CSS1

Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment

For:	**Mount Carmel Secondary School**	*(School Name)*
At:	**Kings Inns Street, Dublin 1**	*(School Address)*

This school is a: (tick appropriate) ☐primary ☒post-primary ☐ special school

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):

Cillian O'Riordan

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

Fiona Cunningham

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

Name of Relevant Person

Cillian O'Riordan

(In schools this person is the DLP)

Relevant Person can be contacted on:

018730958	principalsec@mountcarmel.com

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, or in an ETB school the Chief Executive or their delegate:

Brian Flannery

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 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.

Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
1.	Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils	Inadequate supervision; risk of harm from unauthorised persons	Yard/arrival/dismissal supervision policy; Child Safeguarding Statement; Code of Behaviour
2.	Recreation breaks for pupils	Inadequate supervision; bullying; accidents	Yard/playground supervision policy; Anti-Bullying Policy; Health & Safety Policy
3.	Classroom teaching / One-to-one teaching / Learning support	Risk of inappropriate interaction or communication; lack of supervision	One-to-one teaching procedures; Code of Conduct; Garda vetting; Child Protection Procedures (2023)
4.	One-to-one counselling	Risk of inappropriate relationship or communication	One-to-one counselling policy; Staff code of conduct; Garda vetting; Adherence to Child Protection Procedures
5.	Outdoor teaching activities	Risk of inadequate supervision; injury; exposure to strangers	School outings policy; Health & Safety policy; Parental consent procedures
6.	Online teaching/remote learning	Risk of inappropriate communication; online exploitation; uninvited persons joining classes	Acceptable Use Policy (AUP); Online Learning Policy; Staff training on safe digital practice
7.	Movement around school (lockers, corridors, toilets)	Risk of bullying or inadequate supervision	Supervision policy; Anti-Bullying Policy; Code of Behaviour
8.	Student teachers/placements (DCU, NCAD, Maynooth etc.)	Risk of harm from unvetted personnel	Vetting procedures; Placement supervision policy; Child Protection training for student teachers
9.	External examiners or facilitators (e.g. SEC, retreat facilitators)	Risk of harm from external adults	Garda vetting for external personnel; External personnel policy; Child Safeguarding Statement
10.	Visitors/contractors on site	Risk of harm to pupils from unsupervised contact	Visitor/Contractor policy; Sign-in procedures; Supervision requirements

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
11	Open Night / Transfer Activities	Risk of harm due to large crowds, inadequate supervision	Supervision plan; Child Safeguarding Statement; Health & Safety policy
12	Care of pupils with SEN / Intimate care	Risk of harm during personal care	Intimate Care Policy; SEN Policy; Two-adult rule where possible
13	Administration of Medicine / First Aid	Risk of incorrect administration or lack of consent	Administration of Medication Policy; First Aid Policy; Trained staff
14	Curricular SPHE / RSE / Wellbeing	Potential for sensitive disclosures	Adherence to SPHE/RSE guidelines; Mandatory reporting procedures
15	Prevention and dealing with bullying	Risk of harm due to bullying or racism	Anti-Bullying Policy; Anti-Racism initiatives; SPHE curriculum
16	Use of ICT / Social Media by pupils	Risk of cyberbullying, exposure to harmful content	Acceptable Use Policy; Digital Citizenship education; Monitoring systems
17	Sanctions (e.g., detention, confiscation)	Risk of inappropriate treatment	Code of Behaviour; Fair procedures; Staff training
18	Work experience (in school or externally)	Risk of harm from adults in workplace	Work experience policy; Vetting of hosts; Supervision and parental consent
19	Photography / Video recording	Misuse of images	Policy on use of media; Parental consent; GDPR compliance
20	After-school clubs and tuition	Inadequate supervision; harm by external tutors	After-school activity policy; Vetting; Supervision by staff
21	Sporting activities / trips	Physical injury; inadequate supervision; harm by others	Sports policy; Vetting for coaches; Outings policy; Parental consent
22	School outings / overnight / foreign trips	Inadequate supervision; risk of harm outside school	School Outings Policy; Supervision ratios; Parental consent; Vetting of adults
23	Transport arrangements (coach, car, walking)	Risk of harm during travel	Transport policy; Vetting of drivers; Staff supervision

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
24	Pupils with vulnerabilities (SEN, CPNS, minority groups, LGBT, etc.)	Increased risk of neglect, discrimination, bullying	Inclusion policy; SEN support; Anti-Bullying and Anti-Racism policies
25	Fundraising activities (e.g., TY projects, raffles)	Risk of harm in public settings or from visitors	Supervision policy; Vetting; School outing procedures
26	Religious ceremonies	Inappropriate contact or communication	Supervision policy; Vetting of external clergy/facilitators
27	Breakfast / Homework / Study Clubs	Inadequate supervision	Club supervision procedures; Garda vetting; Child Safeguarding Statement
28	External speakers / volunteers	Risk of harm by visitor	Vetting and external personnel policy; Supervision by staff
29	Board/Management meetings	Disclosure not being reported properly	Mandatory Child Protection training; Awareness of reporting obligations
30	Students with limited English	Risk of exclusion, misunderstanding, or isolation	EAL support procedures; Inclusive education practices
31	Use of external organisations on premises	Risk of harm by adults from outside	Agreement and vetting requirements; Supervision; Safeguarding compliance documentation
32	Participation in public performances or competitions	Exposure to strangers, media, or travel-related risks	Supervision and parental consent; Media and Travel policies
33	Handling challenging behaviour	Risk of harm to or by pupils	Behaviour Management Policy; Staff training; SEN support
34	Recruitment of staff / volunteers	Risk of harm from unvetted or unsuitable persons	Recruitment and Vetting Policy; Reference checks; Child Safeguarding Statement

Examples of Activities, Risks and Procedures

The examples listed in this document are provided to assist schools in undertaking their risk assessment under the Children First Act, 2015. Schools should note that this list of examples is not intended to be exhaustive, and that the inclusion of an example of a policy or procedure on these lists does not make it mandatory. It is the responsibility of each school to ensure, as far as possible, that any other risks and procedures that are relevant to its own particular circumstances are identified and specified in the written risk assessment and that adequate procedures are in place to address all risks identified.

It is acknowledged that schools already have in place a range of policies, practices and procedures to mitigate the risk of harm to children while they are participating in the activities of the school and that some school activities will carry low or minimal risks of harm compared to others. In the context of the risk assessment that must be undertaken by schools, the Children First Act, 2015 refers to risk as 'any potential for harm'.

Therefore, it is important that, as part of its risk assessment process, each school lists and reviews all of its various activities (which shall include identifying those that may carry low risk of harm as well as those that carry higher risks of harm). Doing so will help the school to:

- Identify, as required under the Children First Act, 2015, any risks of harm that may exist in respect of the school's activities.
- Identify and assess the adequacy of the various procedures already in place to manage those risks of harm.
- Identify and put in place any such additional procedures as are considered necessary to manage any risk identified.

Online Safety

The *Addendum to Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children 2017* published in January 2019 clarifies that organisations providing relevant services to children should consider the specific issue of online safety when carrying out their risk assessment and preparing their Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment.

The Guidance on Continuity of Schooling for primary and post-primary schools (April 2020) advises of the importance of teachers maintaining the safe and ethical use of the internet during distance learning and assisting parents and guardians to be aware of their role also. Schools should ensure that their Acceptable Use Policy (AUP) informs and guides remote or distance learning activity.

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 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 9th June 2026. (*most recent review date)*

Signed:*	Brian Flannery	**Date**: 9-06-26

Chairperson of the board of management

Signed:*	[illegible]	**Date**: 9/6/26.

Principal/Secretary to the board of management

This Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment is expected to be reviewed again on June 2027. *(expected review date)*

* *Document to be printed and signed with original signatures*

Appendix - Location of copies of the Child Protection Procedures and Children First Guidance

This may be in the form of specifying the online location for the procedures (Department of Education and Youth website www.gov.ie/childprotectionschools and/or the school website), providing a link to the Children First National Guidance 2017 Children_First_National_Guidance_2017.pdf, and stating the number and location of hard copies of these procedures available in the school.

Copies of the Child Protection Procedures and Children First Guidelines are available online on the DEY website (www.gov.ie/childprotectionschools). They are also available on the school website. A hard copy of the procedures is available from the school reception upon request.