

## Child Safeguarding Statement

Corpus Christi Girls National School is a primary school providing primary education to pupils from Junior Infants to Sixth Class. In accordance with the requirements of the Children First Act 2015, Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children 2017, 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 Corpus Christi GNS has agreed the Child Safeguarding Statement set out in this document. 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

The Designated Liaison Person (DLP) is the principal Clare Galvin

The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is the Deputy Principal Aisling Downes

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:

- o Recognise that the protection and welfare of children is of paramount importance, regardless of all other considerations;
- o Fully comply with its statutory obligations under the Children First Act 2015 and other relevant legislation relating to the protection and welfare of children;
- o Fully co-operate with the relevant statutory authorities in relation to child protection and welfare matters
- o 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;
- o Develop a practice of openness with parents and encourage parental involvement in the education of their children; and
- o Fully respect confidentiality requirements in dealing with child protection matters.

The school will also adhere to the above principles in relation to any adult student with a special vulnerability. The following procedures/measures are in place:

o 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 DES website.

o 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 DES and available on the DES website.

o 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 is 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; and

The Board of Management maintains records of all staff and Board member training.

o 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.

o 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 child safeguarding statement.

o All registered teachers employed by the school are mandated persons under the Children First Act 2015.

o In accordance with the Children First Act 2015, 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 attached as an appendix to these procedures.

o The various procedures referred to in this Statement can be accessed via the school's website, the DES website or will be made available on request by the school.

This statement has been published on the school's website and has been provided to all members of school personnel, the Parents' Association 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.

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 11th March 2018 and will be reviewed in January 2019.

Signed: Denis McCarthy Date: 11th March 2018 Chairperson

Board of Management

Signed: Clare Galvin Date: 11th March 2018 Principal

Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment

Written Assessment of Risk of Corpus Christi Girls' National School

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 Corpus Christi GNS.

## List of school activities

Children gathering in school yard 8.10am - 8.50am

Assembly time 8.50am -9.10am

Class based learning activities 9.10am-10.45am

Playtime on school playground 10.45am-11.00am

Classroom-based learning activities 11.00am-12.35pm

Playtime on school playground 12.35pm-1.30pm

Classroom-based learning activities 1.00pm-2.30pm

Dismissal from premises 2.30pm

After school activities 2.30pm - 4.00pm

- o Occasional visits on foot off-campus to local amenities
- o Regular use of the local parish hall by all pupils
- o Occasional visits by transport off-campus for educational outings
- o Visits/training by coaches
- o Visitors to school for various purposes
- o Occasional after school concerts/carol service/sacraments

## Risk of harm in relation to activities

Children First Act 2015 Part 1.2 "Harm" means in relation to a child, (a) assault, ill-treatment or neglect of the child in a manner that seriously affects or is likely to seriously affect the child's health, development or welfare, or (b) sexual abuse of the child, whether caused by a single act, omission or circumstance or a series or combination of acts, omissions or circumstances, or otherwise" ...

"Neglect" means, in relation to a child, to deprive the child of adequate food, warmth, clothing, hygiene, supervision, safety or medical care;

Before school: Risk of harm on playground due to accident or incidents, risk of intruder onto yard, risk due to late arrival

In - school

08.50am ... Risk of in-class harm, risk from interaction with adults

10.45am ... Risk of harm at playtime, risk of intruder onto premises

11.00am ... Risk of in-class harm, risk from interaction with adults

12.35pm ... Risk of harm at playtime, risk of intruder onto premises

1.00pm ... Risk of in-class harm, risk from interaction with adults

2.30pm ... Risk of harm exiting playground due to accident or incidents, risks from intruder, risks due to pupils not collected

After school activities: Risk of harm exiting playground due to accident or incidents, risks from intruder, risks due to pupils not collected.

- o Risk of harm/accident/incident while using the hall facilities.( toilets etc.)
- o Risk of harm/accident/incident on occasional visits on foot off-campus to local amenities
- o Risks of harm/accident/incident on occasional visits by transport off-campus for educational outings
- o Risks of harm caused by incidental visitors or by visitors on placements/courses
- o Risk of harm/accident/incident while at out of school activities such as concert/scaraments/ etc
- o Risk of harm from internet use in school.

Procedures in place to address the risks of harm

Before school:

Parents warned about possible risks, premises accessible by coded entry.

In school

8.50am-9.10am: Principal or deputy principal supervises arrival and entry to school. Teachers collect their classes promptly from the yard. Procedures are in place for late arrivals.

9.10am-10.45am /11.00am-12.35pm/1.00pm - 2.30pm (Class teaching time) Staff professional code implemented. Garda vetting in place for all staff, child protection procedures in place, ICT AUP and RSE policy in place, other relevant policies in place including code of behaviour, anti bullying and administration of first aid.

10.45am-11.00a.m. and 12.35 - 1.00p.m. (Break Times): Supervision roster in place. Procedures in place for parents/guardians collecting children. Doors secured during break times. Visitors on yard notified to staff. Parents kept updated on yard policies.

After school activities: Pre planning to avert risk of harm/accident/incident. Staff CPD for child protection and adequate supervision.

Procedures in Place to address other risks;

- o Preplanning to avert risk of harm/accident/incident when using the parish hall. Staff supervision of pupils while using the hall.

- o Pre planning to avert risk of harm/accident/incident on occasional visits on foot off-campus to local amenities. Adequate supervision of pupils. Garda vetting of those assisting as required. Child protection CPD

- o Pre planning to avert risk of harm/accident/incident on educational outings using transport off-campus. Adequate supervision of pupils. Garda vetting of those assisting as required. Child protection CPD

- o Staff supervision of all incidental visitors. Garda vetting of all those on work placement or are involved in coaching.

- o Child protection safeguarding notices are displayed in the school and policy is discussed at staff meeting at least annually. CPD is provided to staff in line with resources from the DES.

- o Child protection policy is reviewed annually and Child protection is on every BOM meeting agenda.

- o School heating is adequately maintained , fruit and milk are available to pupils.

- o Procedures and policies which support safeguarding are also in place in the school. e.g. anti bullying policy, mobile phone policy,

- o Adherence to AUP policy, mobile phone policy, use of NCTE filtering for broadband.

- o Whole staff training in child protection procedures is provided within the resources provided by the Department of Education and Skills/TUSLA.

o Permission to take and use photographs of the children is sought from parents and guardians.

Important Note: It should be noted that 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 5th March 2018. It shall be reviewed as part of the school's annual review of its Child Safeguarding Statement.

Signed: Denis McCarthy Date: 11th March 2018

Chairperson, Board of Management

Signed: Clare Galvin Date: 11th March 2018

Principal