ST JOHN'S EDUCATION CENTRE
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Child Safeguarding Statement

The Management Committee recognises that child protection and welfare considerations permeate all aspects of the Centre's life and must be reflected in all of the Centre'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 Management Committee of *St. John's Education Centre* has agreed the following child protection policy:

1. The Management Committee 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.
2. The Designated Liaison Person (DLP): Ann Murray
3. The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP): Chris Cleary
4. In its policies, practices and activities, *St John's Education Centre* will adhere to the following principles of best practice in child protection and welfare:

The Centre 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 students 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/guardians and encourage involvement in the education of their children.
- fully respect confidentiality requirements in dealing with child protection matters.
  The Centre will also adhere to the above principles in relation to any student with a special vulnerability.

5. 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 young person attending the Centre. St. John's 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 for all staff which are published on the DES website.
   - In relation to the selection or recruitment of staff and their suitability to work with young people, the centre adheres to the statutory vetting requirements of the National Vetting Bureau (Children and Vulnerable Persons) 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 DES 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 centre has provided each member of staff with a copy of the Child Safeguarding Statement
- In relation to reporting of child protection concerns to Tulsa, all staff are required to adhere to the procedures set out in the Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017.
- The Management committee 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.
- This statement has been published on St. John's website and has been provided to all personnel working in St. John's.
- The Management Committee has ensured that the necessary policies, protocols, or practices are in place in respect of each of the above listed items.

7. This policy will be reviewed by the Management Committee once in every school year.

This policy was adopted by the Management Committee on 25th September 2025

(Education Programme Leader)

Ms Anne Murray

Date: 25.09.25

Date of next review: September 2026

(Chairperson of the Management Committee)

Mr Joe Twomney

Date: 25.09.25

Date of next review: September 2026