

Our Lady of Good Counsel Child Safeguarding Statement 2021

Draft April 27th 2021.

Our Lady of Good Counsel is a special school providing primary/post-primary education to pupils from 4 years to 18 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 and Tusla Guidance on the preparation of Child Safeguarding Statements, the Board of Management of [insert school name] 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 Aisling Power.
- 3 The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is Nollaig Moynihan.
- 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 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, 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.

Note: The above is not intended as an exhaustive list. Individual Boards of Management shall also include in this section such other procedures/measures that are of relevance to the school in question.

- 6 This statement has been published on the school’s website and has been provided to all members of school personnel, the Parents’ Association (if any) 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

Date: _____

Signed: _____

Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Date: _____

Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment

Written Assessment of Risk of Our Lady of Good Counsel 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 2017*, the following is the Written Risk Assessment of Our Lady of Good Counsel School

Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment (of any potential harm)

List of School Activities	Risk Level	The School has identified the following Risk of Harm	The School has the following Procedures in place to address risk identified in this assessment
Training of school personnel in Child Protection matters	High	Harm not recognised or reported promptly.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child Safeguarding Statement & DES procedures made available to all staff • DLP& DDLP to attend PDST face to face training • All Staff to view Túsla and PDST training module & any other online training offered by PDST • BOM records all records of staff and board training
One to one teaching	Med	Harm by school personnel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School has policy in place for one to one teaching • Open doors • Glass in window in doors uncovered. • Access to phone in every room. • Communicating to other staff.
Addressing intimate care needs	High	Harm by school personnel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy on intimate care
Toilet areas	High	Inappropriate behaviour by school personnel and by pupils.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Usage and supervision policy • Policy on intimate care
Curricular Provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay safe.	Med	Non-teaching of same	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School implements SPHE, RSE, Wellbeing and Stay Safe in full
Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils	Med	Harm from older pupils, unknown adults on campus or in local community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arrival and dismissal supervised by Teachers

Managing challenging behaviour amongst pupils, including appropriate use of restrictive practices	High	Harm to pupils and staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training in Team Teach/ Mappa • Behaviour Support and Use of Restrictive Practices Policy • Health & Safety Policy • Code of Behaviour and Positive Behaviour Management Policy • Supervision policy.
Sports Coaches	Med	Harm to pupils	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy & Procedures in place
Students participating in work experience	Med	Harm by student	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work Experience Policy • Child Safeguarding Statement.
Recreation breaks for pupils	High	Harm by Students/ staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yard Supervision Policy reviewed yearly and on a needs basis.
Classroom teaching	Low	Harm by school Personnel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supervision policy • Glass in doors. • Emergency response to crisis strategy in classrooms.
One-to-one teaching	High	Harm by School Personnel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supervision Policy • Glass in doors. • Doors open. • Code of Discipline Policy
Outdoor teaching activities	med	Harm by school Personnel and others in community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supervision Policy • School tour policy • Information about school business card. • Absconding policy.
Sport's Days, Fun Days, Christmas Plays family and extended family invited to school.	Med	Harm by family and non-staff.	Visitors policy.
Social outings- stranger Danger	High	Harm by people in the community.	Stay safe policy
Life skills and independence training.	High	Harm by school personnel	Supervision policy Health and Safety

			Code of discipline policy. SPHE and RSE policy.
Integration with local schools		Harm by students	Health and Safety policy. Supervision policy Code of discipline policy. Stay safe policy Integration policy.
Pupils using support rooms to access curriculum and social engagements	Med	Harm by Students/ staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supervision policy.
Pupils using staff Toilets	Med	Harm by non-staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supervision policy • Health and safety policy
Pupils and staff isolated from group during lunch time supervision, or when group are gone on bus trips and pupil remains behind	Med	Harm to staff/pupils	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supervision policy
School Disco	Med	Harm to students	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supervision policy • SPHE
Fundraising events involving pupils	low	Harm to students	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supervision policy • School outing policy • Health and safety policy
Use of off-site facilities for school activities Social outings with pupils	high	Harm by people in the community.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supervision policy • School outing policy • Health and safety policy • SPHE • School tour policy
School transport arrangements including use of bus escorts	low	Harm by school personnel/other pupils	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bus escort policy • Training for escorts in child protection
Tuition in Team Teach Teaching stations	med	Harm to student and staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supervision policy
Pupils delivering messages around school as part of independence training	med	Harm from other students.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supervision policy

Staff using humour to de-escalate potential challenging behaviour	low		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Behaviour management policy • Anti-bullying policy
Administration of Medicine Administration of First Aid	med	Harm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Administration of medication policy.
Use of external personnel to supplement curriculum	med	Harm to pupils from school personnel or other pupils	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supervision of pupils • Child protection training
Toileting in public.	High	Inappropriate behaviour by people in the community and by pupils.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aim to always use the disabled toilet. • If student has gone into public toilet staff will knock on the door and alert to anyone present that you are coming in.
Care of pupils with specific vulnerabilities/needs such as <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 • Children in care • Children on CPNS 	Med		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SPHE • Training and understanding of staff • RSE • Anti-bullying policy
Recruitment of school personnel including - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teachers • SNA's • Caretaker/Secretary/Cleaners • Sports coaches 	High	Harm not recognised or properly or promptly reported	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child Safeguarding Statement & DES procedures made available to all staff • Staff to view Tusla training module & any other online training offered by PDST

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • External Tutors/Guest Speakers • Volunteers/Parents in school activities • Visitors/contractors present in school during school hours • Visitors/contractors present during after school activities • Bus drivers/escorts 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vetting Procedures • Policy of Parents / Volunteers • Policy on Visiting Contractors
Use of Information and Communication Technology by pupils in school	High	Bullying	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ICT policy • Anti-Bullying Policy • Code of Behaviour
Students participating in work experience in the school	med	Harm to pupils	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supervision policy • Work experience protocols
Student teachers undertaking training placement in school	low	Harm to pupils by school personnel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work experience protocols • Child protection policy
Use of video/photography/other media to record school events	med	Harm to pupils by other pupils	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of photograph policy • Use of ipad, internet and phone policy • SPHE
After school use of school premises by other organisations	low	Harm to students by other adults	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of school policy

Important Note:

Signed _____ Date _____

Chairperson, Board of Management

Signed _____ Date _____

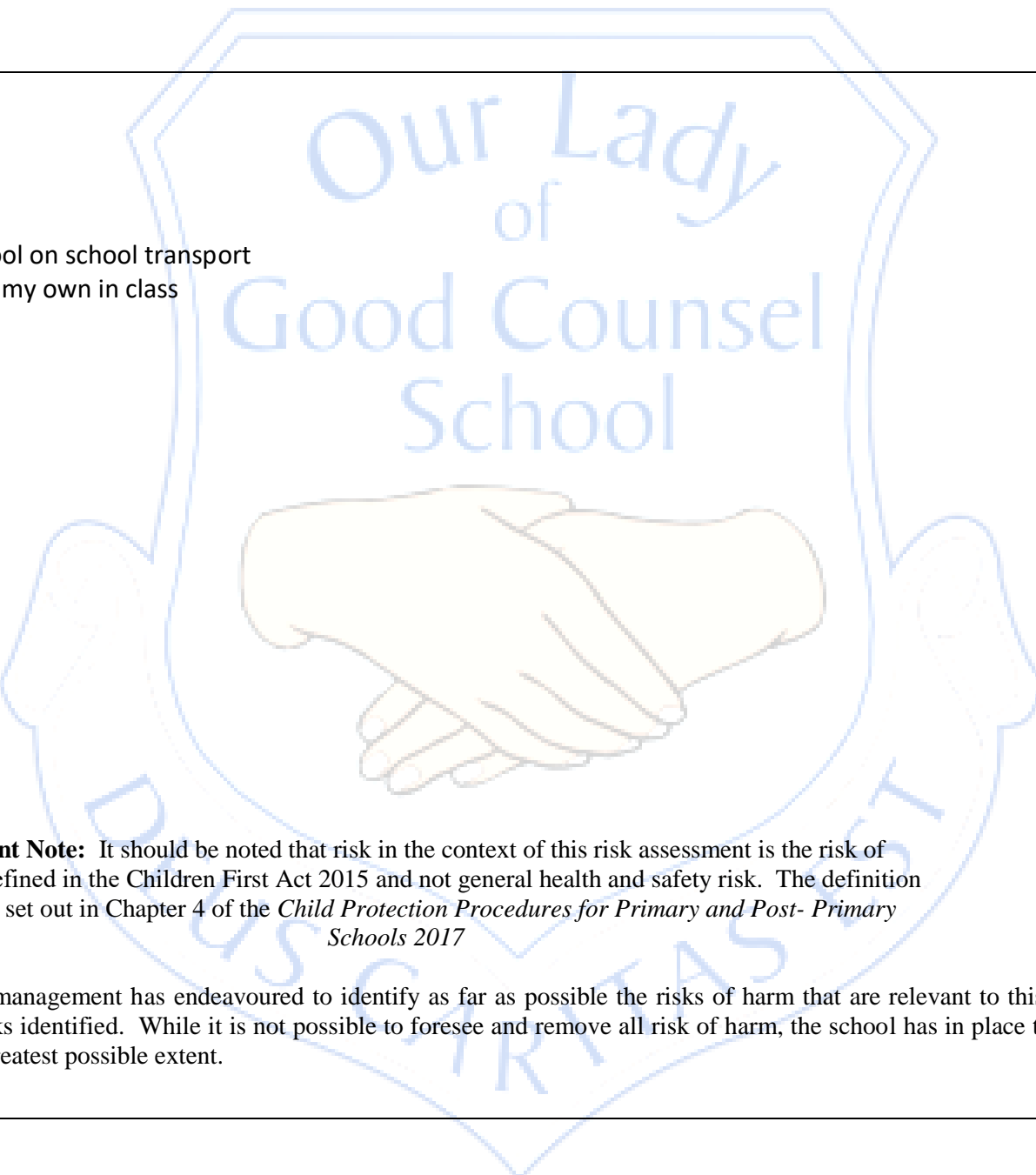
Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Access key for wheelchair toilet

Children will be signed in if not coming to school on school transport

Symbol to place on door to inform that I'm on my own in class

Signage on toilets for visitors



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.

