

St Joseph's Secondary School

Newfoundwell, Drogheda, Co. Louth

Flight Risk Policy



First Ratified: 12/09/23

School Details: St. Joseph's Secondary School is a Voluntary Roman Catholic Secondary School under the Trusteeship and the Patronage of the Edmund Rice Schools Trust. The School is grant aided by the Department of Education & Skills and is a co-educational school.

School Management: The Board of Management of St. Joseph's Secondary School is a statutory Board appointed pursuant to the provisions of the Education Act 1998.

Mission Statement.

Our school recognises that each pupil who enrolls in our school is unique and has different gifts as well as different needs. It is our wish that our pupils will leave us with enhanced self-confidence and with life skills and attitudes which will enable them to lead lives satisfying to themselves and which may contribute to the betterment of society. We recognise that a pupil's development is closely linked to a good self-image and so we strive to present the school's total curriculum in such a manner as to allow all to realise their full potential. We see ourselves as working in partnership with parents to develop the gifts and to meet the needs of all. We regard our school as an educational establishment with a Christian community characterised by care and justice.

Rationale for this policy:

Philosophy, Ethos and Context:

St. Josephs currently has four classes for students with autism. The autism classes are intended for pupils who have a diagnosis of autism meeting DSM IV/V or ICD diagnostic criteria. The classes are for students who meet these criteria irrespective of cognitive ability.

As an Edmund Rice School, St. Joseph's Secondary School seeks to promote the five key elements of an Edmund Rice School as espoused by the ERST Charter:

- Nurturing faith, Christian spirituality and Gospel-based values
- Promoting partnership in the school community
- Excelling in teaching and learning
- Creating a caring school community
- Inspiring transformational leadership.

Relevant Legislation:

- Education Act (98)
- Childrens First Act 2015
- Safety, Health and Welfare at Work Act 2005;
- Safety, Health and Welfare at Work (General Application) Regulations 2007
- Safety, Health and Welfare at Work (General Application) (Amendment) Regulations 2007

Relevant policies:

- Health and Safety policy
- Child Safeguarding policy
- Wellbeing policy
- Code of Behaviour policy
- Pastoral Care policy
- Additional Educational Needs policy
- Dignity at Work policy
- Critical Incident policy

Aims of this policy:

This policy sets out to provide clear guidance and instruction for Flight Risk Procedures to be followed with regard to students in an AS setting.

Operation of this policy:

A risk assessment was carried out in August 2023 and it has been identified that the front gates of the school pose a risk in the event of a student absconding.

Parents have been informed that we do not have a lock down facility but in the event of a student absconding the following actions should be taken –

The following procedure should be followed:

1. Assigned Teacher/Supervisor rings one of the following:

Office

Caretaker(s)

A member of senior management

- Teacher/Supervisor remains with other students.
- Office/Caretaker/Senior Management will go immediately to the front gates and close them.

- Two SNA's attend to the student but will go in alternate directions to minimise the student exiting the building.
- SNA's and staff involved in recovering the student should take due care for their own safety at all times.
- Should the student exit the school grounds the AS co-ordinator will make immediate contact with the parents
- In the event of the student exiting the premises the Gardai will be contacted immediately by the school office.
- Subsequent to the student being returned safely to the school the relevant teacher will complete an incident report form (see attached template)

This policy was ratified on

Signature: Chairperson of the Board Of Management

E.Coffey

Date: 1/09/23

Signature: Principal & Secretary to the Board of Management ; P.Savage

Date: 1/09/23

Appendix 1:

Flight Risk Incident Report	
Date: _____ Time: _____ Student: _____	
Names of Teachers/SNAs/Staff involved:	
(1) _____	(2) _____
(3) _____	(4) _____
Details of incidents including steps followed and actions taken :	
Reporting Teacher: _____	

