

Child Safeguarding Statement 2022/23

Mount Temple Comprehensive is a post-primary school providing post-primary education to pupils from First Year to Leaving Certificate Year. 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 Mount Temple Comprehensive 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: **Mr. Gareth Borland**
3. The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLPs) are: **Ms. Mary Byrne and Ms. Noelle O'Brien**
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 school’s 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 these procedures.

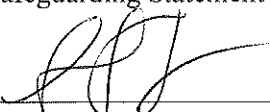
- The various procedures referred to in this Statement can be accessed via the school’s website, the DES website or will be made available on request by the school.

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 5th October 2022

Signed:  Signed: 5/10/22

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

Date:  Date: 5/10/22

Child Safeguarding Statement 2022/23

Written Assessment of Risk of Mount Temple Comprehensive School, Malahide Road, Dublin 3

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 Mount Temple Comprehensive School Malahide Road Dublin 3.

1. List of school activities

- Recreation breaks for students
- Classroom teaching
- One-to-one teaching
- One-to-one counselling
- Outdoor teaching activities
- Sporting Activities
- School Trips
- School Trips involving foreign travel
- Use of toilet/changing/shower areas in schools
- Fundraising events involving pupils
- Administration of first aid
- Use of video/photography and other media to record school events
- Curricular provision in respect of SPHE and RSE
- Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst pupils
- Training of school personnel in child protection matters
- Recruitment of school personnel including teachers, SNA's, caretaker, secretaries, cleaners, sport coaches, volunteers/parents in school activities.
- Use of ICT by pupils in school
- Application of sanctions under the school's Code of Behaviour including detention of pupils and confiscation of phones
- Care of a diverse student community
- Use of external personnel to supplement the curriculum and extra-curricular activities.
- After school use of school premises by other organisations
- Student teachers undertaking training placement in school
- Students from the school participating in work experience elsewhere

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 not being reported promptly and properly by school personnel
- Risk of child being harmed in school by a member of school staff or by another child
- Risk of harm due to bullying of child
- Risk of child being harmed in the school by volunteer or visitor to the school
- Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children in school
- Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision while attending out of school or after-hour activities
- Risk of harm due to children inappropriately accessing/using computers, social media, phone and other devices in school
- Risk of harm due to inappropriate relationship/communications between child and another child or adult.
- 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 an inappropriate 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 harm to children as a result of external organisations use of school facilities after-hours
- Risk of differing expectations in regard to child-protection in school trips to other jurisdiction
- Risk of those without authorisation accessing school campus.

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

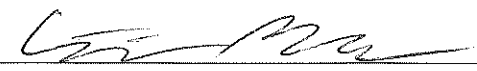
- All school personnel are provided with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement
- The Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017 are made available to all school personnel
- School Personnel are required to adhere to the Child Protection Procedures for Primary 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 SPHE curriculum
- The school implements in full the Wellbeing programme at Junior Cycle
- 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 supervision procedures for supervision of pupils at break time
- The school has in place a policy and clear procedures in respect of school outings
- The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation and relevant DE 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 in place a policy and procedures for First Aid/Administration and Sick Bay
- 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 Critical Incident Policy
- The school has in place a mobile phone policy in respect of usage of mobile phones by pupils
- The school has in place procedures for one-to-one counselling and one-to-one teaching
- The school has in place a policy and procedures for the use of external sports coaches and other external personnel
- The school has procedures in respect of pupils of the school undertaking work experience in external organisations
- The school has procedures in respect of student-teacher placements.

- The school has provided each member of school staff with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding statement
- Ensure all new staff are provided with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement
- Encourage staff to avail of relevant training
- Encourage BOM members to avail of relevant training
- Maintain records of all staff and board member training
- The school intends to develop a risk register in due course

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 **4th October 2022**. It shall be reviewed as part of the school's annual review of its Child Safeguarding Statement in Autumn 2023

Signed  Date 5/10/2022

Chairperson, Board of Management

Signed  Date 5/10/2022

Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management