Mandatory Template 1: Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment

Child Safeguarding Statement

Holy Cross Mercy School is a primary school providing primary education to pupils from Junior Infants to Sixth Class

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

- Primary Schools (revised (2023) as part of this overall Child Safeguarding Statement. The Board of Management has adopted and will implement fully and without modification the Department's Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post
- 2 The Designated Liaison Person (DLP) is Mrs Alice Davern.
- 3 The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is Ms Anne Lucey.
- 4 The Relevant Person is Mrs Alice Davern.

statement on request. In a school setting the relevant person shall be the designated liaison person.) 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

S practice in child protection and welfare: school's policies, procedures, practices and activities. In its policies, procedures, practices and activities, the school will adhere to the following principles of best 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

The school will:

- 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
- 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

- 6 The following procedures/measures are in place:
- 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 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 any member of staff who is the subject of any investigation (howsoever described) in respect of any act, omission or circumstance in respect
- and recruitment circulars published by the Department of Education and available 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 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
- 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
- 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
- In the Board of Management maintains records of all staff and Board member training
- under 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 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
- All registered teachers employed by the school are mandated persons under the Children First Act 2015
- school's 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 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

- 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 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
- statement refers. 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

This Child Safeguarding Statement was reviewed by the Board of Management on 31st January 2025. This Child Safeguarding Statement was adopted by the Board of Management on 13th February 2025

Chairperson of Board of Management

Signed: Alice Davery Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment

Written Assessment of Risk at Holy Cross Mercy School.

PostPrimary Schools (revised 2023), the following is the Written Risk Assessment of 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

- including the role of bus escorts School transport arrangements
- Breaks
- Managing challenging behaviour
- Administration of medicine
- Administration of First Aid
- Stay Safe etc Curricular provision of SPHE, RSE,
- amongst pupils Prevention and dealing with bullying
- Safeguarding matters Training of staff in Child
- extra-curricular activities supplement the PE curriculum and Use of external personnel to
- vulnerabilities/needs such as: Care of pupils with specific Pupils with additional learning
- minorities/migrants Pupils from ethnic
- community Lesbian, gay, bisexual or

Members of the Traveller

other manner.

- transgender (LGBT) children Pupils perceived to be LGBT
- Pupils of minority religious faiths
- Children in care/direct provision
- Children on CPNS
- Recruitment of school personnel:
- Teachers/SNAs
- Caretaker/Secretaries/Cleaners
- Sports coaches
- External tutors/Guest speakers

between a child and another child or adult. ınappropriate relationship/communication

- Risk of harm due to children social media, phones and other devices while inappropriately accessing/using computers
- Risk of harm to children with SEN who have particular vulnerabilities.

at school.

- Risk of harm to child while a child is receiving intimate care.
- of Behaviour. Risk of harm due to inadequate Code
- Risk of harm in one to one teaching, counselling, coaching situations.
- Risk of harm caused by member of
- Risk of harm caused by member of via social media, texting, digital device or accessing/circulating inappropriate material school personnel texting, digital device or other manner. in an inappropriate manner via social media, school personnel, communicating with pupils

- additional needs who may need further assistance with accessing the curricula. teaching is provided for pupils with covered annually in all classes. Support
- SPHE curriculum in full. The school implements the RSE and
- fully adhere to the requirements of the and a school Code of Behaviour which The school has an Anti-Bullying Policy for Primary and Post-Primary Schools (2013).Department's Anti-Bullying Procedures
- at a time may use the classroom toilets. rooms etc. In the mainstream classes, it specific areas such as toilets, changing dismissal and breaks and in respect of supervision of children during assembly, supervision policy to ensure appropriate The school has a yard/playground is procedure that no more than one pupil
- appropriate. provided at fundraising events as Parental/staff supervision of pupils is
- Staff supervision of pupils is provided at all times at school activities in off-site facilities.
- respect of school outings. The school has clear procedures in
- A bus escort(s) is provided on all school classes. transport for pupils attending our special
- concern. A visit from an advisor is to NCSE on handling behaviours of We have requested support from the

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																			Homework Club/Afterschool Club	placements.	Students participating in work/training	events	Use of digital media to record school	in school.	Communication Technology by pupils	Use of Information and	ceremonies external to the school.	Participation of pupils in religious	during after school activities	school during school hours and	 Visitors/contractors present in 	activities	 Volunteers/Parents in school
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			•		•			•			•		•						•					•						•		•	
parental consent is sought for inclusion	Education Policy, school procedures and	catered for according to our Religious	Pupils of minority religious faiths are	Needs policy.	The school has a Special Education	personnel.	disciplinary procedures for school	The school complies with the DE agreed	Code of Conduct for Teachers (2016).	with the Teaching Council Professional	The teaching staff in the school comply	guides these principles.	Our Dignity at Work Policy informs and	openness and equality.	atmosphere of respect, collaboration,	environment, where work is done in an	striving to enhance a positive work	to creating, maintaining and constantly	Holy Cross Mercy School is committed	all forms of harassment and bullying.	staff work in an environment free from	for a supportive workplace where all	Harassment Policy to provide guidance	The school has an Adult Bullying/Sexual	coaches.	of Garda vetting is sought from outside	recruitment and Garda vetting. Evidence	relevant DES circulars in relation to	of the Garda vetting legislation and	The school adheres to the requirements	Statement.	The school has a Health & Safety	take place in March 2025.

Activity redunctioning and Coo and May	made aware of the school's Garda	Afterschool/Homework Clubs has been	 The manager of the 	permission are outlined in the AUP	during school hours without	 Sanctions for use of mobile phones 	also used to support this.	example, Internet Safety Week, are	 Internet safety activities, for 	inform the safe engagement with ICT.	• The school's A.U.P. and Digital Policies	as appropriate.	provided by school personnel or parents	instruction external to the school is	religious ceremonies/religious	 Supervision of pupils engaging with 	time whenever possible.	outside of school hours/during holiday	 Contractors are requested to work 	classrooms.	 Visitors to the school are accompanied to 	using the 'Visitor Book'.	 A record of visitors to the school is kept 	by the DE, CPSMA and the Patron.	to policies and procedures recommended	 Recruitment of school personnel adheres 	medication to pupils.	in place for the administration of	 The school has a policy and procedures 	care.	in respect of students who require such	 The school has an Intimate Care Policy 	in religious activities.

													•							•	The school:		
respect of usage of mobile phones and other devices by pupils.	pupils.	member training (see annual checklist)	members to avail of relevant training. Maintains records of all staff and Board	Encourages Board of Management	Park Hours'/72 Hours for Child	Encourages staff to avail of relevant training and allocates time from 'Croke	administration of First Aid to pupils.	procedures are followed for the	Provided four hours of First Aid training	Attendance Policy.	years in our recently updated School	during school hours by non-designated adults and siblings under the age of 18		documents.	familiarise themselves with these	New school personnel are directed to	classroom and SET room in the school.	Assessment is displayed in every	Safeguarding Statement and Risk	Ensures that a copy of the school's Child	chool:	members).	been shared with the relevant staff

Subct vision 1 toccuries	Practice training.	 All staff engaged in Trauma Informed 	Trauma Informed Practice	since March 2023.	have also been revised and implemented	 Intimate Care record keeping procedures 	need arises.	regular basis and will be updated as the	2023. This continues to be reviewed on a	ratified by the Board of Management in	with the relevant partners and was	reviewed and updated in consultation	 The school's Intimate Care Policy was 	Intimate Care Policy	placements in the school.	experience or post-primary school	respect of all students undertaking work	 Has in place a policy and procedures in 	activities.	procedures for one-to-one teaching	 Has in place a policy and clear 	for the use of external sports coaches.	 Has in place procedures for the school 	in place.	 Has a Critical Incident Management Plan 	exposure at an early age.	children by limiting social media	will also support the wellbeing of	respectful use of same. This initiative	smartphones for children and the	promote delaying the purchase of	the 'Smart School Pledge Project' to	 Has joined with other local schools in

In light of the Children First Act 2015, Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children 2017, the Addendum to Children First (2019), the Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools (revised 2023) and Tusla Guidance on the preparation of Child Safeguarding Statements, the following policies were updated: 1. We are currently undertaking our annual review of our Anti-Bullying Policy and	4. The number of classes playing together in outside areas has been reduced. This has lessened the amount of conflict between pupils and the number of accidents and has created a safer, happier environment.	3. There is supervision for the children from their time of arrival at 8.30 a.m. daily (fifteen minutes before official school starting time).	2. Members of the school staff maintain a visible presence at the school gates and designated locations throughout the school and school grounds during collection and drop -off times.	1. We have maintained many of the supervision procedures that were part of our Covid Safety Plan. This enhanced supervision has continued to provide the children with a greater sense of wellbeing and security.

• The Students' Council met with F.A. (AP2) to discuss and answer a questionnaire about their personal safety in the school. Some of their practical suggestions will be implemented in Terms 2 & 3.	 Staff Feedback re: CSS and Risk Assessment Staff feedback was requested from staff on 31/1/2025. 	 Child Protection Training All staff engaged with annual Child Protection training on 19/11/2024 TUSLA e-Learning Module. The Principal engaged with CPSMA CSS e-Learning Modules in January 2025. 	annually. We will be implementing the new <i>Bi Cinedita Policy</i> in September 2025. 2. The Critical Incident Policy was updated in Term 3 of 2023 and is reviewed regularly. 3. Our Behaviour Policy was reviewed in May 2024 and further amendments or inclusions will continue to be made as the need arises.

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 (revised 2023)* nd no

place the procedures listed in this risk assessment to manage and reduce risk to the greatest possible extent. 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 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

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 Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools (revised 2023)?	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
 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	Yes

necessary to ensure that the identities of children and any other parties, including	ıg
school personnel, to whom the concern or report relates are not disclosed?	
18. Since the Board's last review, have the minutes of each Board meeting appropriatel	ly Yes
recorded the records provided to the Board as part of CPOR?	
19. Have the minutes of each Board meeting appropriately recorded the CPOR?	Yes
20. Is the Board satisfied that the child protection procedures in relation to the making of	of Yes
reports to Tusla/An Garda Síochána were appropriately followed in each cas reviewed?	e
21. Is the Board satisfied that, since the last review, all appropriate actions are being of	or N/A in
have been taken in respect of any member of school personnel against whom a	n this case
allegation of abuse or neglect has been made?*	
22. Where applicable, were unique identifiers used to record child protection matters in th Board minutes?	e Yes
23. Is the Board satisfied that all records relating to child protection are appropriately filed	1 37
and stored securely?	d Yes
24. Has the Board been notified by any parent in relation to that parent not receiving the	o No
standard notification required under section 5.6 of the <i>Child Protection Procedures for</i>	e No
Primary and Post-Primary Schools (revised 2023)?	r
25. In relation to any cases identified at question 20 above, has the Board ensured that any	y Yes
notifications required under section 5.6 of the <i>Child Protection Procedures for</i>	/ I es
Primary and Post-Primary Schools (revised 2023) were subsequently issued by the	
DLP?	1
26. Has the Board ensured that the Parents' Association (if any), has been provided with	n Yes
the school's Child Safeguarding Statement?	1 105
27. Has the Board ensured that the patron has been provided with the school's Child	l Yes
Safeguarding Statement?	1 103
28. Has the Board ensured that the school's Child Safeguarding Statement is available to	Yes
parents on request?	
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	N/A
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	Yes
in respect of all school personnel (employees and volunteers)? *	
33. Is the Board satisfied that the Department's requirements in relation to the provision of	Yes
a child protection related statutory declaration and associated form of undertaking have	
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	Yes
and selection procedures are applied by the school in relation to all school personnel	
(employees and volunteers)?*	
35. Has the Board considered and addressed any complaints or suggestions for	Yes
improvements regarding the school's Child Safeguarding Statement?	
36. Has the Board sought the feedback of parents in relation to the school's compliance	Yes
with the requirements of the child safeguarding requirements of the Child Protection	
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	Yes
safeguarding arrangements?	
38. Is the Board satisfied that the 'Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post	Yes
Primary Schools Post-Primary Schools (revised 2023) are being fully and adequately	
implemented by the school?	
39. Has the Board identified any aspects of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement	Yes
and/or its implementation that require further improvement?	arising
	from Student C
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40. Has the Board put in place an action plan containing appropriate timelines to address	Yes
those aspects of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement and/or its implementation	
that have been identified as requiring further improvement?	
41. Has the Board ensured that any areas for improvement that were identified in any	Yes
previous review of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement have been adequately	
addressed?	

*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.

Date 13/2/25

Signed

Chairperson, Board of Management

Signed Alice Davern Date 13/2/25

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:_The Parents and Staff of Holy Cross Mercy School, Killarney, Co. Kerry.

The Board of Management of Holy Cross Mercy School 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 of13/02/'25 [date].
• This review was conducted in accordance with the "Checklist for Review of the Child Safeguarding Statement" published on the gov.ie website
Signed Date
Chairperson, Board of Management
Signed Alice Daveour Date 13/21/25
Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

<u>Mandatory Template 3</u>: Notification regarding the Board of Management's review of the Child Safeguarding Statement

To:_Bishop Ray Browne, Patron of Holy Cross Mercy School, Killarney, Co. Kerry.

Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management