

Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment

Written Assessment of Risk of St Helen's Senior National 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 St Helen's Senior National School

| 1. List of School Activities | 2. The school has identified the following risk of harm in respect of its activities | 3. The school has the following procedures in place to address the risks of harm identified in this assessment |
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| <p>Training of school personnel in Child Protection matters</p> | <p>Risk of harm not being recognised by school personnel</p> <p>Risk of harm not being reported properly and promptly by school personnel</p> | <p>All school personnel are provided with a copy of the school's <i>Child Safeguarding Statement</i></p> <p>The <i>Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017</i> are made available to all school personnel</p> <p>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></p> <p>The school ensures all new staff are provided with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement</p> <p>The school encourages staff to avail of relevant training</p> <p>The school encourages board of management members to avail of relevant training</p> <p>The school maintains records of all staff and board member training</p> |

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| Care of children with special educational needs, including intimate care where needed | <p>Risk of harm to children with SEN who have particular vulnerabilities</p> <p>Risk of harm to child while a child is receiving intimate care</p> | <p>The school has a Special Educational Needs policy</p> <p>The school has an intimate care policy/plan in respect of students who require such care</p> |
| One to one teaching/activities/counselling | <p>Risk of child being harmed in the school by a member of school personnel</p> <p>Risk of harm in one-to-one teaching, counselling, coaching situation</p> | <p>The school has in place a policy and clear procedures for one-to-one teaching activities</p> <p>The school has in place a policy and procedures for one-to-one counselling</p> |
| Classroom teaching | <p>Risk of child being harmed in the school by another child</p> <p>Risk of harm due to inadequate code of behaviour</p> | <p>The school has a code of conduct for school personnel (teaching and non-teaching staff)</p> <p>The school complies with the agreed disciplinary procedures for teaching staff</p> |
| Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst pupils | Risk of harm due to bullying of child | The school has an Anti-Bullying Policy which fully adheres to the requirements of the Department's <i>Anti-Bullying Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools</i> |
| Curricular Provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe | Non-teaching of same | <p>School implements in full the SPHE curriculum</p> <p>School implements in full the Stay Safe Programme, RSE</p> |

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| Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils and playground/recreation breaks for pupils | Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children in school | 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. |
| School outings, School trips involving overnight stay, School trips involving foreign travel | Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children in school | The school has in place a policy and clear procedures in respect of school outings |
| Sporting and outdoor teaching activities/ annual sports day Use of off-site facilities school activities | Harm to pupils by volunteer; sports coach | Pupils are never left alone without school staff Supervision Policy Ensuring vetting of coaches / volunteers |
| Management of challenging behaviour amongst pupils, including appropriate use of restraint where needed Application of sanctions under the school's Code of Behaviour including detention of pupils, confiscation of phones etc | Risk of harm due to inadequate code of behaviour | The school has in place a code of behaviour for pupils |
| Students participating in work experience in the school | Harm by student | The school has in place a policy and procedures in respect of students undertaking work experience in the school |
| Use of toilet/changing/shower areas in school and outside of 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. | The school has an intimate care policy/plan in respect of students who require such care |

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| | school trip, swimming lessons | |
| Use of external personnel to support sports and other extra curricular activities | Risk of child being harmed in the school by volunteer or visitor to the school | The school has in place a policy and procedures for the use of external sports coaches |
| Fund raising events involving pupils | Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children while attending out of school activities | The school has in place a supervision policy |
| General Health and Safety Issues Administration of Medicine Administration of First Aid | Harm by Staff | <p>The school has a Health and Safety Policy.</p> <p>The school has in place a policy and procedures for the administration of medication to pupils</p> <p>The school has in place a policy and procedures for the administration of First Aid</p> <p>The school has in place a Critical Incident Management Plan</p> |
| Recruitment of school personnel including - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teachers/SNA's • SNA's • Caretaker/Secretary/cleaners • Sports coaches | Harm not recognised or properly or promptly reported | <p>The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation and relevant DES circulars in relation to recruitment and Garda vetting</p> <p>The school ensures all new staff are provided with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement</p> |

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • External Tutors/Guest Speakers to supplement curriculum • Volunteers/Parents in school activities • Visitors/contractors present in school during school hours • Visitors/contractors present during after school activities | | The school encourages staff to avail of relevant training |
| Student teachers undertaking training placement in school | Harm not recognised or properly or promptly reported | The school has in place a policy and procedures in respect of student teacher placements |
| <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 | Harm not recognised or properly or promptly reported | The school encourages staff to avail of relevant training |
| Participation by pupils in religious ceremonies/religious instruction external to the school | Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children | The school has a supervision policy to ensure appropriate supervision of children |

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| <p>Use of Information and Communication Technology (by staff or pupils)</p> <p>Use of video and photography/other media to record school events</p> | <p>Risk of harm due to children inappropriately accessing/using computers, social media, phones and other devices while at school</p> <p>Risk of child being exposed to inappropriate content</p> <p>Risk of harm caused by member of school personnel communicating with pupils in an inappropriate manner via social media, texting, digital device or other manner</p> <p>Risk of harm caused by member of school personnel accessing/circulating inappropriate material via social media, texting, digital device or other manner</p> | <p>The school has in place an ICT policy in respect of usage of ICT by pupils</p> <p>The school has in place a mobile phone policy in respect of usage of mobile phones by pupils</p> |
| <p>After school use of school premises by other organisations</p> <p>Use of school premises by other organisations during the school day</p> <p>Homework club/evening study/after school activities</p> | <p>Risk of harm due to inappropriate relationship/communications between child and another child or adult</p> | <p>The school has in place a policy and procedures for the use of external persons to supplement delivery of the curriculum</p> |

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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 staff and ratified by the school's Board of Management on . It will be reviewed as part of the school's annual review of its Child Safeguarding Statement.

Signed



(Chairperson, Board of Management)

Date 15th October 2021