



## Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment

### Assessment of Risk at Holy Cross Mercy School

In accordance with section 11 of the Children First Act 2015 and with the requirement of Chapter 8 of the *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017*, the following is the Written Risk Assessment of Holy Cross Mercy School

#### 1. List of school activities

- Arrival and dismissal of pupils
- Bus escorts
- Breaks
- Managing Challenging Behaviour
- Administration of Medicine
- One to One teaching
- Curricular provision of SPHE
- One to One meetings with children
- RSE Stay Safe etc., - catering for pupils with specific vulnerabilities. –
  - Pupils from ethnic minorities/migrants
  - Members of the Traveller community
  - Lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender (LGBT) children
  - Pupils perceived to be LGBT
  - Pupils of minority religious faiths
  - Children in care
  - Children on CPNS
- Outdoor teaching activities – e.g., P.E. field trips, trails etc., (particularly involving outside personnel.
- Sporting activities – (outside coaches – Garda vetted etc.,)
- School outings –Supervision policy
- Intimate care policy – including pupils with S.E.N.
- Sports Day
- Fundraising events
- Ant-bullying Policy
- Training of Staff in Child Protection
- Recruitment of school personnel – following C.P.M.S.A., D.E.S, I.N.T.O procedures.
- Facilitators of Extra-curricular activities will provide evidence of Garda Vetting.
- Participation of pupils in religious ceremonies external to the school.
- A.U.P. document informing ICT Usage. - Internet safety activities.
- Application of sanctions in relation to mobile phones.
- Students participating in work placements.
- Use of digital media to record school events
- Use of school premises by outside organisations outside of school hours
- Homework Club
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- Work Placements
- Use of school premises by outside organisations outside of school hours.
- Homework Club.

**2 The school has identified the following risk of harm in respect of its activities -**

- Risk of harm not being reported properly and promptly by school personnel
- Risk of child being harmed in the school by a member of school personnel
- Risk of child being harmed in the school by another child
- Risk of child being harmed in the school by volunteer or visitor to the school
- Risk of child being harmed by a member of school personnel, a member of staff of another organisation or other person while child participating in out of school activities e.g. school trip, swimming lessons
- Risk of harm due to bullying of child
- Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children in school
- Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children while attending out of school activities
- Risk of harm due to inappropriate relationship/communications between child and another child or adult
- Risk of harm due to children inappropriately accessing/using computers, social media, phones and other devices while at school
- Risk of harm to children with SEN who have particular vulnerabilities
- Risk of harm to child while a child is receiving intimate care
- Risk of harm due to inadequate code of behaviour
- Risk of harm in one-to-one teaching, counselling, coaching situation
- Risk of harm caused by member of school personnel communicating with pupils in appropriate manner via social media, texting, digital device or other manner
- Risk of harm caused by member of school personnel accessing/circulating inappropriate material via social media, texting, digital device or other manner

**Aspects of Holy Cross Mercy Schools Child Safeguarding Statement identified as requiring improvement following annual review in May/June 2020**

1. We need to amend our AUP in light of distance learning.
2. AUP and Digital learning policy needs to be further amended to accommodate greater use of Seesaw and of Ipads by pupils and staff, particularly during distance learning.
3. An agreement document focusing on child protection needs to be created for children who are in receipt of school devices on loan for remote learning during school closure.
4. Supervision policy needs to be reviewed in light of Covid 19 restrictions
5. Early collection of pupils needs to be considered in light of non-designated adults/siblings collecting children.
6. Although we have discussed devising a procedure for children with S.E.N., vulnerable children and those absent when the stay safe programme is taught in the mainstream classes, we need to explore this further and develop a whole-school policy.

**The school has the following procedures in place to address the risks of harm identified in this assessment -**

- All school personnel are provided with a copy of the school's *Child Safeguarding Statement*
- The *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017* are made available to all school personnel
- School Personnel are required to adhere to the *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017* and all registered teaching staff are required to adhere to the *Children First Act 2015*
  - The school implements in full the Stay Safe Programme/within two year teaching cycle. Sensitive touches lessons covered annually in all classes.
- The school implements in full the SPHE curriculum
- The school has an Anti-Bullying Policy which fully adheres to the requirements of the Department's *Anti-Bullying Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools*
- The school has a yard/playground supervision policy to ensure appropriate supervision of children during, assembly, dismissal and breaks and in respect of specific areas such as toilets, changing rooms etc.
- The school has in place a policy and clear procedures in respect of school outings
- The school has a Health and safety statement.
- The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation and relevant DES circulars in relation to recruitment and Garda vetting
- The school has a codes of conduct for school personnel (teaching and non-teaching staff)
- The school complies with the agreed disciplinary procedures for teaching staff
- The school has a Special Educational Needs policy
- The school has an intimate care policy/plan in respect of students who require such care

- The school has in place a policy and procedures for the administration of medication to pupils
- The school –
  - Has provided each member of school staff with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement
  - 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
  - Maintains records of all staff and board member training (see annual checklist).
- The school has in place a code of behaviour for pupils
- The school has in place an ICT policy in respect of usage of ICT by pupils
- The school has in place a mobile phone policy in respect of usage of mobile phones by pupils
- The school has in place a Critical Incident Management Plan
- The school has in place procedures for the use of external sports coaches
- The school has in place a clear procedures for one-to-one teaching activities
- The school has in place a policy and procedures in respect of student teacher placements
- The school has in place a policy and procedures in respect of students undertaking work experience in the school

**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 22/06/2020. It shall be reviewed as part of the school's annual review of its Child Safeguarding Statement.

Signed *Mrs. Coffey* Date 18/6/2020

Chairperson, Board of Management

Signed *B. Quinn* Date 18/6/2020

Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management