



The Risk Assessment below was carried out by the Board of Management of Mercy Secondary School, Inchicore to establish whether there are any practices or features of school activities that have the potential to place a student at risk. This Risk Assessment was reviewed in accordance with Túsla Guidelines, the Children First Act (2015), Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children (2017 and addenda), and the Child Protection Procedures for Schools (2025).

The review of this Risk Assessment was informed by consultation with staff during a whole-school child protection and safeguarding training day, where staff identified priority areas of potential risk. These staff-identified risks have been considered and incorporated into this document.

Throughout this Risk Assessment, “harm” is defined in accordance with Section 2 of the Children First Act (2015) as assault, ill-treatment or neglect of the child in a manner that seriously affects, or is likely to affect, the child’s health, development or welfare, or sexual abuse of the child.

In conjunction with this Risk Assessment, the school has made the Child Safeguarding Statement available to each member of staff (including all new staff). Board of Management members and staff are encouraged to avail of all relevant training, and records of such training are maintained.

In accordance with Section 11 of the Children First Act (2015) and the requirements of Chapter 8 of the Child Protection Procedures for Schools (2025), the following constitutes the Written Risk Assessment of Mercy Secondary School, Inchicore and forms part of the school’s statutory child protection and safeguarding obligations.

Risk Assessment

General Daily Activities	Potential Risks Associated	Mitigation of Risks
Breakfast club Early Arrival General Arrival Departure Mid-morning Break Lunchtime Break Use of Toilet facilities Hired School Transport when used for school activity Public Transport when used for school activity Use of Technology in areas other than the classroom Congregation in locker areas Supervised after school study An 'empty' school at the beginning or end of the school day Use of video photography or other media to record school events Use of school premises by other organisations after school. Use of school premises by other organisations during the school day. Homework club. Fundraising events involving pupils.	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of students Risk of student being harmed by another student Risk of harm due to bullying, including cyberbullying Risk of harm due to racism or discriminatory behaviour Risk of harm due to inappropriate access or use of digital devices	The school has a supervision rota in place to ensure appropriate supervision of students during arrival, dismissal and break times and in specific areas such as corridors, yard, toilets and changing rooms. The school has in place a Code of Behaviour and Anti-Bullying Policy in accordance with the Department of Education BÍ Cineálta procedures and Circular 55/2024. All staff are provided with the school's Child Safeguarding Statement and Written Risk Assessment. All staff are required to adhere to the Child Protection Procedures for Schools (2025) and the Children First Act (2015). The school has an Acceptable Use Policy and a Mobile Phone Policy governing student use of digital devices. The school has procedures in place for the administration of First Aid.

Volunteers or parents in school activities. Visitors or contractors present in school during school hours. Visitors or contractors present during after school activities. Applications of sanctions under the school's code of behaviour including detention and confiscation of phones etc.		The school has a Critical Incident Management Plan. The school undertakes anti-racism awareness and inclusion initiatives. All visitors sign in/out at reception, wear identification, and access is restricted to designated areas. External organisations are required to provide evidence of appropriate safeguarding arrangements and comply with school access controls; sensitive records are secured. For photography, Consent arrangements apply; staff use school devices where possible; data is handled in line with GDPR and school policy. Fundraising/Events: Events are supervised in line with supervision protocols and Code of Behaviour. Sanctions: Sanctions are applied in line with the Code of Behaviour and relevant policies, with safeguards for proportionality and student welfare.
Outdoor Teaching Activities	Potential Risks Associated	Mitigation of Risks

Outdoor classroom PE in the field Lessons involving outdoor spaces	Risk of student being harmed by another student Risk of harm due to bullying, including cyberbullying Risk of harm due to racism or discriminatory behaviour Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision Risk of harm not being recognised or reported Risk of inappropriate relationships or communications Risk of harm due to inappropriate use of digital devices Risk of harm to students with additional or medical needs	The school has a Health and Safety Policy. All staff are provided with the school's Child Safeguarding Statement and Written Risk Assessment. All staff are required to adhere to the Child Protection Procedures for Schools (2025), the Children First Act (2015), and Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children (2017 and addenda). The school has a Code of Behaviour and Anti-Bullying Policy in accordance with Bí Cineálta and Circular 55/2024. A supervision rota operates for outdoor activities. The school has procedures in place for the administration of First Aid. The school encourages staff to avail of relevant child protection and safeguarding training. The school has policies and procedures in respect of school outings. The school has an Intimate Care Policy/Plan for students who require such care.
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Use of Video / Photography/ Media	Potential Risks Associated	Mitigation of Risks
Photos at school events Video within and outside the school	Risk of harm due to recording or sharing images without consent Risk of breach of student privacy and GDPR Risk of inappropriate use of personal devices Risk of inappropriate online sharing of images or video	The school has an Acceptable Use Policy and Mobile Phone Policy in place governing the use of digital devices. Parents/guardians and students sign the Acceptable Use Policy annually. Separate consent is sought for the use of student images on school website and social media platforms. Staff are advised to use school devices where possible for recording school events. Any images or video recorded for school purposes are deleted from devices once uploaded to approved school platforms. Staff are reminded of their obligations under GDPR and data protection legislation.
Teaching and Learning Activities	Potential Risks Associated	Mitigation of Risks

Classroom interactions One-to-one teaching Guidance/counselling one-to-one sessions Curricular Content and/or presentation in SPHE/RSE/Wellbeing Use of substitute teachers in the case of absenteeism Facilitation of all Faiths in Curricular RE Meetings with Senior Leadership Team members on one-to-one basis Meeting with In House Leadership Team weekly Use of Education Technology within the classroom Work Experience Students with Special Needs Student teachers undertaking training placement in school Outdoor teaching activities Online teaching and learning Learning remotely Use of external personnel to supplement the curriculum External tutors / speakers Participation by students in Religious ceremonies or instruction external to the school	Risk of student being harmed in the classroom by another student Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of students in classroom Risk of harm not being recognised by school personnel Risk of harm not being reported properly and promptly by school personnel Risk of harm due to bullying of student in classroom Risk of student being harmed in the classroom by teacher or substitute teacher Risk of harm in one-to-one teaching Risk of harm caused by member of school personnel communicating with pupils in an inappropriate manner via social media, texting, digital device or other Risk of harm while carrying out work experience	The school implements in full the SPHE curriculum The school implements in full the Wellbeing Programme at Junior Cycle All school personnel are provided with a copy of the school's <i>Child Safeguarding Statement</i> The <i>Child Protection Procedures for Schools (2025)</i> are made available to all school personnel School Personnel are required to adhere to the <i>Child Protection Procedures for Schools (2025)</i> and all registered teaching staff are required to adhere to the <i>Children First Act 2015</i> 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 codes of conduct for school personnel (teaching and non-teaching staff) The school complies with the agreed disciplinary procedures for teaching staff
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Use of ICT by students including the use of social media Student participating in work experience in school. Students from the school participating in work experience elsewhere. Use of offsite facilities for school activities. School transport arrangements including bus escorts. Care of children with special education needs including intimate care needs. Management of challenging behaviour amongst pupils including appropriate use of restraint where required. Management of provision of food and drink	Risk of harm caused by personnel not differentiating for the needs of students with Special Needs Risk of harm of allergies or reactions.	The school has in place a policy and procedures for the use of external persons to supplement delivery of the curriculum The school has in place a code of behaviour for students The school has an RE policy to cater for the needs of all students The school has protocols in place for work experience in an external organisation The school has in place a policy and procedures in respect of student teacher placements The school has in place a mobile phone policy in respect of usage of mobile phones by students The school has in place an Acceptable Use policy in respect of usage of all Computers, Internet and Social Media The school has a Special Educational Needs policy
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		Students are prepared for work experience in advance regarding personal safety and reporting concerns. The school works with trusted organisations The school has in place an administration of medicine policy
Pastoral Care	Potential Risks Associated	Mitigation of Risks
One-to-one counselling School outings School trips involving overnight stay School trips involving foreign travel Care of students with special educational needs, including intimate care where needed, Management of challenging behaviour amongst students. Administration of Medicine Administration of First Aid Curricular provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe	Risk of harm in one-to-one counselling situation Risk of harm not being recognised by school personnel Risk of harm not being reported properly and promptly by school personnel Risk of harm to students through bullying when away from home on school trips Risk of mishandling of students with challenging behaviour	The school has a Health and Safety policy The school has in place a Code of Behaviour for students All staff have been provided with the Child Safeguarding Statement and have had appropriate training. The school has an Anti-bullying policy and procedures in place which have been explained to the whole school community. School Personnel are required to adhere to the <i>Child Protection Procedures for Schools (2025)</i> and all registered teaching staff are

Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst students. Training of school personnel in child protection matters Care of students with specific vulnerabilities/ needs such as:- Students from ethnic minorities/migrants Members of the Traveller community Lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender (LGBT) students Students perceived to be LGBT Students of minority religious faiths Students in care Students on CPNS Supporting students involved in misuse of Social Media Sanctioning students involved in misuse of Social Media	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of student Risk of harm to students through lack of understanding of specific needs, including sexual identity, religious and ethnic background Risk of harm to student Risk of harm caused by one student to another via inappropriate social media contact, texting, digital device or other Risk of harm to students by the use of inappropriate or over-harsh sanctions for bullying/misuse of social media	required to adhere to the <i>Children First Act 2015</i> The school has in place a mobile phone policy in respect of usage of mobile phones by students The school has in place an Acceptable Use policy in respect of usage of all Computers, Internet and Social Media The school has a code of conduct for school personnel (teaching and non-teaching staff) The school has appointed qualified Guidance teachers The school has recruited teachers with Special Education Needs training and qualifications The school appoints qualified SNA's where deemed necessary and funded by the DES The school has a Tour policy which covers protocols for overnight stays The school has a Special Educational Needs policy
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		The school has an active Pastoral Team with particular understanding of the needs of the students in its care, including their background The school has a set of procedures in relation to the administration of medicines
Recruitment	Potential Risks Associated	Mitigation of Risks
Principal Deputy Principal(s) School Leadership Team Teachers SNA's Administration staff Caretaking Staff Housekeeping Staff Cleaning Staff Short or long-term Contractors	Risk of harm to students by personnel who are not qualified Risk of harm to students from personnel who have a history of unacceptable practices in previous employment Risk of harm to students from a member of personnel with a history of abuse Risk of harm to a student by a member of personnel unwilling to commit to the expected standards of the school Risk of harm due to external personnel working with students	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 an Employee Handbook and Induction programme for school personnel (teaching and non-teaching staff) When appointing, detailed references are sought The school has a rigorous interview process. A registered teacher is present at all times when external personnel are working with

	Risk of external personnel not being aware of safeguarding procedures	students. External personnel are made aware of the school's DLP and DDLP. External personnel are required to adhere to the school's Child Safeguarding Statement. No person commences employment until Garda vetting is completed and approved. The school adheres to Department of Education recruitment procedures. All visitors and contractors sign in and sign out at reception. Visitors wear identification while on the premises. Student teachers receive induction on school policies and procedures. Student teachers are made aware of the DLP and DDLP.
Sporting Activities	Potential Risks Associated	Mitigation of Risks

Travelling to matches Changing in school's changing room Changing in the changing rooms of other schools Annual School Spirit Day School trips involving overnight stay Administration of First Aid following a sports injury Use of external personnel to support sports and other extra-curricular activities Sports coaches Volunteers/Parents/Guardians in sports activities Student PE teachers Use of social media to record and comment on sporting events	Risk of a student being harmed by a member of school personnel, a member of staff of another organisation or other person while participating in sporting activities Risk of harm to student while student is receiving First Aid treatment Risk of harm due to inadequate code of behaviour Risk of harm in one-to-one coaching situation Risk of harm to student due to lack of experience of Student PE teachers Risk of harm caused by members 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 or a student circulating inappropriate material in relation to sporting	All staff and volunteers are Garda Vetted All staff have been provided with the Child Safeguarding Statement and have had appropriate training. School sports personnel are required to adhere to the <i>Child Protection Procedures for Schools (2025)</i> and also are required to adhere to the <i>Children First Act 2015</i> The school implements in full the Wellbeing Programme at Junior Cycle, incorporating PE The school has an Acceptable Use Policy in relation to the use of digital media The School has a Code of Behaviour, drafted in consultation with all stakeholders. The School has a supervision protocol for all major events. The school has a supervision protocol for transport to and from sporting activities Coaching Staff are trained in First Aid
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	activities via social media, texting, digital device or other manner	The school has a Tour policy which covers protocols for overnight stays The school has in place a policy and procedures in respect of student teacher placements The school has in place a mobile phone policy in respect of usage of mobile phones by pupils The school has in place a Code of Behaviour for students
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