Mary, Mother of Hope JNS Child Safeguarding Statement 2026/2027

Mary, Mother of Hope JNS is a junior primary school, located in St Charles Houben Building, Littlepace, Dublin 15, D15TA49

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*, *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):

Alma Moran (Principal)

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

Jean Cullen (Deputy Principal)

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

Relevant Person

Alma Moran (In schools this person is the DLP)

Relevant Person can be contacted on:

01-6405655
info@hopejns.ie

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.

Name of Chairperson of the Board of Management:

Audrey Madden

In the event that both DLP and DDLP are absent and unavailable, and where there is no staff member formally acting in their role, the Chairperson of the Board of Management, or in an ETB school the chief executive or their delegate, 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 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.

The school ensures that members of school personnel have availed of relevant training and completed 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 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 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.

Note: The procedures and measures in place outlined above, are not intended as exhaustive list. Individual Boards of Management shall also include 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 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.

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.

Mary, Mother of Hope JNS Safeguarding Risk Assessment

1.	Training of school personnel in Child Protection matters	Harm not recognised or reported promptly	• 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 Tusla training module & any other online training offered by DE, PDST • BOM retains records of staff and board training
2.	Class Teaching/Small group Teaching	Harm by school personnel	• 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	Harm by school personnel	• 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	Harm by personnel Harm not recognised or reported promptly	• 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	Harm by personnel Harm not recognised or reported promptly	• 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,	Harm by school personnel	• Team approach between parents, teachers, SNAs, school management • Regular and ongoing review of needs both formally and informally
7.	Intimate care needs	Harm by school personnel	• 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.	Non-teaching of same	• School implements SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe in full • Comprehensive SPHE/Wellbeing policy in place
9.	Access to building	Harm from intruders and others	• 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	Harm from older pupils, unknown adults on the playground Collection by persons unknown to school staff	• 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	Harm by school personnel	• Positive Handling Plan in place • Code Of Positive Behaviour in place • Team approach to managing behaviour
12.	Sports Coaches	Harm by personnel	• Class Teacher present at all times • Child Safeguarding Statement shared and displayed
13.	Students participating in work experience	Harm by student	• 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	Harm by school personnel Harm by other pupils	• 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	Harm by school personnel Harm by other pupils	• Enclosed campus • Activities fully supervised • Teachers suitably trained and qualified
16.	Sporting Activities	Harm by school personnel Harm by other pupils	• Activities fully supervised • Teachers suitably trained and qualified
17.	After-schools activities	Harm by school personnel Harm by other pupils	• All activities receive BOM approval • Restricted to staff of school • 1+ members of staff present
18.	School outings	Harm by school personnel Harm by other pupils Harm by other adults	• 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	Harm by school personnel Harm by other pupils Harm by other adults	• Toilets at back of classroom for use during contact time • Limited access to toilets during recreation times • One child at a time policy • Adult/Yard Buddy always remain outside the toilet
20.	Annual Sports Day	Harm by school personnel Harm by other pupils Harm by other adults	• Clear plan and timetabling • Supervision provided
21.	Fundraising events involving pupils	Harm by school personnel Harm by other pupils Harm by other adults	• Only during school time with teachers present
22.	Administration of Medicine	Harm by school personnel	• Policy in place • Care plan in place for each child who needs medication in school • Training provided where feasible
23.	Administration of First Aid	Harm by school personnel	• Guidelines in place • Teacher liaise with senior staff and parents as required
24.	Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst pupils	Harm by school personnel Harm by other pupils Harm by other adults Harm not recognised or reported promptly	• 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	Harm by personnel Harm by other pupils	• Teacher present at all times • Garda Vetting required
26.	Care of pupils with specific vulnerabilities/ needs such as • 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	Harm by school personnel Harm by other pupils Harm by other adults Harm not recognised or reported promptly	• Ethos, Vision, Mission Statement agreed, published and publicised • Code of Positive Behaviour in place • Comprehensive SPHE programme taught • Anti Bullying/Bí Cinéalta Policy in place • Intercultural policy in place
27.	Recruitment of school personnel including - • 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 school activities	Harm by school personnel Harm not recognised or properly or promptly reported	• 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
28.	Use of offsite facilities for school activities	Harm by personnel Harm not recognised or reported promptly	• 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	Harm by school personnel Harm by other pupils Harm by other adults Harm not recognised or reported promptly	• Limited access given to HSE/School Photographer etc
30.	Use of Information and Communication Technology by pupils in school	Bullying Viewing inappropriate content	• 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	Harm by school personnel Harm by other pupils Harm by other adults Harm not recognised or reported promptly	• 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	Harm by school personnel Harm by other pupils Harm by other adults Harm not recognised or reported promptly	• 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	Harm by personnel Harm not recognised or reported promptly	• The school has in place a policy and procedures in respect of student placement • Child protection guidelines shared • Garda Vetting as required
34.	Out of school use of school premises by staff/other organisations	Harm by school personnel Harm by other pupils Harm by other adults Harm not recognised or reported promptly	• All applications reviewed by BOM • Summer Camp/After School Clubs run by school staff • Independent insurance cover required

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.

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 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 Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment was reviewed by the Board of Management on **10/11/2026**

Audrey Madden

Signed: Audrey Madden, Chairperson of the Board of Management
Date: 10/11/2026

Alma Moran

Signed: Alma Moran, Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management
Date: 10/11/2026

This Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment is expected to be reviewed again in

September 2027