



St. Patrick's Junior School

TENNIS COURT LANE, SKERRIES, CO. DUBLIN.

K34 D799

Principal: Máire Ní Chróinín

Deputy Principal: Lynsey Dungan

Roll Number: 16333Q

RCN: 20118839

Written Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment for St. Patrick's JNS, Skerries

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. Patrick's JNS, Skerries.

1. List of school activities:

- Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils
- Recreation breaks for pupils
- Classroom teaching
- One-to-one teaching
- Small group teaching
- Outdoor teaching activities (incl. use of the school garden)
- Sporting Activities (incl. 10 @ 10)
- Learning activities using digital platforms (Seesaw, email etc)
- School Choir
- Maths Week
- Play Therapy sessions
- Roots of Empathy
- School outings
- Use of toilet areas in schools
- Annual Sports for All Week
- Fundraising events involving pupils (cake sale, Hallowe'en events, non-uniform days)
- Use of off-site facilities for school activities (Community Centre for GAA, Community Centre field for some sporting activities in the third term).
- Management of challenging behaviour amongst pupils, including appropriate use of restraint where required
- Administration of Medicine
- Administration of First Aid
- Curricular provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe
- Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst pupils
- Training of school personnel in child protection matters
- Use of external personnel to supplement curriculum (eg violin lessons)
- Use of external personnel to support sports and other extra-curricular activities
- Care of children with additional needs, including intimate care where needed,



- Care of pupils with specific vulnerabilities/ needs such as
 - Pupils from ethnic minorities/migrants
 - Members of the Traveller community
 - Lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender (LGBTQ+) children
 - Pupils perceived to be LGBTQ+
 - Pupils of minority religious faiths
 - Children in Care Children with additional needs
 - Children with additional needs
 - Children on CPNS
- Recruitment of school personnel including -
 - Teachers/SNAs
 - 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
- Participation by pupils in religious ceremonies/religious instruction external to the school
- Presence of family members of pupils during school celebrations (eg Grandparents' Day, Christmas Play, First Holy Communion breakfast)
- Use of Information and Communication Technology by pupils in school
- Application of sanctions under the school's Code of Behaviour.
- Students participating in work experience in the school
- Student teachers undertaking training placement in school
- Use of video/photography/other media to record school events
- After school use of school premises by other organisations

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

- Risk of harm not being recognised by school personnel
- Risk of harm not being reported properly and promptly by school personnel
- Risk of child being harmed in the school by a member of school personnel
- Risk of child being harmed in the school by another child
- Risk of child being harmed in the school by volunteer or visitor to the school
- Risk of child being harmed by a member of school personnel, a member of staff of another organisation, parent volunteer or other person while child participating in out of school activities e.g. school trip, Sports for

All Week activities in Community Centre Field, GAA training in Community Centre etc., particularly when visiting toilet facilities off site.

- Risk of harm due to the open nature of the fencing around the school
- Risk of harm due to bullying of child
- Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children in school
- 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 moving around the school
- Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision during transitions between school and out of school activities
- Risk of harm due to inappropriate relationship/communications between child and another child
- Risk of harm due to inappropriate relationship/communications between a child and an adult
- Risk of harm due to children inappropriately accessing/using computers, social media, phones and other devices while at school
- Risk of harm to children with additional needs who have particular vulnerabilities
- Risk of harm to child while a child is receiving intimate care
- Risk of harm due to inadequate code of behaviour
- Risk of harm in one-to-one or small group teaching, counselling, coaching situations
- 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 members of school personnel accessing/circulating inappropriate material via social media, texting, digital device or other manner
- Risk of child being harmed in the school at drop off time in the morning when all external school entrances are open.
- Risk of child being harmed in the school at pick up times in the afternoon when large numbers of children are collected at the same time.
- Risk of harm when children are picked up by adults not known to the teacher without notice being given by parents that they are doing so with the parents' permission. .
- Risk of harm during performance of the Christmas Plays, when a large number of parents and other relatives of our pupils are on site.
- Risk of harm when capturing of images of groups of pupils during these performances on electronic media (phone cameras, tablet computers, video recorders).
- Risk of harm inherent in publishing of pupils' images to social media sites without the permission of the pupils' parents.
- Risk of harm when children are unsupervised on jobs/messages within the school premises

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

- The school has a Garda Vetting 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 complies with the agreed disciplinary procedures for teaching staff
- The Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017 are made available to all school personnel
- All school personnel are provided with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement.
- 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 has codes of conduct for school personnel (teaching and non-teaching staff).
- The school has a Health and Safety policy.
- The school implements in full the SPHE curriculum.
- The school implements in full the Stay Safe Programme.
- The school has in place a code of behaviour for pupils and this is regularly reviewed by staff to ensure effectiveness
- 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/playground 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 in place a policy and clear procedures in respect of school outings and out of school activities.
- The school has in place an Acceptable Use Policy in respect of usage of ICT by pupils
- The school has an Additional Needs Provision of Support Policy
- The school has an intimate care policy/plan in respect of students who require such care
- The school has in place a mobile phone policy in respect of usage of mobile phones by staff members.
- The school has in place a policy and procedures for the administration of medication to pupils
- The school –
 - Has provided each member of school 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 school has in place a policy and procedures for the administration of First Aid.
- The school has in place a Critical Incident Management Plan.
- The school has in place a policy and procedures for the use of external persons to supplement delivery of the curriculum.
- The school has in place a policy and procedures for the use of external sports coaches.
- The school has in place a policy and clear procedures for one-to-one and small group teaching and supervision activities.
- The school has in place a policy and procedures in respect of student teacher placements.

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 BoM 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 BoM on the 20th of October 2020. It shall be reviewed as part of the school's annual review of its Child Safeguarding Statement.

Signed: _____

Chairperson of BoM

Signed: _____

Principal/Secretary to the BoM