

Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment

Revised and Approved by BOM 11th May 2021, 4th October 2022 and 13th May 2024

Child Safeguarding Statement

Henrietta Street School is a special school providing education to pupils aged 12 – 16 years.

In accordance with the requirements of the [Children First Act 2015](#), [Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children 2017](#), [the Addendum to Children First \(2019\)](#), the [Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools 2017 \(Revised 2023\)](#) and [Tusla Guidance on the preparation of Child Safeguarding Statements](#), the Board of Management of Henrietta Street School has agreed the Child Safeguarding Statement set out in this document.

- 1 The 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
- 2 The Designated Liaison Person (DLP) is **Fergus Carpenter**
- 3 The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is **Tara Doyle**
- 4 The 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 children 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 pupil 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 child 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 (Revised 2023) and to the relevant agreed disciplinary procedures for school staff which are published on the DE 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 \(Children and Vulnerable Persons\) Acts 2012 to 2016](#) and to the wider duty of care guidance set out in relevant Garda vetting and recruitment circulars published by the Department of Education and available on the DE 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 (Revised 2023), 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 above named DLP as the "relevant person" (as defined in the Children First Act 2015) to be the first point of contact in respect of the schools 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 and the Addendum to Children First (2019), the Board has carried out an assessment of any potential for harm to a child 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 included with the Child Safeguarding Statement.
- The various procedures referred to in this Statement can be accessed via the school's website, the DE website or will be made available on request by the school.

- 6 This statement has been published on the school's website and has been provided to all members of school personnel 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 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 _____ [date].

This Child Safeguarding Statement was reviewed by the Board of Management on _____ [most recent review date].

Signed: _____

Chairperson of Board of Management

Signed: _____

Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Date: _____

Date: _____

Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment

Written Assessment of Risk of Henrietta Street 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 (Revised 2023)*, the following is the Written Risk Assessment of Henrietta Street 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 -
	<p>Risk to children from school staff including volunteers</p> <p>Child Protection concerns go unnoticed or unreported</p>	<p>All staff and volunteers are Garda vetted; recognised teachers are vetted through The Teaching Council and all other staff have been vetted through the Dublin Diocese.</p> <p>All staff are child-protection trained</p> <p>The school –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Has provided each member of school staff with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement

<p>Swimming lessons</p> <p>Part time teachers working with students on a 1 to 1 basis in a separate room including Art, Gaeilge, Home Economics.</p>	<p>Increased risk due to the nature of the activity and the interaction with general public</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 • Maintains records of all staff and board member training <p>When possible, a public pool is chosen that has individual cubicles. If that is not possible, students are not allowed entrance to any changing area in which they are not visible to the supervising teacher; if we have not booked the whole pool, separate swim lanes must be provided for the school.</p> <p>Teachers leave the door open. All doors have a glass panel. Principal regularly visits the classes. Gym sessions and all rooms in which 1 to 1 work is done by part-time teachers and other visitors have cctv.</p> <p>All teachers, instructors, volunteers, students on placement and external agencies' staff working with our students in the school are Garda vetted and must provide proof of same.</p>
--	---	--

<p>School Trips including outdoor activities</p> <p>Trips involving overnight stay</p> <p>Transport to/from activities, trips</p> <p>Events where visitors are invited</p> <p>Entry and exit of students; breaks in dining room and games room; playing football; classroom learning; trips out; movement outside classrooms</p>	<p>Student on student violence</p> <p>Student on student bullying</p>	<p>All activities requiring instruction have a qualified instructor present at all times including climbing, horse riding</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Only centres that are registered with relevant regulatory bodies are used • Minimum of two school staff attend • Sleeping arrangements are planned in advance <p>School staff member present at all times</p> <p>School staff member present at all times</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Programme carefully planned to minimise potential for violence or bullying; meal times are well supervised; football in garden supervised; games room
--	---	---

	Visitors/workers on premises	<p>supervised; staff meet 3 times weekly to share information and monitor programme</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff trained in prevention and de-escalation techniques • Principal available for 'time out' from class for students • Plan developed by staff, if needed, in case of student with severe level of emotional behavioural difficulties; this to include class evacuation and possible physical restraint by outside agency that is 'in loco parentis' and who are approved for such practice • Mobile phones are handed up before school and returned upon departure • CCTV in use • The school has in place a Code of Behaviour and an Anti-Bullying Policy for students • CCTV
--	------------------------------	--

	person accessing the lesson link, students being left unsupervised for long periods of time in breakout rooms.	The school has an Acceptable Use Policy in place, to include provision for online teaching and learning remotely, and has communicated this policy to parents.
--	--	--

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(Revised 2023)*

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.