



Mercy Primary School
St Francis Street
Galway
H91RX32
Tel. 091-566452
info@mercyprimary.ie
www.mercyprimary.ie
Roll No.: 04515G

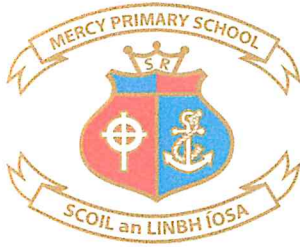
Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment:

Written Assessment of Risk of Mercy Primary

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 Primary

1. List of school activities

- Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils
- Recreation breaks for pupils
- Classroom teaching
- One-to-one teaching
- Small group teaching
- One-to-one counselling
- Outdoor teaching activities
- After school and lunch time activities
- Sporting activities
- School outings/tours
- Use of toilet areas in schools
- Toileting accidents
- 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 pupils, including appropriate use of restraint where required
- Administration of Medicine
Administration of First Aid
- Summer Camps/July Provision/DEIS camps
- Curricular provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe, Well Being
- 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
- Care of pupils with specific vulnerabilities/ needs such as:
Pupils from ethnic minorities/migrants
Members of the Traveller community
Lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender (LGBT) children
Pupils perceived to be LGBT
Pupils of minority religious faiths

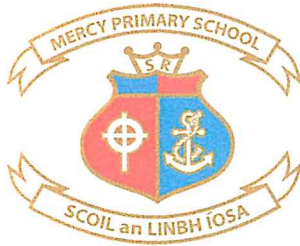


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- Children in care
- Children on CPNS
- Recruitment of school personnel including -
Teachers/SNA's
Caretaker/Secretary/Cleaners
Sports coaches
External Tutors/Guest Speakers
Volunteers/Parents in school activities
Visitors/contractors present in school during school hours
Visitors/contractors present during after school activities
Participation by pupils in religious ceremonies
- Use of Information and Communication Technology by pupils in school and remote learning
- 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
- After-school use of the school by other organisations and teaching staff
- Student teachers/SNAs undertaking training placement in school
- Use of video/photography/other media to record school events
- Display of photographs in school/church/media/social media

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 child being harmed in the school by a member of school personnel
- Risk of child being harmed in the school by another child
- Risk of child being harmed in the school by volunteer or visitor to the school
- 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 bullying of child
- Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children 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 child and another child or adult
- Risk of harm due to children inappropriately accessing/using computers, social media, phones and other devices while at school
- Risk of harm to children with SEN who have particular vulnerabilities
- Risk of harm to child while a child is receiving intimate care
- Risk of harm due to inadequate code of behaviour
- Risk of harm in one-to-one teaching, counselling, coaching situation

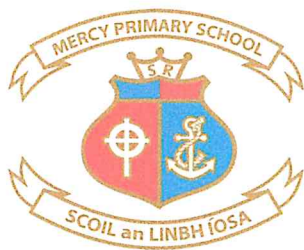


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- Risk of harm caused by member of school personnel communicating with pupils in appropriate manner via social media, texting, digital device or other manner
- Risk of harm caused by member of school personnel accessing/circulating inappropriate material via social media, texting, digital device or other manner
- Risk of harm in one-to-one teaching/coaching etc.

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 2017* are made available to all school personnel
- School Personnel are required to adhere to 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 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 has a yard/playground supervision procedure/s to ensure appropriate supervision of children during, assembly, dismissal and breaks and in respect of specific areas such as toilets
- The school has clear procedures in respect of school outings
- The school has implemented a sign-out system for the early dismissal of pupils
- 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 procedures in respect of students who require such care
- 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*



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- 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 pupils
- The school has an AUP (Acceptable Usage – ICT) in place
- The school has procedures in place in respect of usage of mobile phones by pupils
- The school has in place a Critical Incident Management Plan
- The school has in place Home School Liaison procedures
- The school has procedures in place for the use of external persons to supplement delivery of the curriculum
- The school has procedures in place for the use of external sports coaches
- The school has clear procedures in place for one-to-one teaching activities
- The school has procedures in place for one-to-one counselling/teaching
- The school has procedures in place in respect of student teacher placements
- The school has procedures in place in respect of students undertaking work experience in the school
- The school has procedures in place in respect of pupils of the school undertaking work experience in external organisations
- The school has a Covid-19 response plan which is updated in accordance with Departmental guidance.
- The school follows the National Educational Psychological Service Guidelines for Responding to Critical Incidents.
- In relation to external persons working in the school, including Student-Teachers, Work Experience Students & Coaches, the school follows the requirements laid out in Department of Education & Skills Circular 0031/2016 "Commencement of Statutory Requirements for Garda Vetting" & Circular 0016/2017 " Statutory Requirements for the Retrospective Vetting of Teaching Staff, Non-Teaching Staff and Others"

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.



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This risk assessment has been reviewed by the Board of Management on **04/04/2022**.
It shall be reviewed as part of the school's annual review of its Child Safeguarding
Statement.

Signed: *Myles Mc Hugh*

Myles Mc Hugh

Date: 28th May 2025

Chairperson, Board of Management

Signed: *Evelyn O'Toole*

Evelyn O'Toole

Date: ~~17~~¹⁵th May 2025

Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management