



CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

This document is a response to recent changes in legislation and takes account of the provisions of each of the following pieces of legislation and replaces any existing child protection policy.

- Freedom of Information Act 1997
- The Education Act 1998
- The Child Welfare Act 1998
- Children First – National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children 2011

The new procedures are based on the recently published *Children First – National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children 2011*

References

- 'Children First' (Department of Health and Children 1999)
- 'Our Children Our Church' (CORI 2005)
- 'Child Protection Guidelines and Procedures' (Department of Education and Science 2001)
- Tusla Child and Family Agency, Coolock Health Centre (HSE)
- 'Childcare and Protection, Policy and Procedures Document for Mercy Schools
- Policy sources accessed through internet

The Board of Management (BOM) recognises that child protection and welfare considerations permeate all aspects of school life and must be reflected in all of the school's policies, practices and activities. Accordingly, in accordance with the requirements of the Department of Education and Skills, Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools the BOM of St. Paul's Special School has agreed the following child protection policy.

The BOM has adopted and will implement fully and without modification the Department's Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools as part of this overall Child Protection Policy.

The Designated Liaison Person (DLP) is Adrian Harkin

The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is Mary Therese Forde

In its policies, practices and activities, St. Paul's Special 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 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
- 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

Certain policies, procedures and general guidelines (as outlined in current Staff Handbook) such as St. Paul's Special School Code of Behaviour and the Supervision of Pupils Policy, will take particular account of this Child Protection Policy. This policy will also be considered with reference to the participation by pupils in sporting activities e.g. swimming and stretch & grow and other extra curricular activities such as school trips, social programmes and outings, and work experience programmes.

This policy was adopted by the Board of Management on 28th January 2021.

Signed : Paul Burke

Date: 28th January 2021

Chairperson, Board of Management

Signed : Adrian Harkin

Date: 28th January 2021

Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Appendix 1

Conditions of Acceptance to St. Paul's Special School

Pupils **may** be reviewed by the school and clinical team in the 1st term of your child's second year in St. Paul's Special School **or sooner** if deemed to be necessary. This is to ascertain your child's continued suitability to the school and the resources available to your child in this setting.

Should your child present such that we have concerns and we see that we can no longer meet the child's needs or indeed foresee that we cannot meet them in the future, St. Paul's will recommend another service/school. Such concerns would include 'care needs' and 'challenging behaviours'. The team will assist the family with this process.

The decision of the school in this matter will be final.

Board of Management of St. Paul's Special School

I agree by signing below to the above conditions in relation to 'accepting a school place for my son/daughter' in St. Paul's Special School:

Signed by Parent/ Guardian's (1): _____ Date:

Name in Block Capitals: _____

Signed by Parent/ Guardian's (2): _____ Date:

Name In Block Capitals: _____