



Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment

WRITTEN ASSESSMENT OF RISK OF ST. MARY'S NATIONAL SCHOOL CASTLEFINN

NOVEMBER 2020

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. Mary's National School Castlefinn.

List of School Activities	Risk Level	The School has identified the following Risk of Harm	The School has the following Procedures in place to address risk identified in this assessment
Training of school personnel in Child Protection matters	High	Harm not recognised or reported properly & promptly.	Child Safeguarding Statement & DES procedures made available to all staff. DLP & DDLP to attend PDST face to face training. All Staff have viewed Tusla training module & will be encouraged to access any other online training offered by PDST. BOM records all records of staff and board training.
One to one teaching	Med	Harm by school personnel.	Open doors. Glass in window.
Care of children with special needs, including intimate care needs	High	Harm by school personnel.	Policy on SEN & Intimate Care.
Toilet areas	High	Inappropriate behaviour. Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of pupils.	Usage and Supervision Policy.
Curricular provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay safe.	Med	Non-teaching of same.	School implements SPHE, RSE & Stay Safe in full.
LGBT children/Pupils perceived to be LGBT	Low	Bullying.	Anti-Bullying Policy. Code of Behaviour.

List of School Activities	Risk Level	The School has identified the following Risk of Harm	The School has the following Procedures in place to address risk identified in this assessment
Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils	High	Harm from older pupils, unknown adults on the playground. Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of pupils.	Arrival and dismissal supervised by Teachers. Current Traffic Management System to be reviewed by school.
Managing challenging behaviour amongst pupils, including appropriate use of restraint	High	Injury to pupils and staff.	Restraint Policy (pending). Health & Safety Policy. Code Of Behaviour.
Sports coaches	Med	Harm to pupils.	Policy & Procedures in place. Teacher always present with class group. Garda Vetting of all coaches prior to commencing tuition.
Extra-curricular tutors	Med	Harm to pupils.	Policy & Procedures in place. Teacher always present with class group. Garda Vetting of all coaches prior to commencing tuition.
Recreation breaks for pupils	High	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of pupils.	Supervision Policy and Yard Rota to ensure two teachers and 2 SNAs are on yard at all times.
Classroom teaching	Low	Harm by school personnel. Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of pupils.	The Code of Professional Conduct for all teachers by the Teaching Council (Updated 2016).
Outdoor teaching activities	Med	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of pupils. Injury to pupils.	Supervision Policy.
Sporting activities	Med	Injury to pupils.	Supervision Policy.
Homework club/Breakfast club/Evening study	Med	Harm by school personnel.	Open doors. Glass in window.

List of School Activities	Risk Level	The School has identified the following Risk of Harm	The School has the following Procedures in place to address risk identified in this assessment
School outings	High	<p>Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of pupils. Harm to pupils.</p> <p>Risk of harm from another child, school personnel or member of staff of another organization or other person while the child is participating in out of school activity.</p>	<p>School Tour Policy & Supervision Policy in place.</p> <p>Adequate Teacher: Pupil ratios on all outings with a gender balance where possible i.e. male & female adults to supervise. For events such as Finn Valley Athletics Qualifiers/Final Days, parents or a parent nominee are encouraged to attend with their child/ren.</p> <p>Garda vetting of all personnel facilitating such supervision.</p>
School trips involving overnight stay (Erasmus+)	High	<p>Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of pupils. Harm to pupils.</p> <p>Risk of harm from another child, school personnel or member of staff of another organization or other person while the child is staying away from home overnight.</p>	<p>School Tour Policy & Supervision Policy in place.</p> <p>Adequate Teacher: Pupil ratios on all trips with a gender balance where possible i.e. male & female adults to supervise.</p> <p>Garda vetting of all personnel facilitating such supervision.</p> <p>No mobile phones/devices in bedrooms at night.</p>
School trips involving foreign travel (Erasmus +)	High	<p>Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of pupils. Harm to pupils.</p> <p>Risk of harm from another child, school personnel or member of staff of another organization or other person while the child is abroad.</p>	<p>School Tour Policy & Supervision Policy in place.</p> <p>Adequate Teacher: Pupil ratios on all trips with a gender balance where possible i.e. male & female adults to supervise.</p> <p>Garda vetting of all personnel facilitating such supervision.</p> <p>No mobile phones/devices in bedrooms at night.</p>

Use of toilet/changing/shower areas in schools	High	Inappropriate behaviour. Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of pupils.	Usage and Supervision Policy.
List of School Activities	Risk Level	The School has identified the following Risk of Harm	The School has the following Procedures in place to address risk identified in this assessment
Provision of residential facilities for boarders	N/A	N/A	N/A
Annual Sports Day	High	Harm by school personnel, another child, older pupils & adults on the school playground. Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of pupils.	Supervision Policy.
Fundraising events involving pupils	High	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of pupils. Harm from unknown visitors to the school.	Supervision Policy.
Use of off-site facilities for school activities	High	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of pupils. Risk of harm from another child, school personnel or member of staff of another organization or other person while the child is participating in out of school activity.	Supervision Policy. Adequate Teacher: Pupil ratios on all outings with a gender balance where possible i.e. male & female adults to supervise. Garda vetting of all personnel facilitating such supervision.
School transport arrangements including use of bus escorts	High	Inappropriate behaviour. Harm to pupils. Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of pupils.	Garda vetting of all Bus Eireann personnel. Supervision Policy. Close communication between Holmes Travel and the school.

List of School Activities	Risk Level	The School has identified the following Risk of Harm	The School has the following Procedures in place to address risk identified in this assessment
Care of any vulnerable adult students, including intimate care where needed	N/A	N/A	N/A
Administration of Medicine Administration of First Aid	Med	Harm by school personnel.	Administration of Medicine & First Aid Policy in place.
Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst pupils	High	Harm not recognized or reported properly & promptly. Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of pupils. Harm to pupils.	Anti-Bullying Policy. Anti-Bullying Week annually. Buddy Benches & Concern Box in place.
Use of external personnel to supplement curriculum	High	Harm to pupils by external personnel.	Policy & Procedures in place. Teacher always present with class group. Garda Vetting of all tutors prior to commencing tuition.

List of School Activities	Risk Level	The School has identified the following Risk of Harm	The School has the following Procedures in place to address risk identified in this assessment
<p>Care of pupils with specific vulnerabilities/needs such as</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 	High	Bullying.	Anti-Bullying Policy. SEN Policy.
<p>Recruitment of school personnel including -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 	High	Harm not recognised or properly or promptly reported. Harm by school personnel/external bodies.	<p>Child Safeguarding Statement & DES procedures made available to all staff.</p> <p>Staff have viewed Tusla training module & will access any other online training offered by PDST.</p> <p>Vetting Procedures.</p> <p>Policy on Parental Involvement / Volunteers.</p> <p>Policy on Visiting Contractors.</p>
Use of school premises by other organisation during school day	N/A	N/A	N/A

List of School Activities	Risk Level	The School has identified the following Risk of Harm	The School has the following Procedures in place to address risk identified in this assessment
Use of Information and Communication Technology by pupils in school	High	Bullying. Risk of harm due to pupils inappropriately accessing/using computers at school.	ICT policy. Anti-Bullying Policy. Code of Behaviour. Supervision Policy.
Application of sanctions under the school's Code of Behaviour including detention of pupils, confiscation of phones etc.	Med	Harm to pupils.	Code of Behaviour. Strict policy on no mobile phones in school for pupils.
Students participating in work experience in the school	Med	Harm by student.	Work Experience Policy. Child Safeguarding Statement.
Student teachers undertaking training placement in school	Med	Harm by student.	Policy and procedures in place in respect of student teacher placements.
Use of video/photography/other media to record school events	Med	Risk of harm caused by a member of school personnel/parent circulating such material via social media, texting, digital service or other manner.	ICT and acceptable usage Policy. Data Protection Policy.
After school use of school premises by other organisations	N/A	N/A	N/A
*Although Covid – 19 is a general health and safety risk rather than a risk of "harm" as defined in the Children First Act 2015, we wish to make reference to it below.			
Covid-19	High	Spread of this virus throughout our school.	Detailed Policy Statement, Covid-19 Risk Assessment and Response Plan in place.
Remote Learning	Med	Harm by school personnel Bullying	Remote Learning Action Plan Acceptable Usage Policy

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 was completed by the Board of Management on 6th March 2018. It was reviewed by the Board of Management in November 2020. Moving forward, it will be reviewed as part of the school’s annual review of its Child Safeguarding Statement.

Signed _____ Date _____

Chairperson, Board of Management

Signed _____ Date _____

Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management