An Roinn Oideachais

Department of Education

Child Protection and Safeguarding Final Inspection

FINAL REPORT

Ainm na scoile / School name	St. Mary's C.B.S.
Seoladh na scoile / School address	Mill Park Road Enniscorthy Co Wexford
Uimhir rolla / Roll number	63560T

Date of inspection: 17-02-2022

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WHAT IS A CHILD PROTECTION AND SAFEGUARDING INSPECTION?

A Child Protection and Safeguarding Inspection (CPSI) is a focused inspection of the implementation of the *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary schools 2017*. These procedures provide direction and guidance to school authorities and to school personnel in relation to meeting their statutory obligations under the Children First Act 2015. They also provide direction and guidance in relation to the continued implementation of the best practice, non-statutory guidance set out in Children First National Guidance 2017. The CPSI inspection model examines the implementation of the *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary schools 2017* in schools through conducting ten checks based on the procedures.

The CPSI inspection process consists of two inspections: an **Initial Child Protection and Safeguarding Inspection** and a **Final Child Protection and Safeguarding Inspection**. The two inspections are typically carried out in a school within a relatively short timeframe. This is a report on a Final Child Protection and Safeguarding Inspection.

WHAT HAPPENS DURING A FINAL CHILD PROTECTION AND SAFEGUARDING INSPECTION?

During a final CPSI, inspectors:

- Engage with learners about their learning in Social Personal and Health Education (SPHE) and Relationship and Sexuality Education (RSE)
- Conduct a focus group meeting with representatives of the parents' association / parent representatives on the board of management to explores issues relevant to school climate and parents' awareness of the school's child protection procedures, including the school's anti-bullying procedures
- Hold meetings with:
    - Designated Liaison Person (DLP) / Deputy DLP
    - Chairperson of board of management
    - A sample of school personnel
    - The SPHE coordinator
- Review the following documents:
    - Board of management minutes
    - Child safeguarding statement and risk assessment
    - Relevant school plans
    - The school's IT Acceptable Use Policy (AUP)
- Review child protection records, where these have been created.

The board of management of the school was given an opportunity to comment in writing on the findings and recommendations of the report, and the response of the board will be found in the appendix of this report.

HOW TO READ THIS REPORT

The checks conducted during this inspection are based on the *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017.*

The first section of the report indicates the extent to which the school was compliant with each of the checks conducted by indicating, in respect of each of the stated checks, whether the school was:

- Fully compliant
- Substantially compliant

- Partially compliant
- Not compliant

Some of the checks may not be relevant to a particular school, for example a school that has never had a concern in relation to child protection will not have any child protection records. In such cases, the report indicates that the check does not apply to the school by stating *Not Applicable* after that particular check.

It should be noted that the term 'school personnel' as referred to in this inspection report is used as a generic term to cover all adults who are involved in the operation of the school. It covers employees and voluntary workers and includes parent association members when they are working in the school. These personnel include, for example, teachers, special needs assistants, caretakers, secretaries, cleaners, voluntary workers in the school, paid or voluntary tutors, and parent association members helping with aspects of the work of the school.

Where a school is less than fully compliant with a particular requirement, the report provides some additional evaluative comment on the check. It also advises actions that the school should take in order to comply more fully with the *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017*.

The report also provides an evaluative comment on the school's planning for and implementation of the Social Personal and Health Education Curriculum and the Stay Safe Programme/ Relationships and Sexuality Education Programme as evident during the inspection. In providing this overview, reference is made to the appropriate quality level of the Inspectorate's Quality Continuum:

- Very good
- Good
- Satisfactory
- Fair
- Weak

A *Guide to Child Protection and Safeguarding Inspections* was published on the website of the Department of Education in January 2019 and can be accessed at www.gov.ie. This Guide details how CPSIs are carried out and also provides the framework used by inspectors in arriving at judgements about a school's compliance with the aspects of the *Child Protection Procedures 2017* that are checked during the inspection.

Child Protection and Safeguarding Inspection Report
The checks detailed below derive from the *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017*. These procedures are designed to ensure that schools provide a safe and secure environment for all our children and through appropriate curriculum provision, provide for the incremental development of the life skills that will empower students to keep themselves safe. In order to meet these aims, the procedures set out a number of requirements on schools relating to communicating with members of the school community about child protection matters; training of school personnel and board members in respect of child protection; reporting about child protection to the board of management; and fulfilling certain reporting and record keeping obligations in relation to child protection matters. They also detail the mandatory aspects of the curriculum that are designed to develop students' knowledge, skills, attitudes and behaviours through Social Personal and Health Education (SPHE) and the Relationship and Sexuality (RSE) programme.

Aspects of the *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017* checked	**Fully Compliant** **Substantially Compliant** **Partially Compliant** **Not compliant** **Not applicable**
1. The school has communicated the required aspects of the *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017* to relevant stakeholders.	**Fully Compliant**
2. A Designated Liaison Person (DLP) and a deputy DLP have been appointed in line with the requirements of the *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017*.	**Fully Compliant**
3. The board of management reports that it is aware of and discharges its responsibilities to provide information to all school personnel relevant to child protection and to ensure that available training is undertaken by all or some members of staff as required.	**Fully Compliant**
4. The board of management reports that it is aware of its responsibilities in relation to vetting of all school personnel and report that they discharge these responsibilities.	**Fully Compliant**
5. A child safeguarding statement and risk assessment have been prepared in line with the template and requirements of the *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017.*	**Fully Compliant**
6. The minutes of the board meetings that were checked contained a record of a child protection oversight report being provided in line with the requirements of the *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017*.	**Fully Compliant**
7. Correct record keeping procedures were found in the child protection cases examined.	**Fully Compliant**
8. The procedures to report child protection concerns were fully implemented in the records examined.	**Fully Compliant**

9. The procedures to report allegations or suspicions of abuse against school personnel were fully implemented in the records examined. *(These personnel include, for example, teachers, special needs assistants, caretakers, secretaries, cleaners, voluntary workers in the school, paid or voluntary tutors, and parent association members helping with aspects of the work of the school.)*	**Not Applicable**

10. Curriculum Check	
There is a Social Personal and Health Education Programme for all students in Junior Cycle.	**Yes**
There is a Relationships and Sexuality Education Programme (RSE) for all students in the school.	**Yes**

The overall quality of planning for and implementation of the SPHE curriculum and the RSE programme is very good. Positive school leadership at various levels has helped to create an environment and a culture where SPHE and RSE are valued and supported.

As part of the evaluation, the inspection team met with groups of junior and senior cycle students. During these meetings, students were articulate, confident and engaged when discussing aspects of SPHE and their RSE programme. Students' awareness of the required topics and elements of the RSE programme was wide-ranging, particularly in areas such as sexual harassment and consent.

Co-ordination of SPHE and of the RSE programme is very good, and the team continues to develop its provision to meet the needs of students. It is positive to note that students were recently surveyed in order to ascertain key areas for development and that the results of this survey are being used to inform future plans.

Very good timetabling provision is made for the implementation of SPHE and RSE. All students in Junior Cycle receive one SPHE lesson each week. At senior cycle, the RSE programme is delivered on a modular basis with students receiving up to twelve periods over the course of each year.

During the evaluation, the inspection team met with a group of parents who spoke very positively about their own and of their children's experiences in St. Mary's CBS. This group of parents were familiar with relevant policies such as the anti-bullying policy and the school's child safeguarding statement and complimented the school's approach to caring for supporting individual students.

Appendix

SCHOOL RESPONSE TO THE REPORT

Submitted by the Board of Management

Part A Observations on the content of the inspection report

The board of management welcomes the Inspection Report on Child Protection and Safeguarding and is pleased that the school is found to be fully compliant in all relevant checks carried out.

The board is also very pleased that the Inspectors commended the planning and implementation of the SPHE curriculum and the RSE programme in the school. The board is further pleased to learn that students and parents views on the delivery of these programmes is very positive.

The board is very grateful for the leadership of the Co-ordinator of the SPHE and RSE programme and to the teachers who have upskilled themselves to be able to deliver these programmes so well.

The board wishes to thank the Principal and Deputy Principals for insuring that the requirements of Child Protection and Safeguarding are fully adhered to in the school.

Part B Follow-up actions planned or undertaken since the completion of the inspection activity to implement the findings and recommendations of the inspection.

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