



Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment

Written Assessment of Risk of Holy Family Secondary 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 Post-Primary Schools 2017*, the following is the Written Risk Assessment of Holy Family Secondary School.

1. List of school activities

- Daily arrival and dismissal of students
- Recreation breaks for students
- Classroom teaching
- One-to-one teaching
- One-to-one counselling
- Outdoor teaching activities
- Sporting Activities
- School outings
- School trips involving overnight stay
- School trips involving foreign travel
- Use of toilet/changing in schools
- Sports Day(s) and Sporting event(s)
- Fundraising event(s) involving students
- Use of off-site facilities for school activities
- School transport arrangements including use of bus escorts
- Care of students with special educational needs
- Management of challenging behaviour amongst students
- Administration of Medication
- Administration of basic First Aid
- Curricular provision in respect of SPHE, RSE.
- 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/ other extra-curricular activities
- Care of students with specific vulnerabilities/ needs such as:
 - Students from ethnic minorities/migrants
 - Members of the Traveller community
 - Lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender (LGBT+) students
 - Students perceived to be LGBT
 - Students of minority religious faiths
 - Students in care
 - Students on CPNS
- Recruitment of school personnel including -
 - Teachers/SNA's
 - Caretaker/Secretary/Cleaners/Auxiliary Staff



- Sports coaches
- External Tutors/Guest Speakers/Presenters
- Volunteers/Parents in school activities
- Visitors/contractors present in school during school hours
- Visitors/contractors present during after school activities
- Participation by students in religious ceremonies/religious instruction external to the school
- Use of Information and Communication Technology by students in school
- Application of sanctions under the school's Code of Behaviour including detention of students, confiscation of phones etc.
- Students from the school participating in work experience 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
- Use of school premises by other organisation during school day
- Evening study

2. 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 student being harmed in the school by a member of school personnel
- Risk of student being harmed in the school by another child
- Risk of student being harmed in the school by volunteer / visitor to the school
- Risk of student being harmed by a member of school personnel, a member of staff of another organisation or other person while student participating in out of school activities e.g. school trip
- Risk of harm due to bullying of student
- Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of students in school
- Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of students while attending out of school activities
- Risk of harm due to inappropriate relationship/communications between student and another student or adult
- Risk of harm due to students inappropriately accessing/using computers, social media, phones and other devices while at school
- Risk of harm to students with SEN who have particular vulnerabilities
- 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 appropriate 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

3. 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 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 SPHE curriculum
- The school implements in full the **Wellbeing Programme** for students
- 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 supervision policy to ensure appropriate supervision of students 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 **HFSS Educational Tours, Outings and Excursions Policy**
- The school has a **HFSS Health and Safety Policy and Safety Statement**
- The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation and relevant DES circulars in relation to recruitment and Garda vetting **HFSS Vetting Policy**
- The school has a codes 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 **HFSS Special Educational Needs Policy**
- The school has in place a policy and procedures for the administration of medication to students. The school has a **HFSS Administration of Medication Policy**
- 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 and has provided the appropriate opportunities to do so.
 - 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 and for the protocols for **HFSS First Aid (Basic) Responders**
- The school has in place a **HFSS Code of Behaviour** for students
- The school has in place a **HFSS AUP and ICT Policy** in respect of usage of ICT
- The school has in place a Mobile phone policy in respect of usage of mobile phones by students (**OFF and AWAY protocol**)
- The school has in place a **HFSS Critical Incident Management Policy**
- The school has in place procedures for the use of external persons to supplement delivery of the curriculum



- The school has in place procedures for the use of external sports coaches
- The school has in place clear procedures for one-to-one teaching activities
- The school has in place clear procedures for one-to-one counselling
HFSS Guidance and Counselling Policy
- The school has in place a policy and procedures in respect of student teacher placements **HFSS Staff Induction Policy**
- The school has in place procedures in respect of students of the school undertaking work experience in external organisations (TY and LCVP)

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*

2.2.2 Harm can be defined as the ill-treatment or the impairment of the health or development of a child. Whether it is significant is determined by the child’s health and development as compared to that which could reasonably be expected of a child of similar age.

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 **16th October 2018**. It shall be reviewed as part of the school’s periodic review of its Child Safeguarding Statement.



HFSS Child Safeguarding Statement

Holy Family Secondary School is a post-primary school providing post-primary education to students from First Year to Leaving Certificate Year. In accordance with the requirements of the Children First Act 2015, Students First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Students 2017, the Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools 2017 and TUSLA Guidance on the preparation of Child Safeguarding Statements, the Board of Management of Holy Family Secondary School has agreed the Child Safeguarding Statement set out in this document.

- The HFSS Board of Management has adopted and will implement fully and without modification the Department's Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools 2017 as part of this overall Child Safeguarding Statement
- The Designated Liaison Person (DLP) is the Principal: **Ms Sarah Allen**
- The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (DDL) is the Deputy Principal: **Ms Katherine Aherne**
- The HFSS 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 students 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 students;
- 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 students 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 students; 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 student 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 student 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 2017 and to the relevant agreed disciplinary procedures for school staff which are published on the DES website.
- In relation to the selection or recruitment of staff and their suitability to work with students, the school adheres to the statutory vetting requirements of the National Vetting Bureau (Students 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 DES and available on the DES 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 2017, including in the case of registered teachers, those in relation to mandated reporting under the Children First Act 2015.
- In this school the Board has appointed the abovenamed DLP as the "relevant person" (as defined in the Children First Act 2015) to be the first point of contact in respect of the child safeguarding statement.
- All registered teachers employed by the school are mandated persons under the Children First Act 2015.
- In accordance with the Children First Act 2015, the Board has carried out an assessment of any potential for harm to a student 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 attached as an appendix to these procedures.
- The various procedures referred to in this Statement can be accessed via the school's website, the DES website or will be made available on request by the school.

This statement has been published on the school's website and has been provided to all members of school personnel, the Parents' Association and the Trustee. 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 16th October 2018.

Signed _____ Date _____
Mrs. Teresa Brophy, Chairperson, Board of Management

Signed _____ Date _____
Mrs. Sarah Allen, Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management



Signed _____ Date _____

Fr. Joe McDermott, Representative of the Trustee

Checklist for Review of the Child Safeguarding Statement

The *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017* require 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 and the *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017*.

	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 2017'?	✓
2. As part of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement, has the Board formally adopted, without modification, the 'Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools 2017'?	✓
3. Does the school's Child Safeguarding Statement include a written assessment of risk as required under the Children First Act 2015?	✓
4. Has the Board reviewed and updated where necessary the written assessment of risk as part of this overall review?	✓
5. Has the DLP attended available child protection training?	✓
6. Have the Deputy DLPs attended available child protection training?	✓
7. Have any members of the Board attended child protection training?	✓
8. Are there both a DLP and a Deputy DLP currently appointed?	✓
9. Are the relevant contact details (TUSLA and An Garda Síochána) to hand?	✓
10. Has the Board arrangements in place to communicate the school's Child Safeguarding Statement to new school personnel?	✓
11. Is the Board satisfied that all school personnel have been made aware of their responsibilities under the 'Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools 2017' and the Children First Act 2015?	✓
12. Has the Board received a Principal's Child Protection Oversight Report at each Board meeting held since the last review was undertaken?	✓
13. Since the Board's last review, was the Board informed of any child protection reports made to TUSLA/An Garda Síochána by the DLP?	✓



	Yes/No
14. Since the Board's last review, was the Board informed of any cases where the DLP sought advice from TUSLA/and as a result of this advice, no report to the HSE was made?	✓
15. Since the Board's last review, was the Board informed of any cases where an allegation of abuse or neglect was made against any member of school personnel?	
16. Has the Board been provided with and reviewed all documents relevant to the Principal's Child Protection Oversight Report?	✓
17. Is the Board satisfied that the child protection procedures in relation to the making of reports to TUSLA/An Garda Síochána were appropriately followed in each case reviewed?	
18. Is the Board satisfied that, since the last review, all appropriate actions are being or have been taken in respect of any member of school personnel against whom an allegation of abuse or neglect has been made?*	
19. Were child protection matters reported to the Board appropriately recorded in the Board minutes?	✓
20. Is the Board satisfied that all records relating to child protection are appropriately filed and stored securely?	✓
21. Has the Board been notified by any parent in relation to that parent not receiving the standard notification required under section 5.6 of the 'Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools 2017'	
22. In relation to any cases identified at question 21 above, has the Board ensured that any notifications required section 5.6 of the 'Child protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools 2017' were subsequently issued by the DLP?	
23. Has the Board ensured that the Parents' Association (if any), has been provided with the school's Child safeguarding Statement?	✓
24. Has the Board ensured that the patron has been provided with the school's Child safeguarding Statement?	✓
25. Has the Board ensured that the school's Child Safeguarding Statement is available to parents on request?	✓
26. Has the Board ensured that the Wellbeing Programme for Junior Cycle students is implemented in full in the school?	✓
27. Has the Board ensured that the SPHE curriculum is implemented in full in the school?	✓
28. Is the Board satisfied that the statutory requirements for Garda Vetting have been met in respect of all school personnel (employees and volunteers)? *	✓
29. Is the Board satisfied that the Department's requirements in relation to the provision of 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?*	✓
30. Is the Board satisfied that, from a child protection perspective, thorough recruitment and selection procedures are applied by the school in relation to all school personnel (employees and volunteers)?*	✓
31. Has the Board considered and addressed any complaints or suggestions for improvements regarding the school's Child safeguarding Statement?	
32. Has the Board sought the feedback of parents in relation to the school's compliance with the requirements of the child safeguarding requirements of the 'Child protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools 2017'	
33. Has the Board sought the feedback of students in relation to the school's child safeguarding arrangements?	



	Yes/No
34. Is the Board satisfied that the 'Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools 2017' are being fully and adequately implemented by the school?	✓
35. Has the Board identified any aspects of the school's Child safeguarding Statement and/or its implementation that require further improvement?	
36. Has the Board put in place an action plan containing appropriate timelines to address those aspects of the school's Child safeguarding Statement and/or its implementation that have been identified as requiring further improvement ?	
37. Has the Board ensured that any areas for improvement that that were identified in any previous review of the school's Child safeguarding Statement have been adequately addressed?	

Signed _____ Date _____

Chairperson, Board of Management

Signed _____ Date _____

Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Signed _____ Date _____

Representative of the Trustee



Notification regarding the Board of Management's review of the HFSS Child Safeguarding Statement

The Board of Management of Holy Family Secondary 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 of 16th October 2018.
- This review was conducted in accordance with the "Checklist for Review of the Child Safeguarding Statement" published on the Department's website www.education.ie

Signed _____ Date _____

Chairperson, Board of Management

Signed _____ Date _____

Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Signed _____ Date _____

Representative of the Trustee