

Child Safeguarding Statement

Our Lady's 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 Students First Act 2015, Students First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Students 2017, the Student Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools 2017 and Tusla Guidance on the preparation of Student Safeguarding Statements, the Board of Management of Our Lady's Secondary School has agreed the Student Safeguarding Statement set out in this document.

- 1 The Board of Management has adopted and will implement fully and without modification the Department's Student Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools 2017 as part of this overall Student Safeguarding Statement
- 2 The Designated Liaison Person (DLP) is Ms. Patricia Higgins (Principal)
- 3 The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is Mr. Paul Fogarty (Deputy Principal)
- 4 The Board of Management recognises that student 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 the child 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.

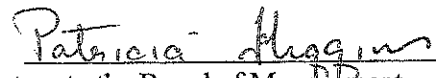
The school will also adhere to the above principles in relation to any adult student with a special vulnerability.

- 5 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 children, 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 Student Safeguarding Statement

- Ensures all new staff are provided with a copy of the school's Student 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 Student Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017, including in the case of registered teachers, those in relation to mandated reporting under the Students First Act 2015.
 - In this school the Board has appointed the above named DLP as the "relevant person" (as defined in the Students First Act 2015) to be the first point of contact in respect of the student safeguarding statement.
 - All registered teachers employed by the school are mandated persons under the Students First Act 2015.
 - In accordance with the Students 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 this statement.
- 6 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 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.
- 7 This Student 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 Student Safeguarding Statement was adopted by the Board of Management on 20th March 2018.

Signed: 
Chairperson of Board of Management

Signed: 
Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Written Assessment of Risk of Our Lady's Secondary School, Templemore.

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 Our Lady's 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/small group counselling
- Outdoor teaching activities
- Sporting Activities
- School outings
- School trips involving overnight stay
- School trips involving foreign travel
- Use of toilet/changing/shower areas in schools
- Fundraising events involving students
- Use of off-site facilities for school activities
- Use of off-site facilities to enhance teaching and learning (e.g. research)
- School transport arrangements including use of bus escorts
- Care of children with special educational needs, including intimate care where needed,
- Management of challenging behaviour amongst students, including appropriate use of restraint where required
- Administration of Medicine (in line with school policy)
- Administration of First Aid
- Curricular provision in respect of SPHE, RSE,
- Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst students
- Use of external personnel to supplement curriculum
- Use of external personnel to support sports and 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) children
 - Students perceived to be LGBT
 - Students of minority religious faiths
 - Children in care
- Recruitment of school personnel including -
 - Teachers/SNA's
 - Supervisors
 - Caretaker/Secretary/Cleaners/Canteen personnel
 - Sports coaches
 - External Tutors/Guest Speakers
 - Volunteers/parents/guardians
- Visitors/contractors present in school during school hours
- Visitors/contractors present during after school activities
- Participation by students in religious ceremonies external to the school
- Use of Information and Communication Technology by students in school
- Use of VLE (Virtual Learning Environment) e.g. schoology

- Use of Office 365 (Apps, e-mail etc)
- Use of ICT links with other schools and colleges including international schools
- 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 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
- Homework club/supervised study
- Extra classes outside of school hours
- Transportation of students by car/bus/train
- Activities arranged for primary school students (e.g. Futsal, Taster Days, Language events)
- Activities associated with the school musical and other musical/theatrical performances
- Students representing the school at public events (e.g. CEIST events, Student Leadership Conferences)
- Student assessment (Pre-examinations, SEC exams, house exams, CBAs, school exams)
- Conduct of standardised tests (CAT, DAT, DOT) and psychometric testing
- Conduct of Fire Evacuations

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 student
- Risk of student being harmed in the school by volunteer or 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, swimming lessons
- 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 to student while a student is receiving intimate care
- Risk of harm due to inadequate school policy in a particular area
- 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 *Student Safeguarding Statement*
 - The *Student Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017* are made available to all school personnel
 - School Personnel are required to adhere to the *Student Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017* and all registered teaching staff are required to adhere to the *Students First Act 2015*
 - 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 has a yard 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
 - The school has a Health and safety policy
 - 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 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 Special Educational Needs policy
 - 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 Student Safeguarding Statement
 - Ensures all new staff are provided with a copy of the school's Student 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 in place an ICT policy in respect of usage of ICT by students
 - The school has in place a mobile phone policy in respect of usage of mobile phones by students
 - 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

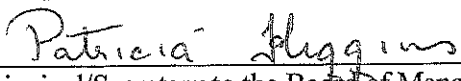
Important Note: It should be noted that risk in the context of this risk assessment is the risk of “harm” as defined in the Students First Act 2015 and not general health and safety risk. The definition of harm is set out in Chapter 4 of the *Student Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary 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 Board of Management on 20th March 2018. It shall be reviewed as part of the school’s annual review of its Student Safeguarding Statement.

Signed 
Chairperson, Board of Management

Date: 20th March 2018

Signed 
Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Date: 20th March 2018