

Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment Statement



Written Assessment of Risk of St. Joseph's N.S.

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 St. Joseph's N.S.

1. List of school activities

Examples of School Activities

- Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils
- Recreation breaks for pupils
- Classroom teaching
- One-to-one teaching
- Outdoor teaching activities
- Sporting Activities
- Travelling to and from extra-curricular events outside school grounds.
- School outings
- Use of toilet/changing/shower areas in schools
- Annual Sports Day
- Fundraising events involving pupils
- Use of off-site facilities for school activities
- School transport arrangements including use of bus escorts
- Care of children with special educational needs, including intimate care where needed
- Management of challenging behaviour amongst pupils, including appropriate use of restraint where required

- Administration of Medicine
- Administration of First Aid
- Curricular provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe
- Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst pupils
- Training of school personnel in child protection matters
- Use of external personnel to supplement curriculum
- Use of external personnel to support sports and other extra-curricular activities
- Care of pupils with specific vulnerabilities/needs such as
 - 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
- Recruitment of school personnel including -
 - Teachers/SNA's
 - Caretaker/Secretary/Cleaners
 - Sports coaches
 - External Tutors/Guest Speakers
 - Volunteers/Parents in school activities
 - Visitors/contractors present in school during school hours
 - Visitors/contractors present during after school activities
- Participation by pupils in religious ceremonies/religious instruction external to the school
- Use of Information and Communication Technology by pupils in school
- Application of sanctions under the school's Code of Behaviour including detention of pupils, confiscation of phones etc.
- Students participating in work experience in the school
- Student teachers undertaking training placement in school
- Use of video/photography/other media to record school events
- After school use of school premises by other organisations

2. The school has identified the following risk of harm in respect of its activities –

Examples of Risks of Harm

- Risk of harm not being recognised by school personnel
- 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 (e.g. toileting)
- Risk of harm in one-to-one teaching, counselling, coaching situation
- Risk of harm caused by member of school personnel accessing/circulating inappropriate material via social media, texting, digital device or other manner
- Risk of harm to a child during out of school hours events such as the School Fete, Christmas Post Concert Raffle and Party, Post Communion Party
- Risk of Harm to a child while being transported to

- sporting/educational activities by a Teacher, SNA or parent.
- Risk of Teacher holding a TUSLA report which they have written and sent to TUSLA when the DLP has not considered it necessary to report this Child Protection Issue.
- Risk of Board of Management members not returning written copies of the Principal's oversight report following a Board of Management meeting.

Additions to examples of Risks of Harm following adoption of initial risk assessment statement, as observed by staff.

- Risk of harm of child being collected by person other than their parents or childminder without informing school of their identity and giving written parental consent to the class teacher.
- Risk of harm to a child being interfered with during school breaks due to the proximity of the school boundary to the road.
- Risk of intruder entering school building through a classroom entrance due to lack of internal corridor.
- Risk of harm to a pupil leaving school yard area at breaktimes due to the presence of two stiles and entrance gates.
- Risk of harm to a pupil leaving the yard through two gates of entrance into Munchkins Montessori and to the Church Grounds.
- Risk of harm to a pupil contracting Covid-19 and/or other illnesses and infections at school.

3. The school has the following procedures in place to address the risks of harm identified in this assessment –

Examples of Procedures to address risks of harm

- 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
- The school implements in full the SPHE curriculum, and accounts for same in their Cúntas Míósúils.
- 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 policy
- 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 code 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
 - The School engages with TUSLA when child protection issues arise
- The school has in place a policy and procedures for the administration of First Aid
- 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 Critical Incident Management Plan

Additions to examples of procedures to address Risks of Harm following adoption of initial risk assessment statement, as observed by staff.

- The school management has had a white barrier line painted in the school yard, one metre back from the school boundary wall, over which the children may not cross during breaktimes.
- The school has informed Parents that they must give written parental consent to a teacher if someone other than the designated childminder is collecting their child from the school.
- The school has endeavoured to closely monitor school stiles and gates during breaktimes in the event of a gate being unwittingly left open by a parent/guardian, pupil or school visitor.
- The school has installed springs onto the gates leading into Munchkin's Montessori and into the Church Grounds.
- The school has drawn up a Covid-19 Response Plan with measures to reduce and mitigate the risk of children contracting or transmitting Covid-19.

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

5th/12th/2022.

It shall be reviewed as part of the school's annual review of its Child Safeguarding Statement.

Signed  Date 13/2/2023

Chairperson, Board of Management

Signed  Date 13/2/2023.

Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

