

# Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment

## Written Assessment of Risk of Mercy College Woodford

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 Mercy College Woodford.

### 1. List of school activities

Daily arrival and dismissal of students

Recreation breaks for students

Classroom teaching

One - to - one teaching

Outdoor teaching activities

Sporting activities

School outings

School trips involving an overnight stay

Use of toilet/changing/shower areas in the school

Sports Day – Fun Run

Fundraising events involving students – outside of school time

Use of off-site facilities for school activities

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

Administration of 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 and other extra curricular activities

Care of students with specific vulnerabilities/needs such as:

- Students from ethnic minorities/migrants
- Members of Traveller community
- Lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender (LGBT) students
- Students perceived to be LGBT
- Students of minority religious faiths
- Children in care

- Children on CPNS

Recruitment of school personnel including –

- Teachers/SNAs
- Caretaker/Secretary/Cleaners
- Volunteers/Parents in school activities

Visitors/contractors present in school during school hours/outside of school hours

Participation by students in religious ceremonies/religious instruction external to the school

Use of Information and Communication Technology by students in the school

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 the school

Use of video/photography/other media to record school events

After school use of school premises by other organisations

Evening study

## **2. The school has identified the following risk of harm in respect of its activities -**

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 by a 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 is participating in out of school activities eg.

School trips, activity outings

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 children 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 student inappropriately accessing/using computers, social media, phones and other devices while at school

Risk of harm to children with particular vulnerabilities

Risk of harm to SEN student while student is receiving intimate care

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 an inappropriate 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 -**

*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 *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 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 Supervision policy to ensure appropriate supervision of students during assembly dismissal and breaks.

The school has in place a policy and clear procedures in respect of school outings

The school has a Health & 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 Code of Conduct for teaching personnel – *Teaching Council Code of Professional Conduct*

The school complies with the agreed disciplinary procedures for teaching staff

The school has a Special Needs Policy which includes Procedures on Intimate Care of Students who require such care.

The school has in place a policy and procedures for the administration of medication to student including an Administration of Medicine Indemnity.

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

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 one-to-one teaching activities under it's Special Education Policy Framework.

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 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 Board of Management on 5<sup>th</sup> March 2018 It shall be reviewed as part of the school’s annual review of its Child Safeguarding Statement.

**Reviewed by Board of Management February 23rd 2021.**

Signed Cyril O'Farrell Date 23/02/21

Chairperson, Board of Management

Signed Loreto Quinn-Canning Date 23/02/21

Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management