Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment

Written Assessment of Risk of Dominican College Muckross Park

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 the Le Chéile School, Dominican College Muckross Park.

GENERAL SCHOOL ACTIVITIES		
List of School Activities	**The school has identified the following risk of harm in respect of its activities -**	**The school has the following procedures in place to address the risks of harm identified in this assessment**
Early Arrival	Risk of student being harmed due to inadequate supervision	- Corridor/grounds supervision protocol in place - Parents informed that teacher supervision begins at 8.10am - Students remain on concourse/canteen until supervision begins
General Arrival	Students not walking on footpath and not following basic road safety procedures	- Students reminded to stay on footpath and follow road safety rules when crossing Marlborough Road
Departure	Risk of student being harmed due to inadequate supervision	- Corridor/grounds supervision protocol - Health and Safety Policy implemented
Mid-morning Break	Risk of student being harmed by another student	- Code of Behaviour implemented - Anti-bullying policy and procedures in place - Adequate supervision provided
Lunchtime for students who remain on premises	Sitting on the floor Risk of harm due to bullying	- Supervision during lunch - Anti-bullying procedures implemented - Assigned seating for year groups

Lunchtime for students who leave the premises	Risk of student being harmed by a member of school personnel or another child	- Garda vetted staff supervision - Child Safeguarding Statement provided and followed
Use of Toilet/Shower facilities	Risk of harm not being recognised or reported by school personnel	- Staff trained in Child Protection Procedures - Supervision protocols in place
School Transport	Risk of child being harmed by personnel or other students	- All staff Garda vetted - Health and Safety Policy applied - Child Safeguarding Statement followed
Use of Technology in areas other than classroom	Risk of student being harmed by inappropriate use or bullying	- Acceptable Use Policy in place - Supervision protocols applied
Congregation in locker areas	Risk of harm due to bullying or inadequate supervision	- Staff supervision during breaks - Anti-bullying procedures implemented
Supervised after school study	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision	- Health and Safety Policy - Code of Behaviour - Adequate supervision provided
An 'empty' school at beginning/end of day	Risk of harm where student finds themselves first/last in the building	- Critical Incident Management Plan in place - Staff supervision protocols applied
Outdoor teaching activities	Risk of child being harmed by personnel or volunteer	- All staff Garda vetted - Child Safeguarding Statement followed - Health & Safety procedures implemented
Fundraising events involving students	Risk of child being harmed by volunteer or visitor	- Adult visitors sign in at main office - Safeguarding requirements communicated to volunteers
Use of offsite facilities for school activities	Risk of child being harmed by staff or others	- Garda vetting of staff - Health & Safety protocols applied - Supervision of students
Use of school for extra-curricular activities	Risk of child being harmed by volunteer or other person	- Adult visitors sign in - Safeguarding procedures implemented
1st and 2nd floor balcony	Risk of falling objects over the balcony	- Health & Safety audit to be conducted with the possibility of putting something in place - Safety measures in place to prevent objects falling

TEACHING AND LEARNING ACTIVITIES		
List of School Activities	**The school has identified the following risk of harm in respect of its activities -**	**The school has the following procedures in place to address the risks of harm identified in this assessment**
Classroom interactions	- Risk of student being harmed in the	- Adequate supervision procedures in place

	classroom by another student - Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of students	- Behaviour Management Plan and Code of Behaviour implemented
One-to-one teaching	Risk of harm in one-to-one teaching	- Adequate supervision procedures in place - All school personnel provided with Child Safeguarding Statement - Codes of conduct for teaching staff - School complies with agreed disciplinary procedures
Use of substitute teachers	Risk of student being harmed in the classroom by teacher or substitute teacher	- Garda vetting legislation and relevant DES circulars adhered to
Guidance/counselling one-to-one sessions	- Risk of harm during one-to-one counselling - Risk of inappropriate relationship or communication	- All guidance counsellors Garda vetted - One-to-one meeting protocols in place (visibility panel, door open) - Child Protection Procedures followed
Curricular Content in SPHE/RSE/Wellbeing	Risk of harm through inappropriate/insensitive delivery or student disclosures	- Full SPHE curriculum implemented - Wellbeing Programme implemented at Junior Cycle - All students receive minimum RSE requirement
Meetings with Senior Leadership Team (one-to-one)	- Risk of harm to student in one-to-one meetings - Risk of inadequate supervision or inappropriate communication	- One-to-one meeting protocols in place - Meetings in rooms with visibility panels or open doors - Child Protection Procedures followed
Use of Education Technology in classroom	Risk of harm caused by personnel communicating via social media, texting, digital device, or other means	- Mobile Phone Policy in place - Acceptable Use Policy for computers, internet, and social media
Work Experience	Risk of harm while carrying out work experience	- Procedures in place for students undertaking work experience - Protocols for work experience in external organisation
Students with Additional Educational Needs	Risk of harm caused by personnel not differentiating for the needs of students	- Special Educational Needs Policy in place
Student teachers undertaking training placement	Risk of harm by student teacher due to lack of experience or training	- Procedures in place for student teacher placements
Use of external personnel to supplement curriculum	Risk of child being harmed by volunteer or visitor	- Visitor and contractor policy in place - Sign-in/ID badges required - Visitors supervised while on site - Garda vetting for relevant personnel
Application of sanctions under Code of Behaviour	- Risk of harm due to inappropriate/disproportionate sanctions - Risk of student being isolated or	- Code of Behaviour implemented consistently - Supervision during detentions - Clear procedures for confiscation of items

	unsupervised	
Use of video/photography/other media to record events	- Risk of images or recordings being misused - Risk of student identifiable online without consent	- Media and Photography Policy in place - Parental consent obtained - Secure handling and storage of photos/videos
After school use of school premises by other organisations	- Risk of external personnel harming a child - Risk of inadequate supervision by non-school staff	- External groups provide own Child Safeguarding Statement - Rental/usage agreements include safeguarding requirements -Coaching staff vetted and complete Children First.
Remote Teaching and Learning	- Risk of harm through online communication - Risk of cyberbullying or exposure to inappropriate content	- Staff instructed to use approved school platforms only

PASTORAL CARE		
List of School Activities	**The school has identified the following risk of harm in respect of its activities -**	**The school has the following procedures in place to address the risks of harm identified in this assessment**
One-to-one counselling	Risk of harm in one-to-one counselling situation	- All staff provided with Child Safeguarding Statement - School personnel adhere to Child Protection Procedures 2017 & Children First Act 2015 - Qualified Guidance Counsellor appointed - Code of Conduct for teachers
School outings	- Risk of harm not being recognised by personnel - Risk of harm not being reported promptly - Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision	- Health & Safety Policy - Code of Behaviour - Anti-Bullying Policy explained to community - All staff trained in child protection
School trips involving overnight stay	Risk of harm to students through bullying when away from home	- Tour Policy including overnight protocols - Adequate supervision procedures - Anti-Bullying Policy & Committee
School trips involving foreign travel	Risk of harm to students through bullying or inadequate supervision	- Tour Policy for foreign travel - Trained and vetted staff accompanying trips
Care of students with special educational needs, including intimate care	- Risk of mishandling students with additional needs - Risk of harm due to insufficient	- SEN Policy - Teachers with SEN training recruited - Qualified SNAs appointed where required

	understanding of needs	
Management of challenging behaviour amongst students	Risk of mishandling of students with challenging behaviour	- Code of Behaviour - Staff trained in behaviour management - Pastoral Care Team support
Administration of Medicine	Risk of harm to student	- Procedures for administering medicines - SEN and medical protocols followed
Administration of First Aid	Risk of harm to student	- Health & Safety Policy - First-aid trained staff available
Curricular provision: SPHE, RSE, Wellbeing	Risk of harm due to lack of awareness or understanding of issues affecting students	- Full implementation of SPHE/RSE - Wellbeing Programme implemented - Wellbeing post-holder in middle management
Prevention and dealing with bullying	Risk of harm through bullying at school or on trips	- Anti-Bullying Policy & Anti-Bullying Committee - Pastoral Care systems - Staff trained in recognising/reporting bullying
Training of school personnel in child protection	- Risk of harm not being recognised by staff - Risk of harm not reported properly	- All staff trained in Child Protection Procedures 2017 - All staff given Child Safeguarding Statement
Care of students with specific vulnerabilities/ needs (ethnic minorities, migrants, Traveller students, LGBT+ students, faith minorities, students in care, CPNS students, mental health needs)	Risk of harm due to lack of understanding of specific needs or vulnerabilities	- Pastoral Care Team with trained personnel - SEN-trained teachers - Guidance Counsellor support -CSPE and SPHE programme to promote inclusion
Supporting students involved in misuse of Social Media	- Harm caused by inappropriate online contact - Students accessing inappropriate content - Students recording other students - Misuse of school Instagram account	- Acceptable Use Policy - Mobile Phone Policy - AB Tutor system - Random checks on Yondr pouches - Classroom tech consistency - Turning off comments, limiting access
Sanctioning students involved in misuse of Social Media	Risk of harm through inappropriate or overly harsh sanctions	- Code of Behaviour - Anti-Bullying Policy - Pastoral Care oversight
Visitors / volunteers / external personnel in the school	Risk of child being harmed by visitor or volunteer	- Visitor protocols - Garda vetting requirements - Staff supervision of all visitors

SPORTING ACTIVITIES		
List of School Activities	**The school has identified the following risk of harm in respect of its activities -**	**The school has the following procedures in place to address the risks of harm identified in this assessment**
Travelling to matches	Risk of a student being harmed by personnel, staff of another organisation, or other person	- All staff and volunteers Garda vetted - Child Safeguarding Statement provided and training completed - Adherence to Child Protection Procedures 2017 & Children First Act 2015
Changing in school's changing room	Risk of a student being harmed by personnel or peers	- Code of Behaviour in place - Adequate supervision ensured - Staff training in safeguarding
Changing in the changing rooms of other schools	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision	- School staff accompany students - Supervision and safeguarding procedures followed
Annual Sports Day	Risk of harm due to inadequate Code of Behaviour	- School Code of Behaviour implemented - Adequate supervision provided - Staff trained in safeguarding
School trips involving overnight stay	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children	- Tour Policy for overnight stays - Adequate staff supervision - Garda vetted personnel
Administration of First Aid following a sports injury	Risk of harm to student while receiving First Aid treatment	- Coaching staff trained in First Aid - Adherence to health & safety protocols
Use of external personnel to support sports and extra-curricular activities	Risk of a student being harmed by external personnel	- All staff and volunteers Garda vetted - Supervision and adherence to safeguarding policies
Sports coaches	Risk of harm in one-to-one coaching situation	- Code of Conduct for sports coaches - Staff training in safeguarding and First Aid - Adherence to Child Protection Procedures
Volunteers / Parents in sports activities	Risk of a student being harmed by volunteers / parents	- Garda vetting of volunteers - Supervision by qualified staff - Child Protection Policies enforced
Student PE teachers	Risk of harm due to lack of experience of Student PE teachers	- Student teachers supervised by qualified staff - Induction and safeguarding training provided
Use of social media to record and comment on sporting events	Risk of harm caused by personnel communicating inappropriately or circulating inappropriate material	- Acceptable Use Policy for computers, internet and social media - Mobile Phone Policy - Code of Behaviour in place

RECRUITMENT		
List of School Activities	**The school has identified the following risk of harm in respect of its activities -**	**The school has the following procedures in place to address the risks of harm identified in this assessment**
Principal	Risk of harm to students by personnel who are not qualified	- Garda vetting legislation adhered to - Teachers Handbook and Induction Programme - Rigorous interview process - References sought
Deputy Principal(s)	Risk of harm to students from personnel who have a history of unacceptable practices in previous employment	- Garda vetting legislation adhered to - Teachers Handbook and Induction Programme - Rigorous interview process - References sought
Teachers	Risk of harm to students from a member of personnel with a history of abuse	- Garda vetting legislation adhered to - Teachers Handbook and Induction Programme - Rigorous interview process - References sought
SNA's	Risk of harm to a student by a member of personnel unwilling to commit to expected standards	- Garda vetting legislation adhered to - Teachers Handbook and Induction Programme - Rigorous interview process - References sought
Administration staff	Risk of harm to students by unqualified or unsuitable personnel	- Garda vetting legislation adhered to - Teachers Handbook and Induction Programme - Rigorous interview process - References sought
Caretaking Staff	Risk of harm to students from personnel with previous unacceptable practices	- Garda vetting legislation adhered to - Teachers Handbook and Induction Programme - Rigorous interview process - References sought
Housekeeping Staff	Risk of harm to students by personnel unwilling to follow school standards	- Garda vetting legislation adhered to - Teachers Handbook and Induction Programme - Rigorous interview process - References sought
Cleaning Staff	Risk of harm to students by unsuitable personnel	- Garda vetting legislation adhered to - Teachers Handbook and Induction Programme - Rigorous interview process - References sought
Short or long term Contractors	Risk of harm to students by contractor with unsafe history	- Garda vetting legislation adhered to - Rigorous interview process - References sought - Supervised on site

Important Note: It should be noted that 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. The definition of harm is set out in the Children First Act 2015: "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 that are relevant to this school and to ensure adequate procedures are in place to manage all risks identified. While it is not possible to foresee and remove all risks 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 and adopted by the board of management on 6/10/2026.

Signed: Mary White

Chairperson of Board of Management

Signed: Siobhán Kelly

Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Date: 6/10/26

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Date of next review: September 2027