pupils by parents through lateness/poor attendance

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

- All school personnel are provided with a copy of the school's *Child Safeguarding Statement*
- The *Child Protection Procedures of Primary and Post-Primary Schools (revised 2023)* are made available to all school personnel
- School personnel are required to adhere to the *Child Protection Procedures of Primary and Post-Primary Schools (revised 2023)* and all registered teaching staff are required to adhere to the *Children First Act 2015*
- The school implements in full the Stay Safe and RSE Programmes
- The school implements in full in SPHE curriculum
- The school will ensure that external block doors are closed securely and that all gates are closed during school hours
- 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 supervision policy to ensure appropriate supervision of children during assembly, dismissal and breaks and in respect of specific areas such as toilets
- 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 adheres to the Teaching Council *Code of Conduct for Registered Teachers*
- The school complies with the agreed disciplinary procedures for teaching staff
- The school has a Special Educational Needs Policy
- The school has a Toileting/Intimate Care Procedure 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
- 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
- Parent must be present in the room in respect of one-to-one teaching remotely, child must be in a communal area and dressed appropriately
- Parental consent for photographs and recordings to be used within the school received on enrolment
- Parents are asked not to post photographs of school events on social media without permission from other parents.
- The school has in place a Digital Learning Policy in respect of the usage of ICT by pupils
- The school has in place a Remote Teaching and Learning Plan which outlines the chosen platforms for online communication with pupils.

- The school has in place a policy governing the use of smart phones and tablet devices in the school by pupils as per Circular 38/2018
- The school has a Critical Incident Management Plan
- The school has a statement of strategy as part of its Attendance Policy
- The school has in place procedures for the use of external sports coaches
- The school has in place procedures for one-to-one teaching activities
- The school has in place procedures in respect of student teacher placements
- The school has in place procedures in respect of TY (under/over 16) students undertaking work experience/community involvement in the school
- The school has in place procedures in respect of visitors

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.

Mandatory Template 4: Notification regarding the Board of Management's review of the Child Safeguarding Statement

To: Whom it may concern

The Board of Management of St. Martin de Porres wishes to inform you that:

- The Board of Management's annual review of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement was completed at the Board meeting of 3/12/24 [date].
- This review was conducted in accordance with the "Checklist for Review of the Child Safeguarding Statement" published on the Department's website www.education.ie

Signed Thomas Leigh Date 3/12/24

Chairperson, Board of Management

Signed Valerie O'Loughlin Date 3/12/2024

Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management