

Mary, Mother of Hope JNS Child Safeguarding Statement 2023/2024



Mary, Mother of Hope JNS a primary school providing primary education to pupils from Junior Infants to Second 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 Addendum to Children First \(2019\)](#), the [Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools \(revised 2023\)](#) and [Tusla Guidance on the preparation of Child Safeguarding Statements](#), the Board of Management of *Mary, Mother of Hope JNS* 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 (revised 2023)* as part of this overall Child Safeguarding Statement
- 2 The Designated Liaison Person (DLP) is *Alma Moran*
- 3 The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is *Jean Cullen*
- 4 The Relevant Person is *Alma Moran*
(*The relevant person is one who can provide information in respect of how the child safeguarding statement was developed and will be able to provide the statement on request. In a school setting the relevant person shall be the designated liaison person.*)
- 5 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.

- 6 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 (revised 2023)* and to the relevant agreed disciplinary procedures for school staff which are published on the gov.ie website.

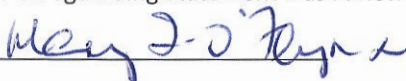
- In relation to the selection or recruitment of staff and their suitability to work with children, the school adheres to the statutory vetting requirements of the [National Vetting Bureau \(Children and Vulnerable Persons\) Acts 2012 to 2016](#) and to the wider duty of care guidance set out in relevant Garda vetting and recruitment circulars published by the Department of Education and available on the gov.ie 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 (revised 2023)*, including in the case of registered teachers, those in relation to mandated reporting under the Children First Act 2015.
- 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 gov.ie 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.

- 7 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.
- 8 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.

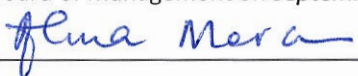
This Child Safeguarding Statement was adopted by the Board of Management on **September 25th 2023**.

This Child Safeguarding Statement was reviewed by the Board of Management on **September 25th 2023**.

Signed: 

Chairperson of Board of Management

Date: 25/09/2023

Signed: 

Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Date: 25/09/2023

Safeguarding



Mary, Mother of Hope JNS Child Safeguarding Statement



The Board of Management and Staff of Mary Mother of Hope JNS are fully committed to the implementation of our Child Protection Procedures in line with national guidelines.

A copy of our Child Safeguarding Statement is available on our website or on request from the office.

Designated Liaison person is Alma Moran

01 6405655

Deputy Designated Liaison Person is Jean Cullen

01 6405655

School Patron, Archbishop Dermot Farrell, Dublin Diocese

01 8373732

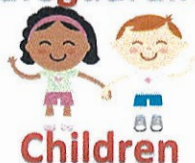
Gárda Síochána, Blanchardstown

01 6667000

HSE Child Welfare and Protection Services

01 8708000

Safeguarding



Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment (of any potential harm)

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 (revised 2023)*, the following is the Written Risk Assessment of

Scoil Mhuire, Máthair ár nDóchais
Mary, Mother of Hope JNS

	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
1.	Training of school personnel in Child Protection matters	Low	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 when available DLP & DDLP complete PDST online module for DLP & DDLP All Staff to view Túsla training module & any other online training offered by DE, PDST BOM retains records of staff and board training
2.	Class Teaching/Small group Teaching	Low	Harm by school personnel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rigorous staff selection process and procedures in place Garda Vetting, Teaching Council Recognition required All staff show evidence of completion of Child Protection online modules Safeguarding Statement shared with staff and reviewed annually Classroom doors unlocked at all times - all staff welcome in all classrooms Glass in window kept clear at all times
3.	One to one teaching/support	Low	Harm by school personnel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rigorous staff selection process and procedures in place Garda Vetting, Teaching Council Recognition as required All staff show evidence of completion of Child Protection online modules Safeguarding Statement shared with staff and reviewed annually Classroom doors unlocked at all times - all staff welcome in all classrooms Glass in window kept clear at all times Guidelines in relation to use of sensory room and other quiet spaces agreed, published and circulated
4.	School transport Arrangements including use of Bus Escorts	Low	Harm by personnel Harm not recognised or reported promptly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DE guidelines in relation to recruitment of staff and service provision followed. Safeguarding Statement shared with all relevant personnel following annual review
5.	Online teaching and learning remotely	Med	Harm by personnel Harm not recognised or reported promptly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rigorous selection of appropriate platforms No direct teaching Staff guidelines in place and training offered All staff show evidence of completion of Child Protection online modules Safeguarding Statement shared with staff and reviewed annually
6.	Care of Children with special needs,	Low	Harm by school personnel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Team approach between parents, teachers, SNAs, school management Regular and ongoing review of needs both formally and informally

7.	Intimate care needs	Low	Harm by school personnel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy on intimate care in place • Children generally encouraged to change themselves with adult supervising from outside the toilet • Two adults present if child needs to be changed • Regular contact with parents where this is an ongoing concern
8.	Curricular Provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay safe.	Low	Non-teaching of same	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School implements SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe in full • Comprehensive SPHE/Wellbeing policy in place
9.	Access to building	High	Harm from intruders and others	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • External doors closed except during arrival and dismissal • All visitors required to pass through office • All visitors required to sign book on entry and exit from building • OHS policy in place
10.	Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils	Med	Harm from older pupils, unknown adults on the playground Collection by persons unknown to school staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parents aware of responsibility for children until 8.40 and after 1.30/2.30 • Written/Verbal instruction required from parents if there is a change in arrangements • Procedures and routines taught and adhered to both morning and afternoon by all staff • All children gather and dismissed from front of school • Children arriving late enter through main door and go straight to classrooms or are met by staff and brought to class • Children who are not collected at 1.30/2.30 are supervised by school staff until parents/carers arrive • Guidelines explained to substitute teachers
11.	Managing of challenging behaviour amongst pupils, including appropriate use of restraint	Low	Harm by school personnel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Positive Handling Plan in place • Code Of Positive Behaviour in place • Team approach to managing behaviour
12.	Sports Coaches	Low	Harm by personnel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Class Teacher present at all times • Child Safeguarding Statement shared and displayed
13.	Students participating in work experience	Low	Harm by student	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For all students except those on Teaching Practice, teacher is present at all times • Work experience Policy in place • Child Safeguarding Statement shared and displayed • Shared agreement between schools & colleges re Garda Vetting
14.	Recreation breaks for pupils	Low	Harm by school personnel Harm by other pupils	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yard procedures and policy in place • Yard supervision rota in place and circulated monthly • Rules, routines and activities taught • Yard Buddies trained and supervised
15.	Outdoor teaching activities	Low	Harm by school personnel Harm by other pupils	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enclosed campus • Activities fully supervised • Teachers suitably trained and qualified
16.	Sporting Activities	Low	Harm by school personnel Harm by other pupils	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Activities fully supervised • Teachers suitably trained and qualified
17.	After-schools activities	Low	Harm by school personnel Harm by other pupils	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All activities receive BOM approval • Restricted to staff of school • 1+ members of staff present
18.	School outings	Low	Harm by school personnel Harm by other pupils Harm by other adults	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tours & outings policy in place • 10:1 child:adult ratio adhered to • School staff always present • Bus companies fully insured and meeting safety standards re safety belts etc
19.	Use of toilet areas in school	Low	Harm by school personnel Harm by other pupils	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Toilets at back of classroom for use during contact time • Limited access to toilets during recreation

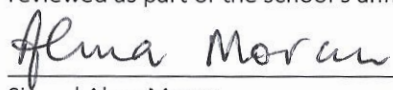
			Harm by other adults	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> times One child at a time policy Adult/Yard Buddy always remain outside the toilet
20.	Annual Sports Day	Low	Harm by school personnel Harm by other pupils Harm by other adults	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clear plan and timetabling Supervision provided
21.	Fundraising events involving pupils	Low	Harm by school personnel Harm by other pupils Harm by other adults	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Only during school time with teachers present
22.	Administration of Medicine	Low	Harm by school personnel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Policy in place Care plan in place for each child who needs medication in school Training provided where feasible
23.	Administration of First Aid	Low	Harm by school personnel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Guidelines in place Teacher liaise with senior staff and parents as required
24.	Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst pupils	Low	Harm by school personnel Harm by other pupils Harm by other adults Harm not recognised or reported promptly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Policy in place Code of Positive Behaviour in place Thorough and comprehensive SPHE programme in place for children in all classes
25.	Use of external personnel to supplement curriculum, sports and other activities	Low	Harm by personnel Harm by other pupils	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Teacher present at all times Garda Vetting required
26.	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 	Low	Harm by school personnel Harm by other pupils Harm by other adults Harm not recognised or reported promptly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ethos, Vision, Mission Statement agreed, published and publicised Code of Positive Behaviour in place Comprehensive SPHE programme taught Anti Bullying Policy in place Intercultural policy in place
27.	Recruitment of school personnel including - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Teachers SNA's 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 	Low	Harm by school personnel Harm not recognised or properly or promptly reported	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rigorous staff selection process and procedures in place Garda Vetting for all staff & volunteers Teaching Council Recognition required for teaching staff All staff show evidence of completion of Child Protection online modules Safeguarding Statement shared with staff and reviewed annually Policy of Parents / Volunteers Policy on Visiting Contractors

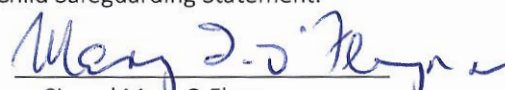
	school activities			
28	Use of offsite facilities for school activities	Low	Harm by personnel Harm not recognised or reported promptly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reputable locations used on a limited basis • Locations and facilities reviewed • Policy on Tours and Outings including 1:10 Adult:Child Ratio •
29	Use of school premises by other organisation during school day	Low	Harm by school personnel Harm by other pupils Harm by other adults Harm not recognised or reported promptly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limited access given to HSE/School Photographer etc
30	Use of Information and Communication Technology by pupils in school	Med	Bullying Viewing inappropriate content	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AUP policy • Anti-Bullying Policy • Code of Behaviour • "School use only" equipment for staff. • No consent for use of personal devices by pupils or staff in school for school related recording, internet searches etc
31	Application of sanctions under the school's Code of Behaviour	Low	Harm by school personnel Harm by other pupils Harm by other adults Harm not recognised or reported promptly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All within Code of Behaviour guidelines • Emphasis on positive approaches in policy • Safety and dignity of child paramount
32	Use of video/photography/other media to record school events	Low	Harm by school personnel Harm by other pupils Harm by other adults Harm not recognised or reported promptly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guidelines in place & shared with parents • AUP policy • Anti-Bullying Policy • Code of Behaviour • "School use only" equipment for staff. • No consent for use of personal devices by pupils or staff in school for school related recording, internet searches etc
33	Student teachers undertaking placement in the school	Low	Harm by personnel Harm not recognised or reported promptly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The school has in place a policy and procedures in respect of student • Child protection guidelines shared • Garda Vetting as required •
34	Out of school use of school premises by other organisations	Low	Harm by school personnel Harm by other pupils Harm by other adults Harm not recognised or reported promptly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All applications reviewed by BOM • Summer Camp/Art Club run by school staff • Independent insurances cover required

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 (revised 2023)*.

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 was updated by the Board of Management in September 2022. It will be reviewed as part of the school's annual review of its Child Safeguarding Statement.


Signed Alma Moran
Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management


Signed Mary O Flynn
Chairperson, Board of Management

Date: September 25th 2023



Checklist for Review of the Child Safeguarding Statement

The [Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools \(revised 2023\)](#) require that the Board of Management must undertake a review of its Child Safeguarding Statement and that the following checklist shall be used for this purpose. **The review must be completed every year or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which the Child Safeguarding Statement refers.** Undertaking an annual review will also ensure that a school also meets its statutory obligation under section 11(8) of the Children First Act 2015, to review its Child Safeguarding Statement every two years.

The checklist is designed as an aid to conducting this review and is not intended as an exhaustive list of the issues to be considered. Individual Boards of Management shall include other items in the checklist that are of relevance to the school in question.

As part of the overall review process, Boards of Management should also assess relevant school policies, procedures, practices and activities vis a vis their adherence to the principles of best practice in child protection and welfare as set out in the school's Child Safeguarding Statement, the Children First Act 2015, the Addendum to Children First (2019) and the *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools (revised 2023)*.

	Yes/No
1. Has the Board formally adopted a Child Safeguarding Statement in accordance with the <i>Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools (revised 2023)</i> ?	Yes
2. Is the Board satisfied that the Child Safeguarding Statement is displayed in a prominent place near the main entrance to the school?	Yes
3. As part of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement, has the Board formally adopted, without modification, the <i>Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools (revised 2023)</i> ?	Yes
4. Does the school's Child Safeguarding Statement include a written assessment of risk as required under the Children First Act 2015? (This includes considering the specific issue of online safety as required by the Addendum to Children First)	Yes
5. Has the Board reviewed and updated where necessary the written assessment of risk as part of this overall review?	Yes
6. Has the Risk Assessment taken account of the risk of harm relevant to online teaching and learning remotely?	Yes
7. Has the DLP attended available child protection training?	Yes
8. Has the Deputy DLP attended available child protection training?	Yes
9. Have any members of the Board attended child protection training?	Yes
10. Has the school appointed a DLP and a Deputy DLP?	Yes
11. Are the relevant contact details (Tusla and An Garda Síochána) to hand?	Yes
12. Has the Board arrangements in place to communicate the school's Child Safeguarding Statement to new school personnel?	Yes
13. Is the Board satisfied that all school personnel have been made aware of their responsibilities under the <i>Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools (revised 2023)</i> and the Children First Act 2015?	Yes
14. Has the Board received a Principal's Child Protection Oversight Report (CPOR) at each Board meeting held since the last review was undertaken?	Yes
15. Since the Board's last review, did each CPOR contain all of the information required under each of the 4 headings set out in sections 9.5 to 9.8 inclusive of the procedures?	Yes
16. Since the Board's last review, has the Board been provided with and reviewed all records relevant to the CPOR?	Yes
17. Is the Board satisfied that the records provided are anonymised and redacted as necessary to ensure that the identities of children and any other parties, including school personnel, to whom the concern or report relates are not disclosed?	Yes

18. Since the Board's last review, have the minutes of each Board meeting appropriately recorded the records provided to the Board as part of CPOR?	Yes
19. Have the minutes of each Board meeting appropriately recorded the CPOR?	Yes
20. Is the Board satisfied that the child protection procedures in relation to the making of reports to Tusla/An Garda Síochána were appropriately followed in each case reviewed?	Yes
21. Is the Board satisfied that, since the last review, all appropriate actions are being or have been taken in respect of any member of school personnel against whom an allegation of abuse or neglect has been made?	Yes
22. Where applicable, were unique identifiers used to record child protection matters in the Board minutes?	Yes
23. Is the Board satisfied that all records relating to child protection are appropriately filed and stored securely?	Yes
24. Has the Board been notified by any parent in relation to that parent not receiving the standard notification required under section 5.6 of the <i>Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools (revised 2023)</i> ?	No
25. In relation to any cases identified at question 20 above, has the Board ensured that any notifications required under section 5.6 of the <i>Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools (revised 2023)</i> were subsequently issued by the DLP?	Yes
26. Has the Board ensured that the Parents' Association (if any), has been provided with the school's Child Safeguarding Statement?	Yes
27. Has the Board ensured that the patron has been provided with the school's Child Safeguarding Statement?	Yes
28. Has the Board ensured that the school's Child Safeguarding Statement is available to parents on request?	Yes
29. Has the Board ensured that the Stay Safe programme is implemented in full in the school? (applies to primary schools)	Yes
30. Has the Board ensured that the Wellbeing Programme for Junior Cycle students is implemented in full in the school? (applies to post-primary schools)	N/A
31. Has the Board ensured that the SPHE curriculum is implemented in full in the school?	Yes
32. Is the Board satisfied that the statutory requirements for Garda Vetting have been met in respect of all school personnel (employees and volunteers)? *	Yes
33. Is the Board satisfied that the Department's requirements in relation to the provision of a child protection related statutory declaration and associated form of undertaking have been met in respect of persons appointed to teaching and non-teaching positions?*	Yes
34. Is the Board satisfied that, from a child protection perspective, thorough recruitment and selection procedures are applied by the school in relation to all school personnel (employees and volunteers)?	Yes
35. Has the Board considered and addressed any complaints or suggestions for improvements regarding the school's Child Safeguarding Statement?	Yes
36. Has the Board sought the feedback of parents in relation to the school's compliance with the requirements of the child safeguarding requirements of the <i>Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools (revised 2023)</i> ?	Yes
37. Has the Board sought the feedback of pupils in relation to the school's child safeguarding arrangements?	Yes
38. Is the Board satisfied that the ' <i>Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools Post-Primary Schools (revised 2023)</i> ' are being fully and adequately implemented by the school?	Yes
39. Has the Board identified any aspects of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement and/or its implementation that require further improvement?	No
40. Has the Board put in place an action plan containing appropriate timelines to address those aspects of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement and/or its implementation that have been identified as requiring further improvement?	Yes
41. Has the Board ensured that any areas for improvement that were identified in any previous review of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement have been adequately addressed?	Yes

Signed Mary D. Flynn Chairperson, Board of Management
 Date Sept 25th 2023

Alma Moran
 Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management



Notification regarding the Board of Management's review of the Child Safeguarding Statement

To whom it may concern,

The Board of Management of ***Mary, Mother of Hope JNS*** wishes to inform you that:

- The Board of Management's annual review of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement was completed at the Board meeting of ***September 25th 2023***
- This review was conducted in accordance with the "Checklist for Review of the Child Safeguarding Statement" published on the [gov.ie](https://www.gov.ie) website

Signed *Mary J. O'Rourke* Date ***25/09/2023***

Chairperson, Board of Management

Signed *Alma Moran* Date ***25/09/2023***

Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management