

MATER DEI ACADEMY

CHILD SAFEGUARDING STATEMENT

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Version	1.0
Date	March 1, 2020

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Background

Mater Dei Academy is a Catholic post-primary school providing classical Catholic education to pupils from first year to Leaving Certificate.

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 Mater Dei Academy has agreed the Child Safeguarding Statement set out in this document.

Child Safeguarding Statement

1. The Board of Management has adopted and will implement fully and without modification the Department of Education'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) and Deputy DLP are appointed or confirmed by the Board at the beginning of each academic year.
3. The Board of Management recognises that child protection and welfare considerations permeate all aspects of the Academy's life and must be reflected in all of the school's policies, procedures, practices and activities. In its policies, procedures, practices and activities, the Academy will adhere to the following principles of best practice in child protection and welfare.

The Academy will;

1. Recognise that the protection and welfare of children is of paramount importance, regardless of all other considerations;
2. Fully comply with its statutory obligations under the Children First Act 2015 and other relevant legislation relation to the protection and welfare of children;
3. Fully co-operate with the relevant statutory authorities in relation to child protection and welfare matters;
4. 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 leave themselves open to accusations of abuse of neglect;
5. Develop a practice of openness with parents and encourage parental involvement in the education of their children; and
6. Fully respect the confidentiality requirements in dealing with child protection matters.

The Academy will also adhere to the above principles in relation to any adult pupil with a special vulnerability in the event that such a situation arises.

The following procedures and measures are in place;

1. All Academy personnel are provided with a copy of the Academy's Child Safeguarding Statement
2. The *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017* are available to all Academy personnel

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3. All Academy personnel are required to adhere to the *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017* and all teaching staff are required to adhere to the *Children First Act 2015*
4. The Academy has an Anti-Bullying Policy which fully adheres to the requirements of the Department of Education's *Anti-Bullying Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools*
5. The Academy has supervision in place prior to class beginning, during morning break, during lunch break and after class finishes to ensure appropriate supervision of children during assembly, dismissal, prayer and breaks in respect of specific areas such as toilets, changing rooms etc.
6. The Academy has a Health and Safety policy
7. The Academy adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation in relation to recruitment and Garda vetting
8. The Academy has codes of conduct for personnel (both teaching and non-teaching)
9. The Academy complies with the agreed disciplinary procedures for teaching staff
10. The Academy has a Special Education Needs policy
11. The Academy (a) has provide each member of staff with the a copy of the Academy's Child Safeguarding Statement, (b) ensures all new staff are provide with a copy of the Academy's Child Safeguarding Statement, (c) encourages staff to avail of relevant training, (d) encourages Board of Management members to avail of relevant training, and (e) maintains secure records of all staff and board member training.
12. The Academy has a code of behaviour in place for pupils
13. The Academy has in place an ICT policy in respect of usage of ICT by pupils
14. The Academy has in place a mobile phone policy in respect of usage of mobile phones by pupils
15. The Academy has a Critical Incident Management Plan
16. The Academy has in place a policy and procedure for the use of external personnel such as sports coaches, music and drama instructors etc.
17. 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 Academy, the Academy 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 published by the Department of Education.
18. In relation to the selection or recruitment of staff and their suitability to work with children, the Academy adheres to the statutory vetting requirements of the National Vetting Bureau (Children and Vulnerable Persons) Acts 2012 – 2016 and to the wider duty of care guidance set out in relevant Garda vetting and recruitment circulars published by the Department.
19. In relation to the provision of information and, where necessary, instrument and training, to staff in respect of the identification of the occurrence of harm (as defined in the 2015 Act), the Academy;
 - a. Has provided each member of staff with a copy of the Academy's Child Safeguarding Statement
 - b. Ensures all new staff are provided with a copy of the Academy's Child Safeguarding Statement
 - c. Encourages all staff to avail of relevant training
 - d. Encourages Board of Management members to avail of relevant training
 - e. The Board of Management maintains secure records of all staff and Board member training.

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20. 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 teachers, those in relation to mandated reporting under the *Children First Act 2015*.
21. At Mater Dei Academy, 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.
22. All teachers employed by the Academy are mandated persons under the *Children First Act 2015*.
23. In accordance with the *Children First Act 2015*, the Board has carried out an assessment of any potential harm to a child while attending the Academy or participating in Academy activities. A written assessment setting out the areas of risk identified and the Academy's procedures for managing those risks is attached as an Appendix to these procedures.
24. The various procedures referred to in this Statement will be available on request to the Academy.
25. This statement is published on the Academy's website and has been provided to all members of the Academy personnel. It is readily accessible to parents and guardians on request. A copy of this Statement will be made available to Tusla if requested.
26. 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 the statement refers.

This policy was adopted by the Board of Management of Mater Dei Academy on the date below.

Signed:  Date: 9/3/2020
Chair, Board of Management

Signed:  Date: 9/Mar/2020
Secretary, Board of Management

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Notification regarding the Board of Management's review of the Child Safeguarding Statement at Mater Dei Academy

To: _____

The Board of Management of Mater Dei Academy wishes to inform you that:

The Board of Management's annual review of the Academy's Child Safeguarding Statement was completed at the Board meeting of _____ [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: _____ Date: _____
Chair, Board of Management

Signed: _____ Date: _____
Secretary, Board of Management