

**(Mandatory Template 1) : Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment**

**Child Safeguarding Statement**

**School of the Holy Spirit**

**School Year 2024-2025**

**School of the Holy Spirit** is a special school providing primary & post-primary education to pupils from Junior Infants Leaving Certificate Year

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 to Children First (2019), the Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post [HYPERLINK "https://www.gov.ie/en/collection/12bee3-child-protection-procedures-in-schools/"](https://www.gov.ie/en/collection/12bee3-child-protection-procedures-in-schools/)-  
[HYPERLINK "https://www.gov.ie/en/collection/12bee3-child-protection-procedures-in-schools/"](https://www.gov.ie/en/collection/12bee3-child-protection-procedures-in-schools/)Primary Schools (revised 20 [HYPERLINK "https://www.gov.ie/en/collection/12bee3-child-protection-procedures-in-schools/"](https://www.gov.ie/en/collection/12bee3-child-protection-procedures-in-schools/)23)  
and Tusla [HYPERLINK "https://www.tusla.ie/uploads/content/4214-TUSLA\\_Guidance\\_on\\_Developing\\_a\\_CSS\\_LR.PDF"](https://www.tusla.ie/uploads/content/4214-TUSLA_Guidance_on_Developing_a_CSS_LR.PDF) Guidance on the preparation of Child Safeguarding Statements, the Board of Management of School of the Holy Spirit has agreed the Child Safeguarding Statement set out in this document.

- 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

**The Designated Liaison Person (DLP) is**

***Ann-Marie Butler***

**The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is** ***Angela Lennon***

**The Relevant Person is**

***Ann-Marie Butler***

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

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

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 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:

- 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 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 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 and recruitment

circulars published by the Department of Education and available on the gov.ie website.

- 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
- The Board of Management maintains records of all staff and Board member training
- 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 Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools (revised 2023), including in the case of registered teachers, those in relation to mandated reporting under the Children First Act 2015.
- All registered teachers employed by the school are mandated persons under the Children First Act 2015.
- 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 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 procedures for managing those risks is included with the Child Safeguarding Statement.

assessment setting out the areas of risk identified and the school's procedures for managing those risks is included with the Child Safeguarding Statement.

- 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 the school.

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 relevance to the school in question.

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 refers.

This Child Safeguarding Statement was adopted by the Board of Management on  
This Child Safeguarding Statement was reviewed by the Board of Management on  
3<sup>rd</sup> October 2024

Signed: [Signature]  
Chairperson of Board of Management

Signed: Ann-Morie Butler  
Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Date: 3.10.24

Date: 3 | 10 | 24

## Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment

# Written Assessment of Risk of School of the Holy Spirit School Year 2024-2025

In accordance with section 11 of the Children First Act 2015 and with the requirements of Chapter 8 of the Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools (revised 2023), the following is the Written Risk Assessment of School of the Holy Spirit.

### List of school activities

- 1:1 Teaching
- Outdoor Teaching
- School Outings
- School Trips
- Work Experience & Sampling
- Sports Day
- Intimate Care & Toileting
- Open Days
- School Transport System in Use and Bus Escorts
- Fundraising during School Day.
- Daily arrival and dismissal of students
- Recreation breaks for students
- Classroom teaching
- One-to-one learning support
- One-to-one counselling
- Online teaching and learning remotely
- Sporting activities
- Use of toilet/changing/shower, hygiene suite areas in schools
- Use of off-site facilities for school activities
- School transport arrangements including use of bus escorts
- Care of any vulnerable adult students, including intimate care where needed
- Management of challenging behaviour amongst students, including appropriate use of restraint where required
- Management of provision of food and drink
- Administration of Medicine

- Administration of First Aid
- Curricular provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe
- Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst students
- 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 Tusla's Child Protection Notification System (CPNS)

Children with medical needs

Children from vulnerable families ( poverty, bereavement)

Students with visual impairment/ non verbal students/ students with mobility issues.

- Recruitment of school personnel including -
  - Teachers/SNAs
  - 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, including social media, phones etc
- Application of sanctions under the school's Code of Behaviour including detention of students, confiscation of phones etc.
- Students participating in work experience in the school
- Students from the school participating in work experience / sampling elsewhere
- 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

- Breakfast club / Brunch club/ school meals
- Substitute teachers and SNA's
- School physical activities off site ( swimming, horse riding etc)
- HSE personnel attending school ( CAMHS, OT's etc)
- Visiting tutors, teachers
- Students using classroom nest, hydrotherapy suite.
- Team teaching / moving classes for lessons.
- School assemblies
- Student Council Meetings
- Students travelling in staff car

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

- 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 inappropriate use of online remote teaching and learning communication platform such as an uninvited person accessing the lesson link, students being left unsupervised for long periods of time in breakout rooms
- Risk of harm due to bullying of child
- Risk of harm due to racism
- 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, including medical 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 students in an inappropriate 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

**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 (revised 2023) are made available to all school personnel
- School Personnel are required to adhere to the Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools (revised 2023) and all registered teaching staff are required to adhere to the Children First Act 2015 and its Addendum (2019)
- The school implements in full the Stay Safe Programme
- The school implements in full the SPHE curriculum
- The school implements in full the Wellbeing Programme at Junior Cycle
- 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 undertakes anti-racism awareness initiatives
- 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 DE 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 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 students

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 has in place a policy and procedures for the administration of First Aid

The school has in place a code of behaviour for students

The school has an Acceptable Use Policy in place, to include provision for online teaching and learning remotely, and has communicated this policy to parents

The school has in place a policy governing the use of smart phones and tablet devices in the school by pupils as per circular 38/2018

The school has in place a Critical Incident Management Plan

The school has in place a policy and procedures for the use of external persons to supplement delivery of the curriculum

The school has in place a policy and procedures for the use of external sports coaches

The school has in place a policy and clear procedures for one-to-one teaching activities

The school has in place a policy and procedures for one-to-one counselling

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

The school has in place a policy and procedures in respect of students of the school undertaking work experience in external organisations

## School policies, Procedures and Training which underpin and support Child Safeguarding in School of the Holy Spirit

### Policies

Child Safeguarding and Risk Assessment  
Code of Behaviour  
Anti- Bullying Policies  
Supervision  
Mobile Phone and Devices  
Acceptable Usage  
Data Protection  
Social Media  
Critical Incident  
Health and Safety Policy and Statement  
Bus Escort  
Toileting and Intimate Care  
Substance Use  
Absconding  
Visitor  
SPHE and Stay Safe  
RSE  
Wellbeing  
First Aid  
Communication  
IEP

### Procedures

Compliance with annual Child Safeguarding protocols  
Arrival and Dismissal of Students  
Supervision Timetables  
Emergency Evacuation  
Emergency Response  
Compliance with Garda Vetting  
Compliance with Teaching Council Registration  
School Trip Risk Assessment and Procedures  
Induction for new staff  
Staff sign in/out

Visitor sign in/out  
Professionals Board and protocols  
Administration of Medication  
Guidelines and Procedures for Students leaving school to attend Adult Services  
Guidelines for Substitute Staff  
Guidelines for Student Placements  
Swimming Procedures  
Code of Conduct for External Agencies  
Staff Indemnity Insurance  
Procedure for use of HydroTherapy Suite  
Nest Protocol  
Parental Contact  
Annual Parental Permissions  
Challenging Behaviour Interventions and Strategies  
Use of Visuals  
Transition Year Guidelines  
Weekly Team meetings  
Anti-Bullying Week

### **Training-** Teachers

Tusla Introduction to Children First Guidelines  
Studio 111  
Emotion Coaching  
PECs  
Lámh  
First Aid  
Curriculum CPD in SPHE and RSE  
Child Safeguarding Training for Teachers (Education Centres)

### **Programmes** - Students

Friends First

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 (revised 2023)

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.