

Rosemount Terrace, Booterstown, Co. Dublin

① 01 2884223

Mandatory Template 1: Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment Template

Child Safeguarding Statement

OUR LADY OF MERCY CONVENT SCHOOL is a primary/special/post-primary school providing primary/post-primary education to pupils from Junior Infants to

Safeguarding Statements, the Board of Management of [insert school name] has agreed the Child Safeguarding Statement set out in this document. to Children First (2019), the Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools (revised 2023) and Tusla Guidance on the preparation of Child In accordance with the requirements of the Children First Act 2015, Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children 2017, the Addendum

- The Board of Management has adopted and will implement fully and without modification the Department's Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools (revised 2023) as part of this overall Child Safeguarding Statement
- 2 The Designated Liaison Person (DLP) is

JOHN O BOYLE

w The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is FIONA HENRY

JOHN O BOYLE

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on request. This person can also be the DLP) The Relevant Person is (The relevant person is one who can provide information in respect of how the child safeguarding statement was developed and will be able to provide the statement

S policies, procedures, practices and activities. In its policies, procedures, practices and activities, the school will adhere to the following principles of best practice The Board of Management recognises that child protection and welfare considerations permeate all aspects of school life and must be reflected in all of the school's in child protection and welfare:

The school will:



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- recognise that the protection and welfare of children is of paramount importance, regardless of all other considerations;
- fully comply with its statutory obligations under the Children First Act 2015 and other relevant legislation relating to the protection and welfare of children;
- 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; and
- 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

The following procedures/measures are in place:

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- of a child attending the school, the school adheres to the relevant procedures set out in Chapter 7 of the Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post 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 Primary Schools (revised 2023) and to the relevant agreed disciplinary procedures for school staff which are published on the gov.ie website
- In relation to the selection or recruitment of staff and their suitability to work with children, the school adheres to the statutory vetting requirements of the recruitment circulars published by the Department of Education and available on the gov.ie website. 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
- 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 school-
- Has provided each member of staff with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement
- V Ensures all new staff are provided with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement
- Encourages staff to avail of relevant training
- > Encourages Board of Management members to avail of relevant training
- > The Board of Management maintains records of all staff and Board member training



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- In relation to reporting of child protection concerns to Tusla, all school personnel are required to adhere to the procedures set out in the Child Protection the Children First Act 2015. Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools (revised 2023), including in the case of registered teachers, those in relation to mandated reporting under
- All registered teachers employed by the school are mandated persons under the Children First Act 2015
- procedures for managing those risks is included with the Child Safeguarding Statement. harm to a child while attending the school or participating in school activities. A written assessment setting out the areas of risk identified and the school's In accordance with the Children First Act 2015 and the Addendum to Children First (2019), the Board has carried out an assessment of any potential for
- the school The various procedures referred to in this Statement can be accessed via the school's website, the gov.ie website or will be made available on request by

relevance to the school in question Note: The above is not intended as an exhaustive list. Individual Boards of Management shall also include in this section such other procedures/measures that are of

- This statement has been published on the school's website and has been provided to all members of school personnel, the Parents' Association (if any) and the patron. It is readily accessible to parents and guardians on request. A copy of this Statement will be made available to Tusla and the Department if requested
- This Child Safeguarding Statement will be reviewed annually or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which this statement

This Child Safeguarding Statement was adopted by the Board of Management on 26-4-23 [date].

This Child Safeguarding Statement was reviewed by the Board of Management on __[most recent review date]

Signed: Maine 4/4 Hugh

Signed: John D



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Date: 26-9-23 Chairperson of Board of Management

Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Date: 26-9-23

Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment

Written Assessment of Risk of Our Lady of Mercy Convent School

List of School Activities	The School has identified the following Risk of Harm	The School has the following Procedures in place to address risk identified in this assessment
Training of school personnel in Child Ha	Harm not recognised or reported	Child Safeguarding Statement & DES
	promptly	 procedures made available to all staff DLP& DDLP to attend PDST face to face
		training
		 All Staff to view Túsla training module & any
		other online training offered by PDST
		 BOM records all records of staff and board
		training



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Child Safeguarding StatementAnti-bullying policyCode of Behaviour		Recreation breaks for pupils
Supervision Policy	Harm to pupils	
 If work experience students only accepted if garda vetted (over 16) Child Safeguarding Statement 	Harm by student	Students participating in work experience
All coacnes are Garda Vetted		
Supervision policy (teachers remain with class during coaching sessions)	Harm to pupils	Sports Coaches
 Health & Safety Policy Code of Behaviour 	Injury to pupils and staff	Managing of challenging behaviour amongst pupils, including appropriate use of restraint
 Arrival and dismissal supervised by Teachers Supervision policy 	Harm from older pupils, unknown adults on the playground	Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils
 School implements SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe in full 	Non-teaching of same	Curricular Provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay safe.
 Toileting Policy and Supervision policy Children to access the toilet one child at a time 	Inappropriate behaviour	Toilet areas
Policy on intimate care	Harm by school personnel	Care of Children with special needs, including intimate care needs
 Glass panel in door or door left ajar if there is no glass panel 	Harm by school personnel	One to one teaching



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Classroom teaching	Idili to pubilo	 Child Safeguarding Statement Code of Behaviour Anti-hullying policy
Outdoor teaching activities within school grounds (e.g. nature walks, maths trails, art activities)	Harm to pupils, harm from other pupils	 Supervision Policy Child Safeguarding Statement Code of Behaviour Anti-bullying policy
Outdoor teaching activities (outside of school grounds) WAMWAS, Library visits, Book store visits, Science activities etc.	Harm to pupils, harm from other pupils, harm from unknown people	 Supervision Policy Child Safeguarding Statement Code of Behaviour Anti-bullying policy
Sporting Activities (during school hours)	Harm to pupils, harm from other pupils, harm from unknown people	Supervision PolicyCode of Behaviour
Extracurricular Sporting and Other Activities (outside of school hours)	Harm to pupils, harm from other pupils, harm from unknown people	 Supervision Policy Child Safeguarding Statement Code of Behaviour Anti-bullying policy
School outings	Harm to pupils, harm from other pupils, harm from unknown people/bus driver/tour facilitators	 Confirmation that the agency is compliant with current child protection procedures Supervision Policy Child Safeguarding Statement Code of Behaviour Anti-bullying policy
School trips involving overnight stay	Harm to pupils, harm from other pupils, harm from unknown people/bus driver/tour facilitators	 Confirmation that the agency is compliant with current child protection procedures Supervision Policy



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 Supervision Policy Child Safeguarding Statement Code of Behaviour Anti-bullying policy All parents to be Garda vetted 	Harm to pupils, harm from other pupils, harm from unknown people	School transport arrangements (e.g. bus drivers, parents, teachers)
Supervision PolicyChild Safeguarding StatementCode of BehaviourAnti-bullying policy	Harm to pupils, harm from other pupils, harm from unknown people	Use of off-site facilities for school activities (tennis, Santry sports)
Supervision PolicyChild Safeguarding StatementCode of BehaviourAnti-bullying policy	Harm to pupils, harm from other pupils, harm from unknown people	Fundraising events involving pupils for Charities (e.g. Carols outside of school grounds,)
 Supervision Policy Child Safeguarding Statement Code of Behaviour Anti-bullying policy 	Harm to pupils, harm from other pupils	Annual Active/Sports Week
 Children will change in their allocated bathroom 	Harm to pupils, harm from other pupils	Use of toilet/changing/shower areas in schools
 Child Safeguarding Statement Code of Behaviour Anti-bullying policy 		



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Peer tutoring Harm from other pupils • Supervision Policy • Child Safeguarding State • Code of Behaviour • Anti-bullying policy	Use of external personnel to supplement curriculum (e.g. Gymnastics, Yoga, Play ball, Art programme. Recycling programme) Harm to pupils Child Safeguarding State Code of Behaviour Anti-bullying policy Vetting of all individuals school Personnel will be complete Túsla training External personnel will be visitors badge	Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst pupils Harm to pupils, harm from other • Anti-bullying Policy	Administration of Medicine Administration of First Aid Administration of Medicine Where possible another and/or notified Classroom door and bath open at all times
Supervision PolicyChild Safeguarding StatementCode of BehaviourAnti-bullying policy	 Supervision Policy Child Safeguarding Statement Code of Behaviour Anti-bullying policy Vetting of all individuals who come in to the school Personnel will be complete/will be invited to complete Túsla training programme? External personnel will be provided with a visitors badge 	Anti-bullying Policy	 teacher, parent or known adult) Administration of Medicines Policy First Aid policy update Where possible another adult will be present and/or notified Classroom door and bathroom door will be left open at all times



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• scho	Visito	 Visit 	• Volu	Spor	 Care 	 SNA's 	 Teachers 	Recruitm	notific	Childre	Childre	Pupils	Pupils	(LGBT	Lesbia	Memb	Pupils	needs such as	Care of pupils	
school activities	Visitors/contractors present	Visitors/contractors present in school	Volunteers/Parents in school activities	Sports coacnes External Tutors/Guest Speakers	Caretaker/Secretary/Cleaners	S	ners	Recruitment of school personnel including -	notification system)	Children on CPNS	Children in care	Pupils of minority religious faiths	Pupils perceived to be LGBT	(LGBT) children	Lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender	Members of the Traveller community	Pupils from ethnic minorities/migrants	h as		
	tors pres	ctors pr	rents in s	s/Guest S	retary/Clo			ool perso	em)	CPNS (c		:y religiou	to be LG		bisexual	Traveller	iic minorii		h specific	
	ent during	esent in	chool acti	peakers	eaners			nnel inclu		(child pro		s faiths	ВТ		or trans	communi	:ies/migra		with specific vulnerabilities/	
	g after	school	vities					ding -		protection					gender	ty	ints			
								Harm no promptly									i.	(known/i	Harm to	
								Harm not recognised or properly or promptly reported										(known/unknown)	Harm to pupils, harm from other	
								sed or pro										200	arm from other ad	
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				Policy o	Vetting	online t	Staff to	Child Si									Anti-bu	Code of	Supervi Child Sa	
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				Policy of Parelical Historyellietic	res	online training offered by PDST	sla traini	Child Safeguarding Statement & DES procedures made available to all staff	2								icy	두 ,	Supervision Policy Child Safequarding Statement	
				gilletic)) }	/ PDST	ng modu	ole to all	-										ment	
							Staff to view Tusla training module & any other	staff	210									ę		
			-				other													



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Visiting contractors	Harm to pupils	 Any contract work will be completed outside of school hours if possible Children will be supervised at all times should visiting contractors be in the school environs.
		 All contractors be provided with a 'Visitor's Badge'
		 Visitors Policy incorporated into Health and Safety Statement 2017
Use of Information and Communication Technology by pupils in school or Online	Bullying	ICT policyAnti-Bullying PolicyAcceptable usage policy
Leaning.		Code of BehaviourDistance Learning Policy
Student teachers undertaking training placement in school	Harm to pupils	 Confirmation from Teacher Training Colleges that students have been vetted prior to undertaking School Placement
After school use of school premises by other organisations	Harm to pupils	 Organisations to complete Our Lady of Mercy Certificate of Compliance in relation to Child Protection Procedures 2017 (will be done from September 2018 onwards)



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Use of video/photography/other media to record school events	Harm to pupils	 All parents requested to sign a consent form to allow their child's image and work to be used on school website. Garda vetting of photographer/videographer
Bins/composting	Harm to pupils	1.

Important Note: It should be noted that risk in the context of this risk assessment is the risk of "harm" as defined in the Children First Act 2015 and not general health and safety risk. The definition of harm is set out in Chapter 4 of the Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017 In undertaking this risk assessment, the board of management has endeavoured to identify as far as possible the risks of harm that are relevant to this school and to ensure that adequate procedures are in place to manage all risks identified. While it is not possible to foresee and remove all risk of harm, the school has in place the procedures listed in this risk assessment to manage and reduce risk to the greatest possible extent.

This risk assessment has been completed by the Board of Management on 16/09/2021. It shall be reviewed as part of the school's annual review of its Child Safeguarding Statement.

Signed M WWW.

L Date 36/69/5



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Chairperson, Board of Management

Signed John O Boyle Date 26/9/23

Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Mandatory Template 2: Checklist for Review of the Child Safeguarding Statement

The <u>Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools (revised 2023)</u> require that the Board of Management must undertake a review of its Child Safeguarding Statement and that the following checklist shall be used for this purpose. The review must be completed every year or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which the Child Safeguarding Statement refers. Undertaking an annual review will also ensure that a school also meets its statutory obligation under section 11(8) of the Children First Act 2015, to review its Child Safeguarding Statement every two years.

The checklist is designed as an aid to conducting this review and is not intended as an exhaustive list of the issues to be considered. Individual Boards of Management shall include other items in the checklist that are of relevance to the school in question.

As part of the overall review process, Boards of Management should also assess relevant school policies, procedures, practices and activities vis a vis their adherence to the principles of best practice in child protection and welfare as set out in the school's Child Safeguarding Statement, the Children First Act 2015, the Addendum to Children First (2019) and the *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools (revised 2023)*.

		Yes/No
1.	Has the Board formally adopted a Child Safeguarding Statement in accordance with the <i>Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools (revised 2023)</i> ?	Yes
2.	Is the Board satisfied that the Child Safeguarding Statement is displayed in a prominent place near the main entrance to the school?	Yes
3.	As part of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement, has the Board formally adopted, without modification, the <i>Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools (revised 2023)</i> ?	Yes
4.	Does the school's Child Safeguarding Statement include a written assessment of risk as required under the Children First Act 2015? (This includes considering the specific issue of online safety as required by the Addendum to Children First)	Yes
5.	Has the Board reviewed and updated where necessary the written assessment of risk as part of this overall review?	Yes
6.	Has the Risk Assessment taken account of the risk of harm relevant to online teaching and learning remotely?	Yes
7.	Has the DLP attended available child protection training?	Yes
8.	Has the Deputy DLP attended available child protection training?	Yes
9.	Have any members of the Board attended child protection training?	yes
10.	Has the school appointed a DLP and a Deputy DLP?	yes
11.	Are the relevant contact details (Tusla and An Garda Síochána) to hand?	yes
12.	Has the Board arrangements in place to communicate the school's Child Safeguarding Statement to new school personnel?	Yes
13.	Is the Board satisfied that all school personnel have been made aware of their responsibilities under the <i>Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools (revised 2023)</i> and the Children First Act 2015?	Yes
14.	Has the Board received a Principal's Child Protection Oversight Report (CPOR) at each Board meeting held since the last review was undertaken?	Yes
15.	Since the Board's last review, did each CPOR contain all of the information required under each of the 4 headings set out in sections 9.5 to 9.8 inclusive of the procedures?	Yes
16.	Since the Board's last review, has the Board been provided with and reviewed all records relevant to the CPOR?	Yes
17.	Is the Board satisfied that the records provided are anonymised and redacted as necessary to ensure that the identities of children and any other parties, including school personnel, to whom the concern or report relates are not disclosed?	Yes

18. Since the Board's last review, have the minutes of each Board meeting appropriately recorded the records provided to the Board as part of CPOR?	Yes
19. Have the minutes of each Board meeting appropriately recorded the CPOR?	Ves
20. Is the Board satisfied that the child protection procedures in relation to the making of	
reports to Tusla/An Garda Síochána were appropriately followed in each case reviewed?	Yes
21. Is the Board satisfied that, since the last review, all appropriate actions are being or have	
been taken in respect of any member of school personnel against whom an allegation of	
abuse or neglect has been made?*	163
22. Where applicable, were unique identifiers used to record child protection matters in the	yes
Board minutes?	10
23. Is the Board satisfied that all records relating to child protection are appropriately filed	yes
and stored securely?	yes
24. Has the Board been notified by any parent in relation to that parent not receiving the	- 0
standard notification required under section 5.6 of the Child Protection Procedures for	
Primary and Post-Primary Schools (revised 2023)?	,
25. In relation to any cases identified at question 20 above, has the Board ensured that any	_
notifications required under section 5.6 of the Child Protection Procedures for Primary	Ves
and Post-Primary Schools (revised 2023) were subsequently issued by the DLP?	10-
26. Has the Board ensured that the Parents' Association (if any), has been provided with the	yes yes
school's Child Safeguarding Statement?	167
27. Has the Board ensured that the patron has been provided with the school's Child	Yes
Safeguarding Statement?	163
28. Has the Board ensured that the school's Child Safeguarding Statement is available to	yes
parents on request?	162
29. Has the Board ensured that the Stay Safe programme is implemented in full in the	Yes
school? (applies to primary schools)	
30. Has the Board ensured that the Wellbeing Programme for Junior Cycle students is	NIA
implemented in full in the school? (applies to post-primary schools)	_
31. Has the Board ensured that the SPHE curriculum is implemented in full in the school?	yes
32. Is the Board satisfied that the statutory requirements for Garda Vetting have been met in	Yes
respect of all school personnel (employees and volunteers)? *	
33. Is the Board satisfied that the Department's requirements in relation to the provision of	
a child protection related statutory declaration and associated form of undertaking have	Yes
been met in respect of persons appointed to teaching and non-teaching positions?*	
34. Is the Board satisfied that, from a child protection perspective, thorough recruitment and	31
selection procedures are applied by the school in relation to all school personnel	Yes
(employees and volunteers)?*	
35. Has the Board considered and addressed any complaints or suggestions for	
improvements regarding the school's Child Safeguarding Statement?	received
36. Has the Board sought the feedback of parents in relation to the school's compliance with	
the requirements of the child safeguarding requirements of the Child Protection	received
Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools (revised 2023)?	
37. Has the Board sought the feedback of pupils in relation to the school's child safeguarding	Yes
arrangements?	
38. Is the Board satisfied that the 'Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post	
Primary Schools Post-Primary Schools (revised 2023) are being fully and adequately	Yes
implemented by the school?	
39. Has the Board identified any aspects of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement	Increase
and/or its implementation that require further improvement?	vetting
40. Has the Board put in place an action plan containing appropriate timelines to address	
those aspects of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement and/or its implementation	Increase velting.
that have been identified as requiring further improvement?	vetting.

41. Has the Board ensured that any areas for improvement that were identified in any previous review of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement have been adequately addressed?

Yes

*In schools where the ETB is the employer, the responsibility for meeting the employer's requirements rests with the ETB concerned. In such cases, this question should be completed following consultation with the ETB.

Signed

Date <u>26-09-23</u>

Chairperson, Board of Management

Signed

Date 26-09-23

Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Note: Where a school is undertaking its first review, references in this checklist to the "last review" shall be taken to refer to the date on which the Child Safeguarding Statement was first put in place.



<u>Mandatory Template 3</u> : Notification regarding the Board of Management's review of the Child Safeguarding Statement
To: Whom, t may concern,
The Board of Management of Ow Lady of Mercy wishes to inform you that:
• The Board of Management's annual review of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement was completed at the Board meeting of 26-9-23 [date].
 This review was conducted in accordance with the "Checklist for Review of the Child Safeguarding Statement" published on the <u>gov.ie</u> website
Signed Date _ 26-9-23
Chairperson, Board of Management
TI NP / - 06-9-23

Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

