

Harold's Cross NS: Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment

This written Assessment of Risk of Harold's Cross NS was drawn up originally in February, 2018

It is reviewed annually by the board.

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 Harold's Cross NS.

The nature of our service -

Harold's Cross NS is a centre of education whose primary function is to provide education within the meaning of the Education Act 1998 to all children aged between the ages of four and thirteen.

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	4.Action Required Going forward
Recruitment of all school personnel –teaching staff/SNAs/ ancillary/hygiene staff	Risk of harm to children not being recognised by school personnel	Recruitment procedures as defined by the DES/CPSMA/INTO Interview Panel to ensure that questions around CSG are asked. Teaching Council's Code of Professional Conduct discussed at staff level at staff meetings Code of Behaviour amended in September 2020. Circular 49/18 to be brought to the attention of all staff. A copy of the circular is given to all staff on appointment Copy of Child Safeguarding Policy given to all members of staff. All new members of staff to complete the Tusla webinar on Child safeguarding	Update when and if new regulations are passed This will be repeated every three years or if there is a significant turnover of staff

One to one teaching of pupils	Risk of harm to a child by a member of school personnel.	Child Safeguarding Policy Code of Behaviour (staff section) Stay Safe Programme Anti- Bullying Programme Parental Complaints Policy Windows in doors to be installed where not in existence Circular 49/18	
Group teaching of pupils with SEN needs/specific vulnerabilities Pupils from ethnic minorities/migrants (LGBT) children Pupils perceived to be LGBT Pupils of minority religious faiths	Possible bullying of pupils by staff or other pupils Risk of child being harmed by school personnel Risk of harm due to racism Risk of harm due to homophobia	Child Safeguarding Policy Code of Conduct –T.C. HCNS Code of Behaviour SEN Policy Anti- Bullying Policy Inclusion - Equality Policy SPHE Programme/RSE Programme Walk Tall Programme Stay Safe Programme Friends for Life Programme Bí Folláin Programme/Buddy System Parental Complaints Policy	

		All rooms where children are taught have a clear panel	Completed in Aug. 2020
Management of challenging behaviour including appropriate use of restraint where required	Incorrect management of challenging behaviours, including incorrect use of restraint resulting in harm to the child.	Child Safeguarding Policy Code of Conduct –T.C. HCNS Code of Behaviour (staff section) Stay Safe Programme Anti- bullying Programme Parental Complaints Policy Recruitment/Garda Vetting procedures Circular 49/18 Disciplinary Procedures Friends for Life, Smart Moves	Restraint Policy drawn up in 2019- done
Use of Digital technologies	Risk of harm due to inappropriate use of online remote teaching and learning communication platforms enabling an uninvited person to access the link; students being left unsupervised in break out rooms for long periods; pupils accessing inappropriate websites; Pupils bullying other pupils	Anti- Bullying Policy Anti- Cyber Bullying Policy Digital Citizen Programme Use of correct levels of internet protection Cyber Bullying workshops for pupils from third to sixth Talks for parents organised regularly Mobile Phone Policy	Reviewed annually Reviewed and amended in June 2020. Parental Permissions reviewed and amended in June and Sept. 2020.

Assembly times Dismissal times	<p>Potential for bullying by pupils of pupils during these times.</p> <p>Danger of pupils being removed by individuals without permission</p> <p>Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision</p>	<p>Parents are charged with responsibility for their child from 8:15-8:30am.</p> <p>HSCL on yard 8.20 daily</p> <p>Assembly/dismissal policy for parents/minders</p> <p>Parental Separation Policy</p> <p>Pupils up to 4th class are handed over to parents/guardians daily.</p> <p>Parents must provide a written statement allowing their child to walk home unsupervised for 4/5/6th if they so wish</p> <p>In the case of family disputes, parents must provide legal documents from the court as to custody.</p> <p>Sticks & Stones programme</p> <p>SALT Programme</p>	Reviewed and amended in June 2020 in light of Covid
Late arrival of pupils	Risk of harm to pupils by unidentified adults while child is waiting to gain access.	<p>Assembly/dismissal policy for parents/minders Safety, Health and Welfare Policy.</p> <p>Regular HSCL follow up</p> <p>Use of cameras to the front of the school.</p>	
Special events in the school - eg. Christmas Concert, Sports Day etc.	Parents recording or photographing children not their own	<p>Parents to be informed of their responsibilities at Orientation Meeting</p> <p>Parents informed prior to and at all such events.</p> <p>Reminders in newsletters and on school website</p>	

Pupils moving through the school	Possibility of pupils being bullied by other pupils	All staff to take responsibility for all children. Safety, Health & Welfare Policy School's Code of Conduct	
Lunch breaks	Bullying of pupils by pupils-Hidden areas of the school yard during break times- a possible threat.	Daily supervision duty by assigned staff Supervision Policy Use of cameras Various programmes and policies which cover bullying and personal safety(see above)	
Use of external personnel in/outside of classroom	Risk of child being harmed by an outside coach/facilitator/visitor	Recruitment/Garda Vetting procedures Outside Personnel Policy to be part of H/S/Welfare Policy. Teachers in attendance with the class at all times	
Children attending GAA matches or any sporting activity outside of the school etc. in staff/ parent cars	Possible bullying of pupils by pupils. Possible child safeguarding issues	Supervision of pupils. Adequate number of garda vetted adults in attendance. Parents asked to attend and bring pupils to matches. Hiring of transport when feasible.	Policy needs to be drawn up
Toilet Breaks	Possible bullying of pupils by pupils. Possible child safeguarding issues	Supervision Policy Staff presence Pupils go to the toilet in two's at all times	

Use of mobile phones	Possible bullying by pupils of pupils/adults	Mobile Phone Policy Digital Citizen Programme Annual workshops on bullying/cyber bullying	
Non-disclosure of family situations by parents	Possible risk of child being abducted/harmed emotionally, psychologically or even physically	Orientation Night Separation Policy -Staff to be aware of contents. Record of court rulings to be maintained in the office. Relevant staff to be notified. Parents to be open with relevant school staff	
School Tours –	Possible bullying of pupils by pupils Child safeguarding issues –due to use of and presence of personnel unknown to the staff.	School Tours policy Supervision by teachers accompanying the children Adequate pupil teacher ratio	
Participation by pupils in religious ceremonies/religious instruction external to the school	Possibility of Bullying Risk of harm not being recognised by school staff	Adequate supervision by staff Attendance of parents when possible Teacher in attendance at all times	
Connection to Scoil Mologa	Pupils moving between the schools unsupervised- could lead to accidents/bullying	No longer used by pupils of S. Mológa	
Use of public transport for	Risk of accidents/bullying	School Tours Policy	

school events		Adequate Pupil -Adult ratio	
Toileting accidents / Personal first aid needs	Risk of child being harmed while receiving intimate care.	Specific Intimate Care Policy Use of two adults to change a child	Drawn up in 2019 and reviewed in 2020
After school clubs	Risk of child being harmed	Procedures as laid down under Garda Vetting regulations School Rental Policy Outside personnel to submit be garda vetting forms	
Parents/ Volunteers supervising	Risk of child being harmed	Teacher to be in attendance at all times. Parents who are regularly involved with children are to be garda vetted. Parents never to be left alone with child/group/class	
Use of school premises/grounds	Risk of child being harmed	School Rental Policy All those working with children must be Garda vetted.	
Builders/ workers on the school premises (not garda vetted)	Risk of child being harmed	Where possible all work done during holidays, after school. All outside personnel must wear a Visitor's Badge, must sign in and out.	

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 was originally completed by the Board of Management on February, 22nd, 2018. It is reviewed annually as part of the school’s review of its Child Safeguarding Statement.

It was most recently reviewed on May 4th, 2021

Signed: Denis Smith

Date: 04.05.21

Chairperson, Board of Management

Signed: Bernadette Kehoe

Date: 04.05.21

Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management