

Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment

Written Assessment of Risk of North Presentation Primary School

In accordance with section 11 of the Children First Act 2015 and with the requirements of Chapter 8 of the *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools (revised 2023)*, the following is the Written Risk Assessment of North Presentation Primary School.

1. List of school activities

- Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils
- Recreation breaks for pupils
- Classroom teaching
- One-to-one teaching
- Outdoor teaching activities
- Whole School Events – involving parents and the wider school community
- Sporting Activities
- School outings
- Use of toilet areas in schools
- Annual Sports Day
- Fundraising events involving pupils
- Use of off-site facilities for school activities
- School transport arrangements including use of bus
- Care of children with special educational needs,
- Management of challenging behaviour amongst pupils, including appropriate use of restraint where required
- Management of Provision of Food and Drink
- Administration of Medicine
- Administration of First Aid
- Curricular provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe
- Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst pupils
- 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
- Use of the building by an external agency for After School Care (Sherpa Kids)
- Care of pupils with specific vulnerabilities/ needs such as
 - Pupils from ethnic minorities/migrants
 - Members of the Traveller community
 - Roma community
 - Lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender (LGBT) children
 - Pupils perceived to be LGBT
 - Pupils of minority religious faiths
 - Children in care
 - Children on CPNS
- Recruitment of school personnel including -
 - Teachers/SNA's
 - Caretaker/Secretary/Cleaners
 - Sports coaches
 - ExternalTutors/Guest Speakers
 - Volunteers/Parents in school activities
 - Visitors/contractors present in school during school hours
 - Visitors/contractors present during after school activities

- Use of Information and Communication Technology by pupils in school
- Application of sanctions under the school's Code of Behaviour including detention of pupils, confiscation of phones etc.
- Students participating in work experience in the school
- 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
- After school use of school for GAA training
- Use of school premises by other organisation during school day
- Breakfast club
- Homework Club

2. The school has identified the following risk of harm in respect of its activities –

- Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children in school/yard/garden
- Risk of harm due to unknown/unsuitable people collecting children
- Risk of harm due to objects/paraphernalia in yard
- Risk of harm to children with SEN who have particular vulnerabilities, including medical vulnerabilities or are accessing the Sensory Room
- Risk of child being harmed in the school by a member of school personnel
- 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. school trip, swimming lessons
- Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children while attending out of school activities
- Risk of harm due to bullying of child
- Risk of harm due to racism
- Risk of parents using incorrect toilets when in the school building
- Risk of harm not being recognised by school personnel
- Risk of harm not being reported properly and promptly by school personnel
- Risk of harm due to children inappropriately accessing/using computers, social media, phones and other devices while at school
- Risk of harm due to inappropriate relationship/communications between child and another child or adult
- 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
- Risk of harm caused by member of school personnel accessing/circulating inappropriate material via social media, texting, digital device or other manner
- Risk of harm to a child from falling from climbing equipment

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 (revised 2023)* are made available to all school personnel

- School Personnel are required to adhere to the *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools (revised 2023)* and all registered teaching staff are required to adhere to the *Children First Act 2015* and its Addendum (2019)
- The school implements in full the Stay Safe Programme
- The school implements in full the SPHE curriculum
- 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 engages in initiatives to celebrate multiculturalism and diversity in our school in an effort to combat racism
- 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.
 - Supervision rota to ensure adequate supervision
 - Visual sweep of perimeter of yard at each break time before children play
 - Collection and sign-out procedures are in place for pupils leaving school
- The school has in place clear procedures in respect of school outings
 - Routes are planned in advance
 - Appropriate pupil/teacher ratios are observed
- 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 procedures in place for acceptable Sensory Room use
 - 1:1 ratio (1 SNA to 2 pupils in exceptional circumstances)
 - Signed parental permission
 - Phone free zone
- The school has in place a policy and procedures for the administration of medication to pupils
- 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 – most recent full staff training in the academic year 2022-2023
- The school has in place a Code of Relationships and Care (formerly Code of Discipline) for pupils
- The school has an Acceptable Usage Policy in place, to include provision for online teaching and learning remotely, and has communicated this policy to parents
- The school has in place a Critical Incident Management Plan

- The school has in place a Home School Liaison policy and related procedures
- 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
- All visiting adults are directed to appropriate bathroom facilities
- The school has in place a policy and procedures for one-to-one teaching including open blinds or door where appropriate
- The school has in place a policy and procedures in respect of student teacher placements
- The school has in place procedures in respect of students undertaking work experience in the school
- Climbing equipment is on a soft surface, at critical fall height and children will be supervised at all times.

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 (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.