



ST. PETER'S SCHOOL

BUILDING OUR FUTURE



Child Protection Policy

Schools have an obligation to provide students with the highest possible standard of care in order to promote their well-being and protect them from harm. School personnel are especially well placed to observe changes in behaviour, failure to develop, or outward signs of abuse in children.

- Mindful of this primary duty of care, the Board of Management of St Peter's School fully endorses the Children First Act 2015, the Children First National Guidance 2017, and Child Protection Procedures 2023 (DEY).
- The Board nominates Ms Rosemary Fahy as the designated liaison person (DLP) to act as a liaison with outside agencies and as a resource person to any staff having child protection concerns.
- In the absence of Ms Rosemary Fahy, Ms. Glenda O'Leary will act as Deputy Designated Liaison Person (DDLp). The Board will ensure that appropriate and on-going training as necessary will be available for DLP and the DDLp.
- The Board fully endorses arrangements for the vetting of teaching and non-teaching staff as outlined in Circular 0031/2016.
- Recognising that the safety and well-being of children attending the school is a priority, the Board undertakes to include Child Protection & Health & Safety matters as items on the agenda of all Board meetings forthwith.
- The Board will ensure that all school staff, teaching, and non-teaching are aware of their obligations under the guidelines detailed in Children First and the procedures to be followed in the event of concern.
- The Board recognises that it has two duties of care. The primary duty is the protection, safety and welfare of the children attending St. Peter's School. The Board as an employer also has duties and responsibilities towards its employees.
- As an employer, the Board will seek legal advice if an allegation of abuse is made against a school employee.

- The Board of Management will follow the *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools (Revised 2023)* when responding to any allegation or suspicion of abuse involving a school employee. The Board is committed to ensuring that all actions taken prioritise the safety and welfare of children, in accordance with Children First and the statutory responsibilities of the Designated Liaison Person (DLP). The Board also recognises that school employees may be subject to unfounded or malicious allegations; therefore, all cases will be managed with sensitivity and fairness. The employee concerned will be afforded due process, including adherence to the principles of natural justice, confidentiality, and the right to a fair and impartial investigation, while ensuring that protective measures for pupils are implemented where necessary.
- The Board believes that the academic, personal, and social development of children flourishes in a culture where good relationships are encouraged, people feel valued and respected and appropriate support is available for those in difficulty.
- The Board is committed to the maintenance of the environment where children feel secure, are encouraged to express themselves and are listened to. All children in the school will be made aware that there are adults in the school whom they can approach if they are worried. In addition, opportunities will be included in the curriculum for children to develop the skills they need to keep them safe.
- This policy statement regarding Child Protection at St Peter's School applies to all staff, members of the Board of Management, volunteers and contractors working in the school.

This policy has been drawn up by the principal in collaboration with the staff of St. Peter's and in consultation with the Board of Management. It will be made available to all members of the school community.

This policy will be reviewed annually and amended if necessary.

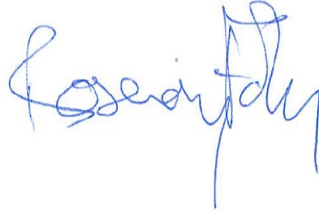
Signed:



Mr. Eoin Ó Donnagáin,
Chairperson
Board of Management

Date: 26.11.2025

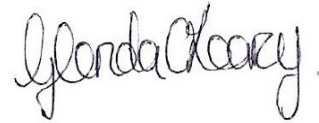
Signed:



Ms. Rosemary Fahy,
Designated Liaison Person

Date: 26.11.2025

Signed:



Ms. Glenda O'Leary,
Deputy Designated Liaison Person

Date: 26.11.2025