

Pobalscoil Iosolde Child Protection Risk Assessment under the Children First Act, 2015.

It is acknowledged that Palmerstown Community School already has in place a range of policies, practices and procedures to mitigate the risk of harm to children while they are participating in the activities of the school and that some school activities will carry low to minimal risks of harm compared to others. In the context of the risk assessment that must be undertaken by Palmerstown Community School, the Children First Act, 2015 refers to risk as “ any potential for harm”. It is important therefore that Palmerstown Community School, as part of its risk assessment procedure that it lists and reviews all of its activities (which must include identifying those that may carry low risk of harm as well as those that carry higher risks of harm). In doing so it will help Palmerstown Community School to identify (1) as required under the Children First Act, 2015, any risks of harm that may exist in respect of the schools activities, (2) identify and assess the adequacy of the various procedures already in place to manage those risks of harm and (3) identify and put in place any such additional procedures as are considered necessary to manage any risk identified.

It is risk in the context of this risk assessment of “harm” as defined in the Children First Act, 2015 and not health & safety risks in general. The definition of harm is set out in Chapter 4 of the Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools 2017.

Examples of School Activities (Inexhaustive List)

- Daily arrival & dismissal of students
- Recreation breaks for students
- Classroom teaching
- One-to-one teaching
- One-to-one counselling
- Outdoor teaching activities
- Sporting activities
- School outings
- School trips involving overnight stay
- School trips involving foreign travel
- Use of toilet / changing / shower areas in the school
- Annual sports day
- Fundraising events involving students
- Use of off-site facilities for school activities
- School transport arrangements including use of bus escorts
- Care of children with special educational needs, including intimate care where needed
- Care of any vulnerable adult students, including intimate care where needed
- Management of challenging behaviour amongst students, including appropriate use of restraint where required
- Administration of medicine
- Administration of first aid

- Curricular provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe
- Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst students
- 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 students with specific vulnerabilities / needs such as:
 - Pupils from ethnic minorities / migrants
 - Members of the Travelling Community
 - Lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender (LGBT) children
 - Pupils of minority religious faiths
 - Children in care
 - Children on CPNS
- Recruitment of school personnel including –
 - Teachers / SNAs
 - 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 students in religious ceremonies / religious instruction external to the school
- 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
- Use of video / photographic / other media to record school events
- After school use of the school premises by other organisations
- Use of school premises by other organisations during school hours
- Breakfast club
- Homework club / evening study

Examples of Risk of Harm

- Risk of harm not being recognised by school personnel
- Risk of harm not being reported properly and promptly by school personnel
- Risk of being harmed in the school by a member of school personnel
- Risk of being harmed in the school by another child
- Risk of being harmed in the school by a volunteer or visitor to the school
- Risk of a child being harmed by a member of school personnel, a member of staff of another organisation or other person while child is participating in out of school activities, e.g. school trip, swimming lessons
- Risk of harm due to bullying of a 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 of children with SEN who have particular vulnerabilities
- Risk of harm to a 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
- Risk of harm caused by a 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

Examples of Procedures to Address Risks of Harm

- All Palmerstown Community 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 SPHE curriculum
- The school implements in full the Wellbeing Programme at Junior Cycle
- 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 to ensure appropriate supervision of children during, assembly, dismissal and breaks and in respect of specific areas such as toilets, changing rooms etc.
- The school has in place a clear procedures in respect of school outings
- The school has a Health and Safety Statement
- The schools adheres to the requirements of An Garda Síochána vetting legislation and relevant DES circulars in relation to recruitment and Garda vetting
- The school has a code of practice for school personnel (teaching & non-teaching staff)
- The school complies with the agreed disciplinary procedures for teaching staff
- The school has a Special Education Needs policy
- The school has an intimate care policy / plan in respect of students who require such care
- The school has in place procedures for 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 procedures for the administration of First Aid
- The school has in place a code of behaviour for pupils
- The school has in place an ICT policy in respect of usage of ICT by pupils
- The school has in place procedure in respect of usage of mobile phones by pupils
- 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 use of external persons to supplement the delivery of the curriculum
- The school has in place procedures for use of external sports coaches
- The school has in place a policy and clear procedures for one-to-one teaching activities
- The school has in place a policy and clear procedures for one-to-one counselling
- The school has in place procedures in respect of student teacher placements
- The school has in place a policy procedures in respect of students undertaking work experience in the school
- The school has in place procedures in respect of pupils of the school undertaking work experience in external organisations

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 has been completed by the Board of Management on 7/9/2021 [date]. It shall be reviewed as part of the school's annual review of its Child Safeguarding Statement.

Signed Cathy Buel Date 7 SEPT. 2021

Chairperson, Board of Management

Signed Geraldine Delaney Date 7 September 2021

Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management