



Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment

Loreto College, Mullingar

The Risk Assessment below was carried out by the Board of Management of Loreto College, Mullingar in order to establish if there are any practices or features of school activities that have the potential to place a student at risk. It was carried out 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).

Throughout the Risk Assessment “harm” is defined as in Section 2 of the Children First Act, 2015,

- *assault, ill-treatment or neglect of the child in a manner that seriously affects or is likely to affect the child’s health, development or welfare, or*
- *sexual abuse of the child.*

The definition of harm is set out in chapter 4 of the Child Protection Procedures of Primary and Post primary schools (revised 2023)

In conjunction with this Risk Assessment, the school has made the **Child Safeguarding Statement** available to each member of staff (including all new staff). BOM members and staff are encouraged to avail of all relevant training and records are kept of this training. The school also has further procedures to address risks of harm.

Risk Assessment

General Daily Activities	Potential Risks Associated	Mitigation of Risks
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Breakfast club ● Early Arrival ● General Arrival ● Departure ● Mid-morning Break ● Lunchtime 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Risk of harm not being recognised by school personnel ➤ Risk of harm not being reported properly and promptly by school personnel ➤ Risk of student being harmed by a member of school personnel 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ The school has a corridor/grounds supervision protocol to ensure appropriate supervision of students during arrival, dismissal and break times and in respect of specific areas such as toilets, changing rooms etc.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Use of Toilet facilities ● School Transport ● Use of Technology in areas other than the classroom ● Congregation in locker areas ● Supervised after school study ● An 'empty' school at the beginning or end of the school day 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Risk of student being harmed in the school by another child ➤ Risk of harm due to bullying of student ➤ Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of student in school ➤ Risk of harm where student finds herself last/first in the school building 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ The school has a Health and Safety policy ✓ The school has in place a Code of Behaviour for students ✓ All staff are Garda Vetted ✓ All staff have been provided with the Child Safeguarding Statement and have had appropriate training. ✓ The school has an Anti-bullying policy and procedures in place, which have been explained to the whole school community.
Teaching and Learning Activities	Potential Risks Associated	Mitigation of Risks
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Classroom interactions ● One-to-one teaching ● Guidance/counselling one-to-one sessions ● Curricular Content and/or presentation in SPHE/RSE/Wellbeing ● Use of substitute teachers in the case of absenteeism ● Facilitation of all Faiths in Curricular RE ● Meetings with Learning Support Teacher on one-to-one basis ● Use of Education Technology within the classroom ● Work Experience ● Students with Special Needs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Risk of student being harmed in the classroom by another student ➤ Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of students in classroom ➤ Risk of harm not being recognised by school personnel ➤ Risk of harm not being reported properly and promptly by school personnel ➤ Risk of harm due to bullying of student in classroom ➤ Risk of student being harmed in the classroom by teacher or substitute teacher ➤ Risk of harm in one-to-one teaching ➤ Risk of harm caused by member of school personnel communicating with pupils in an inappropriate manner via social media, texting, digital device or other 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ The school implements in full the SPHE curriculum ✓ The school implements in full the Wellbeing Programme at Junior Cycle ✓ All school personnel are provided with a copy of the school's <i>Child Safeguarding Statement</i> ✓ The <i>Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017</i> are made available to all school personnel ✓ School Personnel are required to adhere to the <i>Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017</i> and all registered teaching staff are required to adhere to the <i>Children First Act 2015</i> ✓ The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation and relevant DES circulars in relation to recruitment and Garda vetting

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Risk of harm while carrying out work experience ➤ Risk of harm caused by personnel not differentiating for the needs of students with Special Needs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ All teachers adhere to the Teaching Council's Code of Professional Conduct. ✓ The school complies with the agreed disciplinary procedures for teaching staff ✓ All external persons who supplement delivery of the curriculum and PME students are Garda vetted as per Children First Act 2015 ✓ The school has in place a code of behaviour for students ✓ The school has an RSE policy to cater for the needs of all students ✓ The school has protocols in place in for work experience in an external organisation ✓ The school has in place a mobile phone policy within its Code of Behaviour in respect of usage of mobile phones by students ✓ The school has a Special Educational Needs policy
Pastoral Care	Potential Risks Associated	Mitigation of Risks
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One-to-one counselling • School outings • School trips involving overnight stay • School trips involving foreign travel • Care of students with special educational needs, including intimate care where needed, 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Risk of harm in one-to-one counselling situation ➤ Risk of harm not being recognised by school personnel ➤ Risk of harm not being reported properly and promptly by school personnel ➤ Risk of harm to students through bullying when away from home on school trips 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ The school has a Health and Safety policy ✓ The school has in place a Code of Behaviour for students ✓ All staff have been provided with the Child Safeguarding Statement and have had appropriate training. ✓ The school has an Anti-bullying policy and procedures in place which have been explained to the whole school community.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management of challenging behaviour amongst students. • 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 • Care of students with specific vulnerabilities/ needs such as:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Students from ethnic minorities/migrants - Members of the Traveller community <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender (LGBT) students - Students perceived to be LGBT - Students of minority religious faiths - Students in care - Students on CPNS ➤ Supporting students involved in misuse of Social Media ➤ Sanctioning students involved in misuse of Social Media 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Risk of mishandling of students with challenging behaviour ➤ Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of student ➤ Risk of harm to students through lack of understanding of specific needs, including sexual identity, religious and ethnic background ➤ Risk of harm to student ➤ Risk of harm caused by one student to another via inappropriate social media contact, texting, digital device or other ➤ Risk of harm to students by the use of inappropriate or over- harsh sanctions for bullying/misuse of social media 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ School Personnel are required to adhere to the <i>Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017</i> and all registered teaching staff are required to adhere to the <i>Children First Act 2015</i> ✓ The school has in place a mobile phone policy in respect of usage of mobile phones by students ✓ The school has in place an Acceptable Use policy in respect of usage of all Computers, Internet and Social Media ✓ The school has a code of conduct for school personnel (teaching and non-teaching staff) ✓ The school has appointed qualified Guidance teachers ✓ The school has recruited teachers with Special Education Needs training and qualifications ✓ The school appoints qualified SNA's where deemed necessary and funded by the DES ✓ The school has an Educational Tour policy which includes protocols for overnight stays ✓ The school has a Special Educational Needs policy ✓ The school has an active Pastoral Team with particular understanding of the needs of the students in its care, including their background ✓ The school has a set of procedures in relation to the administration of medicines
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Recruitment	Potential Risks Associated	Mitigation of Risks
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Principal • Deputy Principal(s) • Teachers • SNA's • Administration staff • Caretaking Staff • Housekeeping Staff • Cleaning Staff • Short or long-term Contractors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Risk of harm to students by personnel who are not qualified ➤ Risk of harm to students from personnel who have a history of unacceptable practices in previous employment ➤ Risk of harm to students from a member of personnel with a history of abuse ➤ Risk of harm to a student by a member of personnel unwilling to commit to the expected standards of the school 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ 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 an Employee Handbook and Induction programme for school personnel (teaching and non-teaching staff) ✓ When appointing, detailed references are sought ✓ The school has a rigorous interview process.
Sporting Activities	Potential Risks Associated	Mitigation of Risks
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Travelling to matches • Changing in school's changing room • Changing in the changing rooms of other schools • Annual Sports Day • School trips involving overnight stay 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Risk of a student being harmed by a member of school personnel, a member of staff of another organisation or other person while participating in sporting activities ➤ Risk of harm to student while student is receiving First Aid treatment ➤ Risk of harm due to inadequate code of behaviour 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ All staff and volunteers are Garda Vetted ✓ All staff have been provided with the Child Safeguarding Statement and have had appropriate training. ✓ School sports personnel are required to adhere to the <i>Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017</i> and also are required to adhere to the <i>Children First Act 2015</i>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Administration of First Aid following a sports injury • Use of external personnel to support sports and other extra-curricular activities • Sports coaches • Volunteers/Parents in sports activities • Student PE teachers • Use of social media to record and comment on sporting events 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Risk of harm in one-to-one coaching situation ➤ Risk of harm to student due to lack of experience of Student PE teachers ➤ 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 or a student circulating inappropriate material in relation to sporting activities via social media, texting, digital device or other manner 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ The school implements in full the Wellbeing Programme at Junior Cycle, incorporating PE ✓ The school has an Acceptable Use Policy in relation to the use of digital media ✓ The School has a Code of Behaviour, drafted in consultation with all stakeholders. ✓ The School has a supervision protocol for all major events. ✓ The school provides appropriate supervision for extra-curricular travel and activities. ✓ Members of staff are trained in First Aid ✓ The school has an Educational Tour policy which includes protocols for overnight stays ✓ All external persons who supplement delivery of the curriculum and PME students are Garda vetted as per Children First Act 2015 ✓ The school has in place a mobile phone policy in respect of usage of mobile phones by pupils ✓ The school has in place a Code of Behaviour for students which includes appropriate use of mobile phones
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