

Mandatory Template 1: Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment Template

Child Safeguarding Statement

Desmond College is a post-primary school providing post-primary education to pupils from First Year to Leaving Certificate Year.

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 Desmond College 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)* and *Circular 41/2025*, as part of this overall Child Safeguarding Statement
- 2 The Designated Liaison Person (DLP) is Vourneen Gavin Barry
- 3 The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is Elizabeth Cregan
- 4
- 5 The Relevant Person is Vourneen Gavin Barry
(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.)
- 6 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.

7 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.

8 This statement has been published on the school's website and has been provided to all members of school personnel, the Parents' Association 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.

9 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 16th September 2025.

This Child Safeguarding Statement was reviewed by the Board of Management on 16th September 2025.

Signed: Wilke Curtin

Chairperson of Board of Management

Date: 17/9/2015

Signed: J. P. Bony

Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Date: 17/9/2015

Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment

Written Assessment of Risk of [name of school]

In accordance with section 11 of the Children First Act 2015 and with the requirements of Chapter 8 of the *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools (revised 2023)*, the following is the Written Risk Assessment of [name of school].

1. List of school activities

- Daily arrival and dismissal of students
- Transition between classes
- Breaks and lunch
- Classroom teaching
- One to one teaching
- One to one guidance
- Outdoor teaching activities
- Sporting activities
- School trips
- Overnight trips
- Foreign trips
- Use of toilets during the day
- Sports days
- LCETB sports days
- Fundraising events
- Use of off site facilities
- School transport arrangements
- Work experience
- Care of students with special needs, including intimate care
- Administration of medicine
- Administration of first aid
- Curricular provision in respect of SPHE and RSE
- Training of school personal in relation of CP
- Use of external personal
- Care of students with specific needs – students from ethnic minority backgrounds, migrant children, members of the travelling community, LGBTQ+ children and those perceived as such
- Volunteers at school activities
- Parents at school activities
- Student participation at external events
- Student participation at religious events – internal and external
- Use of IT by students
- Application of school sanctions – detention, confiscation of student phones
- Student teachers on placement
- Use of video/photographs for social media
- Use of school premises by other organisations
- Breakfast Club
- Evening Study
- Homework Club

2. The school has identified the following risk of harm in respect of its activities -

- Risk of harm not being recognised by school personnel
- Risk of harm not being reported properly or promptly by school personnel
- Risk of a student being harmed in the school by staff
- Risk of a student being harmed in the school by another student
- Risk of a student being harmed in the school by a visitor or volunteer
- Risk of a student being harmed on an outside school activity by a member of staff or volunteer
- Risk of a student being harmed during work placement
- Risk of a student being harmed on school trip in Ireland or abroad
- Risk of a student being harmed due to bullying
- Risk of a student being harmed due to inadequate supervision in school or while on a school activity.
- Risk of a student being harmed due to inappropriate communication/relationship between students or adults
- Risk of a student being harmed due to inappropriate access to IT/social media/phones or other devices while in school
- Risk of harm to a student with AEN who have particular vulnerabilities
- Risk of harm to a student while receiving intimate care
- Risk of harm to a student due to inadequate Code of Behaviour
- Risk of harm to a student due to one to one teaching/counselling or coaching
- Risk of harm to a student caused by a member of staff communicating with students in an inappropriate manner via Social Media/text/device or other manner
- Risk of harm to a student caused by a member of staff accessing or circulating inappropriate material via Social Media/text/message/device or other manner.

3. The school has the following procedures in place to address the risks of harm identified in this assessment -

- All school personnel are provided with a copy of the Child Safeguarding Statement
- The *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools* are made available to all staff
- Staff are required to adhere to the *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools* and all registered teaching staff are required to adhere to the Children First Act.
- The school implements in full the SPHE and RSE curriculum
- The school implements in full the Wellbeing Programme
- The school has implemented the *Bi Cinnealta* antibullying policy and fully adheres to the Departments *Antibullying Procedures for Post Primary Schools* and *Bi Cinnealta Programme*.
- The school has Yard Supervision in place for break/lunch/change of class/morning /evening/ and in specific areas such as toilets.
A Risk Assessment is carried out by all teachers before any group leaves the school for an event
- The school has Policy and Procedures in place for school outings
- The school has a *Health and Safety Policy*
- The school undertakes antiracism awareness initiatives and is a School of Sanctuary
- The school adheres to the requirements of Garda Vetting legislation and relevant circulars in relation to this.
- The school has a *Visiting Speakers Policy*

- The school has a code of conduct for non teaching staff from LCETB
- The school complies with agreed disciplinary procedures for teaching staff
- The school has an *Additional Needs Policy*
- The school has a *Policy on the Administration of First Aid* and the *Administration of Medicine*
- The school has provided each staff member with a copy of this document
- The school encourages all staff to avail of training
- All Board Members are encouraged to avail of training
- The school maintains a record of all staff and Board training
- Desmond College has Policy on:
 - Code of Behaviour
 - ICT Policy
 - Mobile Phone Policy
 - Critical Incident Management Plan
 - Guidance Policy
 - HSCL Policy
 - Student Teacher Policy
 - Work Experience Policy

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 carried out by the Board of Management on 17th September 2025