



## Child Safeguarding Statement

Loreto College Foxrock 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 Loreto College Foxrock 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 BERNADETTE PRENDIVILLE
- 3 The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is FIONNUALA GLEESON
- 4 The Relevant Person is BERNADETTE PRENDIVILLE

(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](http://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](http://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](http://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.

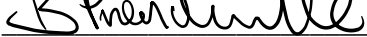
- 7 This statement has been published on the school's website and has been provided to all members of school personnel, the Parents' Association (if any) and the patron. It is readily accessible to parents and guardians on request. A copy of this Statement will be made available to Tusla and the Department 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 \_\_\_22 September 2023

This Child Safeguarding Statement was reviewed by the Board of Management on \_\_\_22 September 2023

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Chairperson of Board of Management

Signed: 

Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Date: \_\_\_13 November 2023\_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_13 November 2023\_\_\_\_\_



## Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment

### Written Assessment of Risk of LORETO COLLEGE FOXROCK

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 PostPrimary Schools (revised 2023)*, the following is the Written Risk Assessment of LORETO COLLEGE FOXROCK.

1. General Daily 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 General arrival Departure Mid-morning break Lunchtime for students who remain in school Lunchtime for students who leave school for lunch Use of toilet facilities School transport Use of technology in areas other than the classroom Congregating in locker areas Supervised after school study An ‘empty’ school at the beginning or end of the school day	Risk of harm not being recognised by school personnel Risk of harm not being reported properly and promptly by school personnel Risk of student being harmed by a member of school personnel Risk of student being harmed by another student Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision Risk of harm where a student finds herself first or last in the building	The school has a corridor /grounds protocol to ensure appropriate supervision of students during arrival, dismissal and breaktimes in respect of specific areas such as changing rooms, toilets etc. The school has a health and safety policy The school has in place a Code of Behaviour for students All staff are Garda Vetted All staff have been provided with the Child Safeguarding statement and have appropriate training.

<p><b>2. TEACHING &amp; LEARNING ACTIVITIES</b></p>	<p><b>The school has identified the following risk of harm in respect of its activities –</b></p>	<p><b>The school has the following procedures in place to address the risks of harm identified in this assessment -</b></p>
<p>Classroom interactions                      One-to-one teaching                      Guidance / Counselling one to one sessions                      Curricular content and/or presentations in SPHE, RSE, Wellbeing                      Use of substitute teachers in case of absenteeism                      Facilitation of all faiths in curricular RE                      Meetings with SLT on one to one                      Use of technology within the classroom                      Work Experience                      Students with additional needs</p>	<p>Risk of a student being harmed in the classroom by another student                      Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of students in the classroom                      Risk of harm not being recognised by school personnel                      Risk of harm due to bullying of student in the classroom                      Risk of student being harmed in the classroom by a teacher or substitute teacher                      Risk of harm in one to one teaching                      Risk of harm caused by a member of school personnel communicating with students in an inappropriate manner via social media, texting, digital device or other                      Risk of harm while carrying out work experience                      Risk of harm caused by school personnel not differentiating for the needs of students with additional needs</p>	<p>The school implements in full the SPHE programme                      The school implements the Wellbeing programme at junior cycle                      All school personnel are provided with the school’s Child Safeguarding Statement                      School personnel are required to adhere to the Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary schools 2023 and the Children First Act 2015 (and any amendments to the above).                      The school adheres to the requirement of the Garda Vetting legislation and the relevant DES circulars in relation to recruitment and vetting                      The school has a code of behaviour and policies in place in relation to the use of mobile phones, social media and the use of electronic devices.                      The school has an Antbullying policy in place                      The school complies with the agreed disciplinary procedures for teaching staff                      The school has an RE policy in place                      The school has protocols for work experience in an external organisation                      The school has an AEN policy in place</p>
<p><b>3. PASTORAL CARE</b></p>	<p><b>The school has identified the following risk of harm in respect of its activities –</b></p>	<p><b>The school has the following procedures in place to address the risks of harm identified in this assessment</b></p>
<p>One to one counselling                      School outings                      School trips involving an overnight stay                      School trips involving foreign travel</p>	<p>Risk of harm in one to one counselling situation                      Risk of harm not being recognised by school personnel</p>	<p>The school has a health and safety policy                      The school has a code of behaviour in place</p>

<p>Care of students with additional needs including intimate care when needed  Management of challenging behaviour amongst students  Administration of Medicine  Administration of First Aid  Curricular provision in SPHE and RSE  Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst students  Training of school personnel in child protection matters  Care of students with specific vulnerabilities/needs such as;  Students from ethnic minorities/migrants  Members of the travelling community  Lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender students  Students perceived to identify in gender or sexual orientation  Students of minority religious faiths  Students in care  Supporting students involved in the misuse of social media  Sanctioning students in the misuse of social media</p>	<p>Risk of harm not being reported properly and promptly by school personnel  Risk of harm to students through bullying when away from home on school trips  Risk of mishandling of students with challenging  Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision  Risk of harm to students through lack of understanding of specific needs, including sexual identity, religious and ethnic background  Risk of harm to students  Risk of harm caused by one student to another via inappropriate social media contact, texting, digital device or other  Risk of harm to students by the use of inappropriate or over-harsh sanctions for bullying or misuse of social media.</p>	<p>All staff have been provided with the Child Safeguarding Statement and have appropriate training.  The school has an Antbullying policy and procedures in place that have been explained to the school community  School personnel are required to adhere to the Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools 2023 and the Children First Act 2015 (and any amendments to these).  The school has in place a mobile phone policy  The school has in place an acceptable use policy  The school has a code of conduct for all staff  The school has appointed qualified Guidance Counsellors  The school has appointed teachers with SEN training and qualifications  The school appoints qualified SNAs where deemed necessary  The school has a School Tours policy  The school has an AEN policy  The school has an active pastoral team with particular understanding of the needs of the students in its care, including their backgrounds  The school has a set of procedures in relation to the administration of medicines.</p>
<p><b>RECRUITMENT</b></p>	<p><b>The school has identified the following risk of harm in respect of its activities –</b></p>	<p><b>The school has the following procedures in place to address the risks of harm identified in this assessment</b></p>
<p>Principal  Deputy Principal  Teachers  SNAs  Administration Staff  Caretaking Staff</p>	<p>Risk of harm to students by personnel who are not qualified  Risk of harm to students who have a history of unacceptable practices in previous employment  Risk of harm to students from a member of staff with a history of abuse</p>	<p>The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda Vetting legislation and relevant DES circulars in relation to recruitment and Garda Vetting.  The school has an employee handbook and induction programme for school personnel</p>

Housekeeping Staff Cleaning Staff Short and long term contractors	Risk of harm to a student by personnel unwilling to commit to the expected standards of the school	When appointing detailed references are sought The school has a rigorous interview process
<b>SPORTING ACTIVITIES</b>	<b>The school has identified the following risk of harm in respect of its activities –</b>	<b>The school has the following procedures in place to address the risks of harm identified in this assessment</b>
Travelling to matches Changing in the school’s changing rooms Changing in the changing rooms of other schools and facilities Annual Sports Day School trips involving an overnight stay Administration of first aid following a sports injury Use of external personnel to support sports and other extra curricular activities Sports Coaches Volunteer /Parents in sports activities Student PE teachers Use of social media to record and comment on sporting events	Risk of a student being harmed by a member of school personnel, a member of staff of another organisation or other person while participating in a sporting event Risk of harm to a student while receiving first aid Risk of harm due to inadequate code of behaviour Risk of harm due to a lack of experience of a Student PE teacher Risk of harm by a member of school personnel communicating with pupils in an inappropriate manner using social media or digital devices Risk of harm to a student by school personnel or a student circulating inappropriate material in relation to sporting activities via social media, texting or digital devices.	All staff and volunteers are Garda Vetted All staff have been provided with the Child Safeguarding Statement and have appropriate training School sports personnel are required to adhere to the Child Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools 2023 and the Children First Act 2015 (and any amendments to the above) The school implements the Wellbeing programme at Junior Cycle The school has an acceptable use policy in relation to digital media The school has a Code of Behaviour for students The school has a supervision protocol for school events Coaching staff are trained in First Aid The school has a tours policy including overnight stays The school has protocols in place in relation to student teachers The school has a mobile phone and digital device 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*

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.