Child Safeguarding Statement

<u>St Louis Secondary School, Dundalk is</u> a post-primary school providing post-primary education to pupils from First Year to Leaving Certificate Year

In accordance with the requirements of the <u>Children First Act 2015</u>, <u>Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children 2017</u>, <u>the Addendum to Children First (2019</u>), the <u>Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools (revised 2023)</u> and <u>Tusla Guidance on the preparation of Child Safeguarding Statements</u>, the Board of Management of [insert school name] has agreed the Child Safeguarding Statement set out in this document.

,	(The relevant person is one who can provide information in responsible the statement on request. In a school setting the relevant person is one who can provide information in responsible to the statement of the relevant person is one who can provide information in responsible to the statement of the relevant person is one who can provide information in responsible to the statement of the relevant person is one who can provide information in responsible to the statement of the relevant person is one who can provide information in responsible to the statement of the relevant person is one who can provide information in responsible to the statement of the relevant person is one who can provide information in responsible to the relevant person is one who can provide the statement of the relevant person is one who can provide the relevant person is one who can person is one who can person in the relevant person is one who can person in the relevant person is one who can person in the relevant person is one who can person in the relevant person is one who can person in the relevant person is one who can person in the relevant person in the relevant person is one who can person in the relevant person in the relevant person is one who can person in the relevant person in the relevant person is one who can person in the relevant person in the relevant person in the relevant person is one who can person in the relevant perso	pect of how the child safeguarding statement was developed and will be able to erson shall be the designated liaison person.)
4	4 The Relevant Person is	Michelle A Dolan
3	3 The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is	Mary Gilmore (until 31st October 2024)
2	2 The Designated Liaison Person (DLP) is	Michelle A Dolan
1	1 The Board of Management has adopted and will implement for Primary and Post-Primary Schools (revised 2023) as part of	nt fully and without modification the Department's <i>Child Protection Procedures</i> of this overall Child Safeguarding Statement

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 <u>National Vetting Bureau (Children and Vulnerable Persons)</u> 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 19th June 2024

This Child Safeguarding Statement was reviewed by the Board of Management on 19th June 2024

Signed: Vera O'Brien Signed: Michelle A Dolan

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

Date: 20th June 2024 Date: 20th June 2024

Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment

Written Assessment of Risk of St Louis Secondary School Dundalk

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* (Revised 2023) the following is the Written Risk Assessment of **St Louis Secondary School Dundalk**

General Daily Activities	Potential Risks Associated	Mitigation of Risks
 An 'empty' school at the beginning or end of the school day Breakfast club Early Arrival General Arrival Departure Mid-morning Break Lunchtime for students who remain on the premises Lunchtime for students who leave the premises Use of Toilet facilities School Transport Congregation in locker areas Supervised after school study Students alone in room if teacher is late Driving students to an event External areas: boiler house, castle, backstage Many rooms with open access all day 	 Risk of harm not being recognised by school personnel Risk of harm not being reported properly and promptly by school personnel Risk of student being harmed by a member of school personnel Risk of student being harmed in the school by another child Risk of harm due to bullying of student Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of student in school Risk of harm where student finds herself last/first in the school building Risk of harm to student by adult Risk of harm to student by adult or another student Risk of harm by adult to student 	 ✓ The school has a corridor/grounds supervision protocol to ensure appropriate supervision of students during arrival, dismissal and break times and in respect of specific areas such as toilets, changing rooms etc. ✓ The school has a Health and Safety policy ✓ The school has in place a Code of Behaviour for students ✓ All staff are Garda Vetted ✓ All staff have been provided with the Child Safeguarding Statement and have had appropriate training. (Tusla e-learning) ✓ The school has an Anti-bullying policy and procedures in place, which have been explained to the whole school community. ✓ All staff are Garda Vetted through school ✓ Lock all empty rooms ✓ All visitors sign in in the main office/CCTV now installed at the main entrance. ✓ Acceptable use of social media policy.

• Visitors to the school		
List of school activities	The school has identified the following risk of harm in respect of its activities –	The school has the following procedures in place to address the risks of harm identified in this assessment -
 Breakfast club Early Arrival Bus Escort for students with AEN General Arrival Departure Mid-morning Break Lunchtime for students who remain on the premises Lunchtime for students who leave the premises on Fridays Use of Toilet facilities School Transport Use of Technology in areas other than the classroom Congregation in locker areas Supervised after school study Supervised Homework Club - SCP 	 □ Risk of harm not being recognised by school personnel □ Risk of harm not being reported properly and promptly by school personnel □ Risk of student being harmed by a member of school personnel □ Risk of student being harmed in the school by another child □ Risk of harm due to bullying of student 	 ✓ The school has a corridor/grounds supervision protocol to ensure appropriate supervision of students during arrival, dismissal and break times and in respect of specific areas such as toilets, changing rooms etc. ✓ The school has a Health and Safety policy ✓ The school has in place a Code of Behaviour for students ✓ All staff are Garda Vetted

- Use of the Sensory Room 2023
 Use of Sensory Garden 2023
 An 'empty' school at the beginning or end of the school day
 Students alone in room if teacher is late
 Driving students to an event
- External areas: boiler house, Castle, Convent, Graveyard, backstage, behind Dealga, behind Gym,
- Many rooms with open access all day
- Visitors to the school
- Use of social media to promote or share school activities / images.
- Walking to Mass, to town for events 2024
- Daily walk around the block 2024

- ☐ Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of student in school
- ☐ Risk of harm where student finds herself last/first in the school building
- ☐ Risk of harm to student by adult
- Risk of harm to student by adult or another student
- ☐ Risk of harm by adult to student

- ✓ All staff have been provided with the Child Safeguarding Statement and have had appropriate training. (Tusla e-learning)
- The school has an Anti-bullying policy and procedures in place, which have been explained to the whole school community.
- ✓ All staff are Garda Vetted through school
- ✓ Lock all empty rooms
- ✓ All visitors sign in in the main office/CCTV now installed at the main entrance.
- ✓ Acceptable use of social media policy as contained in Code of Behaviour

Teaching and Learning Activities	Potential Risks Associated	
 Classroom interactions One-to-one teaching Guidance/counselling one-to-one sessions School Completion Officer meetings Home-School Community Liaison Curricular Content and/or presentation in SPHE/RSE/Wellbeing Use of substitute teachers in the case of absenteeism Facilitation of all Faiths in Curricular RE Students opting out of RE-supervision Learning Support Lessons EAL lessons International students with limited language skills Use of Education Technology within the classroom 	 □ Risk of student being harmed in the classroom by another student □ Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of students in classroom □ Risk of harm not being recognised by school personnel □ Risk of harm not being reported properly and promptly by school personnel □ Risk of harm due to bullying of student in classroom □ Risk of student being harmed in the classroom by teacher or substitute teacher □ Risk of harm in one-to-one teaching 	 ✓ The school implements in full the SPHE curriculum ✓ The school implements in full the Wellbeing Programme at Junior Cycle ✓ 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(Revised 2023) ✓ 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(revised 2023) and all registered teaching staff are required to adhere to the Children First Act 2015

- Work Experience
- Students with Special Needs
- Student teachers undertaking training placement in school
- Special Centres in Exams
- Participation by pupils in religious ceremonies/religious instruction external to the school
- Use of Information and Communication Technology by pupils in school, including social media & Unique Schools App introduced in 2023
- Application of sanctions under the school's Code of Behaviour including detention of pupils, confiscation of phones etc.

- ☐ Risk of harm caused by member of school personnel communicating with pupils in an inappropriate manner via social media, texting, digital device or other
- ☐ Risk of harm while carrying out work experience
- ☐ Risk of harm caused by personnel not differentiating for the needs of students with Special Needs
- ☐ Risk of harm in one-to-one situation

- ✓ The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation and relevant DES circulars in relation to recruitment and Garda vetting
- ✓ The school has codes of conduct for school personnel (teaching and non-teaching staff)
- ✓ The school complies with the agreed disciplinary and Grievance procedures for teaching staff
- 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 code of behaviour for students
- ✓ The school has an RE policy to cater for the needs of all students
- ✓ The school has protocols in place for work experience in an external organisation
- The school has in place a policy and procedures in respect of student teacher placements

		\ \ \	The school has in place a mobile phone policy in respect of usage of mobile phones by students The school has in place an Acceptable Use policy in respect of usage of all Devices, Internet and Social Media The school has a Special Educational Needs policy
Pastoral Care	Potential Risks Associated	Mitig	gation of Risks
 Meetings with Senior Leadership Team members or Middle Management Year heads on one-to-one basis One-to-one counselling Guidance, HSCL, SCP School outings to Dundalk walking / Public Transport/ Private Car. School trips involving overnight stay Overnight stays in school for charity 	 □ Risk of harm in one-to-one counselling situation □ Risk of harm not being recognised by school personnel □ Risk of harm not being reported properly and promptly by school personnel □ Risk of harm to students through bullying when away from home on school trips 	\ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \	The school has a Health and Safety policy The school has in place a Code of Behaviour for students All staff have been provided with the Child Safeguarding Statement and have had appropriate training. The school has an Anti-bullying policy and procedures in place which have been explained to the whole school community.

- School trips involving foreign travel
- Care of students with special educational needs, including intimate care, where needed
- Management of challenging behaviour amongst students.
- Administration of Medicine
- Administration of First Aid
- Checking levels for those with diabetes type 1
- Curricular provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe
- Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst students.
- Training of school personnel in child protection matters
- Care of students with specific vulnerabilities/ needs such as:
 - Students from ethnic minorities/migrants
 - Students with SEN
 - Students with EAL
 - Members of the Traveller community
 - Students in the LGBTQ community

- ☐ Risk of mishandling of students with challenging behaviour
- ☐ Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of student
- ☐ Risk of harm to students through lack of understanding of specific needs, including sexual identity, religious and ethnic background
- ☐ Risk of harm to student
- ☐ Risk of harm caused by one student to another via inappropriate social media contact, texting, digital device or other
- ☐ Risk of harm to students by the use of inappropriate or over-harsh sanctions for bullying/misuse of social media

- ✓ 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 in place a mobile phone policy in respect of usage of mobile phones by students
- ✓ The school has in place an Acceptable Use policy in respect of usage of all Digital Devices Internet and Social Media
- The school has a code of conduct for school personnel (teaching and non-teaching staff)
- ✓ The school has appointed qualified Guidance teachers
- ✓ The school has recruited teachers with Special Education Needs training and qualifications

- Students of minority religious faiths - Students in care - Students on CPNS Supporting students involved in misuse of Social Media Sanctioning students involved in misuse of Social Media		 ✓ The school appoints qualified SNA's where deemed necessary and funded by the DES ✓ The school has a Tour policy which covers protocols for overnight stays ✓ The school has a Special Educational Needs policy ✓ The school has an active Pastoral Team with particular understanding of the needs of the students in its care, including their background ✓ The school has a set of procedures in relation to the administration of medicines
Recruitment	Potential Risks Associated	Mitigation of Risks
 Principal Deputy Principal(s) Teachers Sub Teachers PMEs Temp visitors e.g Erasmus SNAs Facilitators- Coaches / Drama 	 □ Risk of harm to students by personnel who are not qualified □ Risk of harm to students from personnel who have a history of unacceptable practices in previous employment 	 ✓ The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation and relevant DES circulars in relation to recruitment and Garda vetting ✓ The school has an Employee Handbook and Induction programme for school

 Administration staff Caretaking Staff Housekeeping Staff Cleaning Staff Short or long-term contractors e.g IT technician 	 □ Risk of harm to students from a member of personnel with a history of abuse □ Risk of harm to a student by a member of personnel unwilling to commit to the expected standards of the school 	personnel (teaching and non-teaching staff) ✓ When appointing, detailed references are sought ✓ The school has a rigorous interview process. ✓ The school has a rigorous vetting policy
Sporting Activities and Extra Curricular Activities	Potential Risks Associated	Mitigation of Risks
 Travelling to matches Changing in school's changing room Changing in the changing rooms of other schools Annual Sports Day School trips involving overnight stay. Schools Trips Policy to be reviewed 24-25 Administration of First Aid following a sports injury Checking levels - students with T1 Diabetes Use of external personnel to support sports and other extra-curricular activities Sports coaches 	 □ Risk of a student being harmed by a member of school personnel, a member of staff of another organisation or other person while participating in sporting activities □ Risk of harm to student while student is receiving First Aid treatment □ Risk of harm due to inadequate code of behaviour □ Risk of harm in one-to-one coaching situation 	 ✓ All staff and volunteers are Garda Vetted ✓ All staff have been provided with the Child Safeguarding Statement and have had appropriate training. ✓ School sports personnel are required to adhere to the Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017(Revised 2023) and also are required to adhere to the Children First Act 2015 ✓ The school implements in full the Wellbeing Programme at Junior Cycle, incorporating PE

- Volunteers/Parents in sports activities
- PME placement / PE teachers
- Use of social media to record and comment on sporting events
- Rehearsals for shows
- Facilitators- External visiting Coaches / DKIT students delivering projects / Drama facilitators/ Directors
- Parent Volunteers/Coaches
- Parent Mentors
- Poly tunnel Parents

- ☐ Risk of harm to student due to lack of experience of Student PE teachers
- ☐ Risk of harm caused by member of school personnel communicating with pupils in appropriate manner via social media, texting, digital device or other manner
- ☐ Risk of harm caused by member of school personnel or a student circulating inappropriate material in relation to sporting activities via social media, texting, digital device or other manner
- Risk of a student being harmed by a member of school personnel, a member of staff when preparing for activity

- The school has an Acceptable Use Policy in relation to the use of digital media. Permission given on School App for use of images
- ✓ The School has a Code of Behaviour, drafted in consultation with all stakeholders.
- ✓ The School has a supervision protocol for all major events.
- ✓ The school has a supervision protocol for transport to and from sporting activities
- ✓ Coaching staff and others are trained in First Aid - includes teaching and SNAs
- ✓ The school has a Tour policy which covers protocols for overnight stays
- ✓ The school has in place a policy and procedures in respect of student teacher placements
- ✓ The school has in place a mobile phone policy in respect of usage of mobile phones by pupils

	/	The school has in place a Code of
	>	Behaviour for students All staff and volunteers are Garda Vetted.

Use of Digital Technology in school and	Potential Risks Associated	Mitigation of Risks
in remote /hybrid or blended learning	1 0000000 1 10000 1 1000 10	The same of the same
 Use of video, photography, other medias to record school events Use of social media to promote or share school activities / images. Identify potential risks when streaming from the classroom a.Risks to staff b. Risks to: i. Students at home ii. Students at school Unique Schools App TY Work Experience 	The primary risks are likely to arise from (a) over-sharing of personal data i.e. where it is either unnecessary or inappropriate (e.g. camera images from student homes that may expose them to online bullying) (b) unlawful data capture from the live stream and subsequent misuse by students (e.g. screenshots or photographs of teachers being shared onwards via social media) (c) unlawful access to the live stream by third parties (e.g. security gaps allowing strangers to join classes or share inappropriate content). (d) Confidentiality - AUP Code extends to work places	 The school has in place a mobile phone policy in respect of usage of mobile phones by pupils The School has an updated Acceptable Usage Policy The school has in place a Code of Behaviour for students All staff and volunteers are Garda Vetted The School has identified technical measures to mitigate these risks School has an appropriate platform in place for streaming lesson content e.g Google Classroom, Google Meets Staff have knowledge of technical measures to control access to the platform. Staff knowledge/training on how to configure the platform safely

 ✓ staff have been given appropriate training in the management of the technology & remote users during a live lesson ✓ AP2 Post Holder to support staff
Non-technical measures are equally important the school will provide: Clarity for teachers around operational measures Clear lesson protocols for local and remote students An Acceptable User Policy (AUP) relevant to students (and staff) Inform all that the Code of Behaviour equally applicable to online classes Transparency requirements addressed with parents/students

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 no 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.

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 (Revised 2023)

Examples of Procedures to address risks of harm

All school personnel are provided with a copy of the school's <i>Child Safeguarding Statement</i>
The Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017(Revised 2023) 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 (Revised
2023) and all registered teaching staff are required to adhere to the Children First Act 2015 and it's Addendum (2019)
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 undertakes anti-racism awareness initiatives - multi cultural annual event

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, changing rooms etc.
The school has in place a policy and clear procedures in respect of school outings
The school has a Health and safety policy
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 codes 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 an intimate care policy/plan in respect of students who require such care -AEN
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 code of behaviour for pupils
The school has an Acceptable Use Policy in place, to include provision for online teaching and learning remotely, and has communicated this policy to parents
The school has in place a policy governing the use of smartphones and tables devices in the school by pupils as per circular 38/2018
The school has in place a Critical Incident Management Plan
The school has in place a Home School Liaison policy and related procedures
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 teaching activities
The school has in place a policy and procedures for one-to-one counselling
The school has in place a policy and procedures in respect of student teacher placements*
The school has in place a policy and procedures in respect of students undertaking work experience in the school
The school has in place a policy and procedures in respect of pupils of the school undertaking work experience in external organisations*