



**Our Lady of Mercy College
Beaumont, Dublin 9**

Principal: Ms. Maura Gray

Deputy Principal: Ms. Ciara Howard



Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment

For:

Our Lady of Mercy College, Beaumont

At:

Beaumont, Dublin 9

This school is a (tick appropriate): ☐ Primary ☒ Post-Primary ☐ Special School

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) and 2025, the Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025, and Child Safeguarding: A Guide for Policy, Procedure and Practice, 2nd ed. (Tusla, 2024), the Board of Management has adopted the Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment 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 Schools 2025 as part of this overall Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment.

Name of the Designated Liaison Person (DLP):

MS. MAURA GRAY (Principal)

Name of the Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP/DDLP):

MS. CIARA HOWARD

In the absence of the DLP, the Deputy DLP shall assume the responsibilities of the DLP.

Name of Relevant Person:

MS. MAURA GRAY (Principal)

Relevant Person can be contacted on:

01 837 1478

secretary@mercybeaumont.com

Under the Children First Act 2015, Relevant Person means a person who is appointed by a provider of a relevant service to be the first point of contact in respect of the Child Safeguarding Statement. This person is nominated by the Board of Management to manage and provide oversight of child protection concerns/allegations of child abuse.



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Name of Chairperson of the Board of Management, or in an ETB school the Chief Executive or their delegate:

MR. GERRY LAMBE

In the event that both the DLP and Deputy DLP are absent and unavailable, and where there is no staff member formally acting in their role, the Chairperson of the Board of Management, assumes the role of DLP.

The Board of Management recognises that child protection and safeguarding permeate all aspects of school life and must be reflected in all of the school's policies, procedures, practices and activities. In all of these, 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 happening to children and protect members of school personnel from the necessity to take unnecessary risks that may leave themselves open to accusations of child abuse;
- develop a practice of openness with parents and encourage parental involvement in the education of their children;
- fully respect confidentiality requirements as set out in the Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025 in dealing with child protection matters;
- adhere to the above principles in relation to any vulnerable adult.

Procedures and Measures in Place

Our Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment has been developed in line with requirements under the Children First Act 2015, the Children First: National Guidance 2017, and Child Safeguarding: A Guide for Policy, Procedure and Practice, 2nd ed. (Tusla, 2024), and the Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025. In



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addition to the procedures listed in our risk assessment, the following procedures support our intention to safeguard children while they are availing of our service:

► **Procedure for the Management of Allegations of Abuse or Misconduct against School Personnel Relating to a Child Availing of Our Service**

- Where any member of school personnel is the subject of any investigation in respect of any act, omission or circumstance in relation to a child attending the school, the school is required to adhere to the relevant procedures set out in Chapter 7 of the Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025 and to the relevant agreed disciplinary procedures for school staff which are published on the gov.ie website.

► **Procedure for the Safe Recruitment and Selection of School Personnel to Work With Children**

- The school is required to adhere to the requirements of the Vetting Act. The selection or recruitment of staff and their suitability to work with children requires the school to adhere 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 Youth and available on the gov.ie website, and as outlined in Chapter 10 of the Procedures.
- A written protocol is in place authorising immediate action for cases which require an employee to be immediately absented from school for child safeguarding reasons.

► **Procedure for Provision of and Access to Child Safeguarding Training and Information, Including the Identification of the Occurrence of Harm**

- The school provides information and training to members of school personnel in relation to the identification of the occurrence of harm (as defined in the 2015 Act) as follows:
- The school has provided each member of school personnel, including any new members of school personnel (employees and volunteers, Board of Management members, student teachers and those on work experience), with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment.



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- The school ensures that members of school personnel avail of relevant training and complete child protection training.
 - The school encourages Board of Management members to avail of any relevant training and complete child protection training.
 - The Board of Management ensures that records of all staff and Board member child protection training are maintained.

► **Procedure for the Reporting of Child Protection or Welfare Concerns to Tusla**

- All members of school personnel are required to adhere to the procedures set out in the Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025 in relation to reporting of child protection concerns to Tusla. Mandated reporting applies to all registered teachers and any other mandated person who may be employed by the school, for example a chaplain or nurse. A full list of those people who are mandated persons is set out in Appendix 1 of the Procedures.

► **Procedure for Maintaining a List of the Persons (if any) in the Relevant Service Who Are Mandated Persons**

- There is a procedure in place to maintain a list of mandated persons. Schools may on occasion employ additional staff who are mandated by virtue of their profession. This list will include all registered teachers and identify additional employees that are not registered teachers.

► **Procedure for Appointing a Relevant Person (In schools this person is the DLP)**

- There is a procedure in place for appointing a Relevant Person.

The various procedures referred to in this Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment can be accessed via the school's website, the gov.ie website, or will be made available on request by the school.

In accordance with the Children First Act 2015, the Addendum to Children First 2019 and 2025, and the Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025, the Board of Management 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.



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Note: The procedures and measures in place outlined above are not intended as an exhaustive list. The Board of Management has also included in this section such other procedures and measures that are of relevance to the school.

This statement has been published on the school's website and/or will be made available on request by the school. It has been provided to all members of school personnel, the Parents' Association (if any), the patron and parents. A copy of this statement and risk assessment will be made available to Tusla and the Department if requested.

Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment

Written Assessment of Risk of Our Lady of Mercy College, Beaumont

In accordance with Section 11 of the Children First Act 2015 and with the requirements of Chapter 9 of the Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025, the following is the written Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment of Our Lady of Mercy College, Beaumont.

No.	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in Place to Mitigate Risk
1	Daily arrival & dismissal of students	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children in school.	Duty supervision rota in place for teachers to ensure appropriate supervision of students on arrival and leaving school.
2	Classroom teaching	Risk of a child being harmed in the school by a member of school personnel.	Teaching Council Code of Professional Conduct; Health and Safety Policy and



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			Staff Handbook in place.
3	One-to-one teaching, Check and Connect	Risk of harm in one-to-one teaching, counselling, mentoring and coaching situations.	Garda vetting procedures & Teaching Council Code of Professional Conduct. Statement of Practice for one-to-one teaching and Check and Connect.
4	Detention and small group activities	Risk of harm in smaller group situations, including teaching, counselling, mentoring and coaching.	Garda vetting procedures & Teaching Council Code of Professional Conduct; Staff Handbook procedures.
5	One-to-one counselling, in person and online	Risk of harm in one-to-one teaching, counselling, mentoring and coaching situations.	Garda vetting procedures; Acceptable Use Policy in place; Teaching Council Code of Professional Conduct; guidance counsellor is a member of the IGC



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			and abides by the IGC Code of Ethics.
6	Recreation breaks for students	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of students in school.	Duty supervision rota in place for teachers to ensure appropriate supervision of students at break and lunch time.
7	Online teaching and learning remotely	Risk of harm due to the inappropriate use of online remote teaching and learning communication platforms.	Acceptable Use Policy in place, including provision for remote online teaching and learning.
8	School outings, trips involving overnight stay, or foreign travel	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children while attending out-of-school activities.	Policy and clear procedures in respect of school outings.
9	Use of toilet/changing/showers areas in school	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children in respect of specific areas such as toilets, changing rooms, etc.	Duty teacher and PE teacher roster to ensure appropriate supervision, including areas such as toilets and changing rooms.



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10	Care of children with special educational needs, including intimate care where needed	Risk of harm to children with special educational needs who have particular vulnerabilities; risk of harm to a child while receiving intimate care.	Special Educational Needs Policy; Intimate Care Policy/plan in respect of students who require such care.
11	Management of challenging behaviour amongst students	Risk of harm due to an inadequate response to behaviour.	Code of Positive Behaviour for students and Bí Cineálta; compliance with Understanding Behaviours of Concern and Responding to Crisis Situations guidance.
12	Administration of medicine and First Aid	Risk of harm to children who have particular vulnerabilities, including medical vulnerabilities.	Policy and procedures for the administration of medication to students; policy and procedures for the administration of First Aid; team of teachers trained in First Aid.
13	Curricular provision in respect of SPHE & RSE	Risk of harm not being recognised by school personnel.	Implements in full the SPHE and RSE curriculum and the



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			Wellbeing Programme at Junior Cycle and Senior Cycle.
14	Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst pupils	Risk of harm due to bullying of a child.	Code of Positive Behaviour and Anti-Bullying Policy in place in accordance with the Department's 'Bí Cineálta' procedures.
15	Training of school personnel in child protection matters	Risk of harm where members of school personnel have not received appropriate training.	Encourages personnel and Board members to avail of relevant training; maintains records of all personnel and Board member training.
16	Use of external personnel to supplement curriculum or support sports activities	Risk of a child being harmed in the school by a volunteer or visitor.	Policy and procedures for the use of external persons to supplement delivery of the curriculum; policy and procedures for the use of external sports coaches.



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17	Students from ethnic minorities/migrants, Traveller community, or minority religious faiths	Risk of harm due to racism.	The school undertakes anti-racism awareness as part of the SPHE curriculum and school culture/inclusion initiatives.
18	Recruitment of school personnel	Risk of a child being harmed in the school by a member of school personnel.	Adheres to the requirements of Garda vetting legislation and relevant Department of Education and Youth circulars in respect of recruitment.
19	Use of Information and Communication Technology by students in school, including social media	Risk of harm due to children inappropriately accessing/using computers, social media, phones and other devices while at school.	Acceptable Use Policy in place; policy governing use of smartphones and tablet devices; use of phone pouches by students during school hours.
20	Application of sanctions under the school's Code of Positive Behaviour	Risk of harm due to an inadequate Code of Positive Behaviour.	Code of Positive Behaviour for pupils.



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21	Students participating in work experience in the school	Risk of a child being harmed in the school by a volunteer or visitor.	Procedures in respect of pupils undertaking work experience in the school.
22	Students from the school participating in work experience elsewhere	Risk of a child being harmed while participating in out-of-school activities.	Policy and procedures in respect of pupils undertaking work experience in external organisations.
23	Student teachers undertaking training placement in school	Risk of a child being harmed in the school by a member of school personnel.	Policy and procedures in respect of student teacher placements.
24	General operations and communication via digital devices	Risk of harm caused by inappropriate communication/material via digital devices.	All school personnel provided with the Child Safeguarding Statement; Child Protection Procedures 2025 available; Code of Professional Conduct for Teachers; Acceptable Use Policy in place.
25	One-to-one learning support	Risk of harm in one-to-one teaching,	Statement of Practice in place for



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		counselling or coaching situations.	one-to-one teaching activities.
26	Outdoor teaching activities	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children.	Teacher supervision arrangements in place for outdoor areas; Health and Safety Policy in place.
27	Sporting activities & Annual Sports Day	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children; risk of a child being harmed by a volunteer or visitor.	Policy and procedures for the use of external sports coaches; Health and Safety Policy in place.
28	Fundraising events involving students	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children.	Code of Professional Conduct for teachers & Garda vetting procedures; Health and Safety Statement in place.
29	Use of off-site facilities for school activities	Risk of a child being harmed by a member of school personnel, a member of staff of another organisation, or other person while participating in	Policy and clear procedures in respect of school outings.



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		out-of-school activities.	
30	School transport arrangements, including use of bus escorts	Risk of a child being harmed while participating in out-of-school activities.	Adheres to the requirements of Garda vetting legislation.
31	Management of the provision of food and drink	Risk of harm to children with particular vulnerabilities, including medical vulnerabilities.	Serious Medical Health List in place; Garda vetting procedures for on-site staff; Health and Safety Policy in place.
32	Care of students with specific vulnerabilities/needs, children in care, and children on Tusla's Child Protection Notification System (CPNS)	Risk of harm not being recognised by school personnel; risk of harm not being reported properly and promptly.	The Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025 are made available to all school personnel; the school has an Additional Educational Needs Policy.
33	Lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender (LGBTQIA+) students and students perceived to be LGBTQIA+	Risk of harm due to bullying of a child.	Anti-Bullying Policy in place in accordance with the Department's 'Bí Cineálta' procedures to prevent and address bullying.



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34	External tutors/guest speakers & volunteers/parents in school activities	Risk of a child being harmed in the school by a volunteer or visitor.	The school follows relevant circulars and procedures for the use of external persons to supplement the delivery of the curriculum.
35	Visitors/contractors present in school during school hours & after-school activities	Risk of a child being harmed in the school by a volunteer or visitor.	Health and Safety Policy in place; adheres to the requirements of Garda vetting legislation.
36	Participation by students in religious ceremonies/religious instruction external to the school	Risk of a child being harmed while participating in out-of-school activities.	Policy and clear procedures in respect of school outings.
37	Use of video/photography/other media to record school events	Risk of harm due to children inappropriately accessing/using computers, social media, phones and other devices; risk of harm caused by a member of school personnel circulating inappropriate material.	Acceptable Use Policy in place; policy governing the use of smartphones and tablet devices.



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38	After-school and daytime use of school premises by other organisations	Risk of a child being harmed in the school by a volunteer or visitor.	Health and Safety Policy in place; licence agreements in place with non-school organisations.
39	Evening study homework club and use of school premises by clubs	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children in school.	Supervising teacher in place and Code of Professional Conduct for Teachers.

Examples of Activities, Risks and Procedures

The examples listed in this document are provided to assist schools in undertaking their risk assessment under the Children First Act 2015. This list of examples is not exhaustive, and the inclusion of an example of a policy or procedure does not make it mandatory. It is the responsibility of the school to ensure, as far as possible, that any other risks and procedures relevant to its own circumstances are identified and specified in the written risk assessment and that adequate procedures are in place to address all risks identified.

It is acknowledged that schools already have in place a range of policies, practices and procedures to mitigate the risk of harm to children while participating in school activities, and that some activities carry low or minimal risk of harm compared to others. The Children First Act 2015 refers to risk as "any potential for harm". As part of its risk assessment process, Our Lady of Mercy College has listed and reviewed all of its various activities, including those that may carry a low risk of harm as well as those that carry a higher risk, in order to:

- identify, as required under the Children First Act 2015, any risks of harm that may exist in respect of the school's activities;
- identify and assess the adequacy of the various procedures already in place to manage those risks of harm;



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- identify and put in place any additional procedures considered necessary to manage any risk identified.

Online Safety

The Addendum to Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children 2017 (January 2019) clarifies that organisations providing relevant services to children should consider the specific issue of online safety when carrying out their risk assessment and preparing their Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment.

Schools should ensure that their Acceptable Use Policy (AUP) informs and guides remote or distance learning activity, where relevant.

Risk in the context of this Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment is the risk of "harm" as defined in the Children First Act 2015 and not general health and safety risk. "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.

In undertaking this Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment, the Board of Management has endeavoured to identify as far as possible the risks of harm 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 Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment 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 and Risk Assessment was reviewed by the Board of Management on 7th Oct 2026 (most recent review date).



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Signed:* Geord Lembre

Chairperson of the Board of Management

Date: 7/10/26

Signed:* Maura Gray

Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Date: 07/10/26

This Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment is expected to be reviewed again in Sept 2027 (expected review date).

* Document to be printed and signed with original signatures.

Appendix – Location of Copies of the Child Protection Procedures and Children First Guidance

This may be in the form of specifying the online location for the procedures (Department of Education and Youth website www.gov.ie/childprotectionschools and/or the school website), providing a link to the Children First: National Guidance 2017, and stating the number and location of hard copies of these procedures available in the school.

Online access to this policy:

www.mercybeaumont.ie/child-protection

Hard copies of this policy:

Copies of the policy are available at the school's main reception, Our Lady of Mercy College, Beaumont.

Child Protection Procedures – Department of Education and Youth:

www.gov.ie/childprotectionschools

National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children:

Children_First_National_Guidance_2017.pdf (available via www.gov.ie)

<https://www.gov.ie/en/childprotectionschool/>



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CSS3 - Notification Regarding the Board of Management's Review of the Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment This template must be used by the board of management to inform the school community and relevant parties that they have fulfilled their statutory obligation to annually review the school's Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment.

To: Parents/Guardians, Staff, Students and the Patron of Our Lady of Mercy College, Beaumont

The Board of Management of Our Lady of Mercy College, Beaumont wishes to inform you that:

- The Board of Management's annual review of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment was completed at the Board meeting of 7th October 2026.
- This review was conducted in accordance with the board of management's review of the Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment published on www.gov.ie/childprotectionschools.

Signed: Gerrard Lambe

Date: 7/10/26

Gerry Lambe
Chairperson, Board of Management

Signed: Maura Gray

Date: 07/10/26

Maura Gray
Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management