



Whitecross National School



Written Assessment of Risk of Whitecross N.S.

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 Post-Primary Schools (revised 2023)*, the following is the Written Risk Assessment of Whitecross N.S.:

1. List of school activities	2. The school has identified the following risk of harm in respect of its activities –	3. The school has the following procedures in place to address the risks of harm identified in this assessment -
Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children	<p>The school has a yard/playground supervision policy to ensure appropriate supervision of children during, assembly, dismissal and breaks and in respect of specific areas such as toilets, changing rooms etc.</p> <p>All school personnel are provided with a copy of the school's <i>Child Safeguarding Statement</i></p> <p>The <i>Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools (revised 2023)</i> are made available to all school personnel</p> <p>School Personnel are required to adhere to the <i>Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools (revised 2023)</i> and all registered teaching staff are required to adhere to the <i>Children First Act 2015</i> and its Addendum (2019)</p>
Recreation breaks for pupils	<p>Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children</p> <p>Risk of child being harmed by another child</p>	<p>The school has a yard/playground supervision policy to ensure appropriate supervision of children during, assembly, dismissal and breaks</p>

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		<p>and in respect of specific areas such as toilets, changing rooms etc.</p> <p>The school has in place a policy and procedures for the administration of First Aid</p> <p>The school has in place a code of behaviour for pupils</p> <p>Friends for Life Programme</p> <p>Mediators on yard</p>
Classroom Teaching	Risk of child being harmed in the school by a member of school personnel	<p>The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation and relevant DE circulars in relation to recruitment and Garda vetting</p> <p>The school has a codes of conduct for school personnel (teaching and non-teaching staff)</p> <p>Glass panel in the doors</p> <p>Other adults visit or are present</p> <p>Other children present</p> <p>Staff are Garda Vetted</p>
One-to-one teaching	Risk of child being harmed in the school by a member of school personnel	<p>The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation and relevant DE circulars in relation to recruitment and Garda vetting</p> <p>The school has a codes of conduct for school personnel (teaching and non-teaching staff)</p> <p>The school has in place a policy and clear procedures for one-to-one teaching activities</p> <p>Glass panels in the doors</p> <p>Open door</p>
One-to-one counselling	Risk of child being harmed in the school by a member of school personnel	The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation and relevant DE

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	<p>Risk of child being harmed in the school by a visitor to the school</p> <p>Risk of harm in one-to-one teaching, counselling, coaching situation</p>	<p>circulars in relation to recruitment and Garda vetting</p> <p>The school has a codes of conduct for school personnel (teaching and non-teaching staff)</p> <p>The school has in place a policy and procedures for one-to-one counselling</p> <p>Glass panels in the doors</p> <p>Open door</p>
Outdoor teaching activities	<p>Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children in school</p> <p>Risk of child being harmed in the school by another child</p> <p>Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children while attending out of school activities</p>	<p>The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation and relevant DE circulars in relation to recruitment and Garda vetting</p> <p>The school has a codes of conduct for school personnel (teaching and non-teaching staff)</p> <p>The school has a health and safety policy</p> <p>Children are provided with clear instructions in advance of leaving the classroom</p> <p>Children work under the supervision of the teacher</p> <p>Children work within the school grounds</p> <p>The teacher monitors the work and interactions of all pupils.</p>
Online teaching and learning remotely	<p>Risk of harm caused by member of school personnel communicating with pupils in an inappropriate manner via social media, texting, digital device or other manner</p> <p>Risk of harm due to inappropriate use of online remote teaching and learning communication platform such as an uninvited person accessing the lesson link, students being left unsupervised for long periods of time in breakout rooms</p>	<p>The school has an Acceptable Use Policy in place, to include provision for online teaching and learning remotely, and has communicated this policy to parents</p> <p>The school has in place a policy governing the use of smart phones and tablets devices in the school by pupils as per circular 38/2018</p> <p>Remote Teaching and Learning Policy</p>

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<p>Sporting Activities</p>	<p>Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children in school Risk of child being harmed in the school by a member of school personnel Risk of child being harmed in the school by another child Risk of child being harmed in the school by volunteer or visitor to the school</p>	<p>The school has in place a policy and procedures for the administration of First Aid The school has in place a code of behaviour for pupils The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation and relevant DE circulars in relation to recruitment and Garda vetting The school has a codes of conduct for school personnel (teaching and non-teaching staff) Transport is arranged by the school. Garda vetting is required by all volunteers. Changing of gear takes place before the activity in the school. All children must return to school. In-school activities are supervised by each class teacher. Children wear gum-shields Children wear helmets</p>
<p>School outings/trips</p>	<p>Risk of child being harmed by a member of school personnel, a member of staff of another organisation or other person while child participating in out of school activities e.g. school trip, swimming lessons Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children while attending out of school activities</p>	<p>The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation and relevant DE circulars in relation to recruitment and Garda vetting The school has a codes of conduct for school personnel (teaching and non-teaching staff) The school complies with the agreed disciplinary procedures for teaching staff The school has in place a policy and clear procedures in respect of school outings Teachers supervise the changing of gear Children must return to school Children must wear the school uniform – depending on the venue</p>

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<p>Use of toilet/changing/shower areas in the school</p>	<p>Risk of harm due to children inappropriately accessing/using computers, social media, phones and other devices while at school</p> <p>Risk of harm to children with SEN who have particular vulnerabilities, including medical vulnerabilities</p> <p>Risk of harm to child while a child is receiving intimate care</p>	<p>Supervision Policy</p> <p>The school has a Special Educational Needs policy</p> <p>The school has an intimate care policy/plan in respect of students who require such care</p>
<p>Annual Sports Day</p>	<p>Risk of child being harmed in the school by a member of school personnel</p> <p>Risk of child being harmed in the school by another child</p> <p>Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children</p> <p>Risk of harm due to bullying of child</p>	<p>The school has an Anti-Bullying Policy which fully adheres to the requirements of the Department's <i>Anti-Bullying Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools</i></p> <p>The school has a yard/playground supervision policy to ensure appropriate supervision of children during, assembly, dismissal and breaks and in respect of specific areas such as toilets, changing rooms etc.</p> <p>The school has in place a policy and procedures for the administration of First Aid</p> <p>The school has in place a code of behaviour for pupils</p>
<p>Fundraising Events involving children</p>	<p>Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children</p> <p>Risk of harm due to inappropriate relationship/communications between child and another child or adult</p>	<p>The school has an Anti-Bullying Policy which fully adheres to the requirements of the Department's <i>Anti-Bullying Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools</i></p> <p>The school has a yard/playground supervision policy to ensure appropriate supervision of children during, assembly, dismissal and breaks and in respect of specific areas such as toilets, changing rooms etc.</p> <p>The school has in place a policy and procedures for the administration of First Aid</p> <p>The school has in place a code of behaviour for pupils</p>

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<p>Use of off-site facilities for school events</p>	<p>Risk of child being harmed by a member of school personnel, a member of staff of another organisation or other person while child participating in out of school activities e.g. school trip, swimming lessons</p>	<p>The school has a yard/playground supervision policy to ensure appropriate supervision of children during, assembly, dismissal and breaks and in respect of specific areas such as toilets, changing rooms etc. The school has in place a policy and clear procedures in respect of school outings The school has in place a code of behaviour for pupils The school has an Anti-Bullying Policy which fully adheres to the requirements of the Department's <i>Anti-Bullying Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools</i></p>
<p>School transport arrangements including use of bus escorts</p>	<p>Risk of child being harmed in the school by a member of school personnel Risk of child being harmed in the school by another child</p>	<p>The school has a yard/playground supervision policy to ensure appropriate supervision of children during, assembly, dismissal and breaks and in respect of specific areas such as toilets, changing rooms etc. The school has in place a policy and clear procedures in respect of school outings The school has in place a code of behaviour for pupils The school has an intimate care policy/plan in respect of students who require such care The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation and relevant DE circulars in relation to recruitment and Garda vetting Training provided to bus escorts</p>
<p>Care of children with special educational needs, including intimate care where needed</p>	<p>Risk of harm to children with SEN who have particular vulnerabilities, including medical vulnerabilities Risk of harm to child while a child is receiving intimate care Risk of harm due to bullying of child Risk of child being harmed in the school by a member of school personnel</p>	<p>The school has an Anti-Bullying Policy which fully adheres to the requirements of the Department's <i>Anti-Bullying Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools</i> The school has a Special Educational Needs policy The school has an intimate care policy/plan in respect of students who require such care The school has in place a policy and procedures for the administration of medication to pupils</p>

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			The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation and relevant DE circulars in relation to recruitment and Garda vetting
Management of challenging behaviour amongst pupils, including appropriate use of restraint where required	Risk of harm to children with SEN who have particular vulnerabilities, including medical vulnerabilities Risk of child being harmed in the school by a member of school personnel		Code of Behaviour The school has a health and safety policy The school has in place a code of behaviour for pupils MAPA training 2022 Mason, Hayes & Curran training on Managing Challenging Behaviour 2023
Management of provision of food and drink	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children in school		Aladdin database is updated regularly Children are coded by colour Most at risk children are on display in the staffroom with parental consent.
Administration of Medicine	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children in school		The school has in place a policy and procedures for the administration of medication to pupils Training arranged as required
Administration of First Aid	Risk of harm to children with SEN who have particular vulnerabilities Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children in school		The school has a health and safety policy The school has in place a policy and procedures for the administration of First Aid Doors must remain open when administering First Aid Training for all staff in 2021 Records kept in the incident report book
Curricular provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe	Risk of child being harmed in the school by a member of school personnel Risk of child being harmed in the school by another child Risk of child being harmed in the school by volunteer or visitor to the school		RSE Policy The school implements in full the Stay Safe Programme The school implements in full the SPHE curriculum

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Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst pupils	Risk of harm due to bullying of child Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children in school	The school has an Anti-Bullying Policy which fully adheres to the requirements of the Department's <i>Anti-Bullying Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools</i> The school has in place a code of behaviour for pupils Friends for Life Programme
Training of school personnel in child protection matters	Risk of harm not being recognised by school personnel Risk of harm not being reported properly and promptly by school personnel	The school – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Has provided each member of school 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 ○ Maintains records of all staff and board member training
Use of external personnel to support the curriculum	Risk of child being harmed in the school by volunteer or visitor to the school	The school has in place a policy and procedures for the use of external persons to supplement delivery of the curriculum The school has in place a policy and procedures for the use of external sports coaches The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation and relevant DE circulars in relation to recruitment and Garda vetting The class teacher must remain with their class when supported by external personnel.
Use of external personnel to support sports and other extra-curricular activities	Risk of child being harmed in the school by volunteer or visitor to the school	The school has in place a policy and procedures for the use of external persons to supplement delivery of the curriculum The school has in place a policy and procedures for the use of external sports coaches

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		<p>The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation and relevant DE circulars in relation to recruitment and Garda vetting</p> <p>The school has in place a policy and procedures for the use of external persons to supplement delivery of the curriculum</p> <p>The class teacher must remain with their class when supported by external personnel</p>
<p>Care of pupils with specific vulnerabilities/ needs such as</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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 Tusla's Child Protection Notification System (CPNS) - Children with medical needs 	<p>Risk of harm due to bullying of child</p> <p>Risk of harm due to racism</p> <p>Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children in school</p> <p>Risk of harm to children with SEN who have particular vulnerabilities, including medical vulnerabilities</p>	<p>The school has a health and safety policy</p> <p>The school has a Special Educational Needs policy</p> <p>The school has an intimate care policy/plan in respect of students who require such care</p> <p>The school has an Anti-Bullying Policy which fully adheres to the requirements of the Department's <i>Anti-Bullying Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools</i></p> <p>The school has in place a code of behaviour for pupils</p>
<p>Recruitment of school personnel including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Teachers/SNAs - Caretaker/Secretary/Cleaner - Sports Coaches - External Tutors/Guest Speakers - Volunteers/Parents in school activities - Visitors/contractors present in school during school hours 	<p>Risk of child being harmed in the school by a member of school personnel</p>	<p>The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation and relevant DE circulars in relation to recruitment and Garda vetting</p> <p>All school personnel are provided with a copy of the school's <i>Child Safeguarding Statement</i></p> <p>The <i>Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools (revised 2023)</i> are made available to all school personnel</p> <p>School Personnel are required to adhere to the <i>Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary</i></p>

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<p>- Visitors/contractors present during after-school activities</p>		<p>Schools (revised 2023) and all registered teaching staff are required to adhere to the <i>Children First Act 2015</i> and its Addendum (2019)</p>
<p>Participation by pupils in religious ceremonies/religious instruction external to the school</p>	<p>Risk of child being harmed in the school by volunteer or visitor to the school Risk of child being harmed by a member of school personnel, a member of staff of another organisation or other person while child participating in out of school activities</p>	<p>The school has in place a policy and procedures for the use of external persons to supplement delivery of the curriculum Aladdin database is regularly updated The school has an Anti-Bullying Policy which fully adheres to the requirements of the Department's <i>Anti-Bullying Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools</i> Children only attend ceremonies with parental consent or consent to attend but not participate Children who are not attending are supervised by staff completing independent work assigned by the class teacher</p>
<p>Use of Information & Communication Technology by pupils in school, including social media</p>	<p>Risk of harm due to children inappropriately accessing/using computers, social media, phones and other devices while at school Risk of harm due to bullying of child Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children in school</p>	<p>The school has an Anti-Bullying Policy which fully adheres to the requirements of the Department's <i>Anti-Bullying Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools</i> Restricted access to the internet The school has in place a policy governing the use of smart phones and tables devices in the school by pupils as per circular 38/2018 The school has in place a code of behaviour for pupils Training for staff, children & Parents 2023</p>
<p>Application of Sanctions under the school's Code of Behaviour including detention of pupils, confiscation of phones, etc.</p>	<p>Risk of harm due to inadequate code of behaviour Risk of child being harmed in the school by another child</p>	<p>The school has in place a code of behaviour for pupils</p>

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Students participating in work experience in the school	Risk of child being harmed in the school by volunteer or visitor to the school	The school has in place a policy and procedures in respect of students undertaking work experience in the school Student must be supervised by the relevant teacher
Student teachers undertaking training placement in the school	Risk of child being harmed in the school by volunteer or visitor to the school	The school has in place a policy and procedures in respect of student teacher placements Student teacher must be supervised by the relevant teacher
Use of video/photography/other media to record school events	Risk of harm caused by member of school personnel communicating with pupils in an inappropriate manner via social media, texting, digital device or other manner Risk of harm caused by member of school personnel accessing/circulating inappropriate material via social media, texting, digital device or other manner	Parental Permission is required and recorded on Aladdin The school has an Acceptable Use Policy in place, to include provision for online teaching and learning remotely, and has communicated this policy to parents
After school use of school premises by other organisations	Risk of child being harmed in the school by another child Risk of child being harmed in the school by volunteer or visitor to the school Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children in school	Use of school Policy Garda Vetting The school has in place a policy and procedures for external persons working in the school The school has in place a policy and procedures for the use of external sports coaches The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation and relevant DE circulars in relation to recruitment and Garda vetting
Use of school premises by other organisations during school day	Risk of child being harmed in the school by another child Risk of child being harmed in the school by volunteer or visitor to the school Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children in school	The school has in place a policy and procedures for external persons working in the school The school has in place a policy and procedures for the use of external sports coaches The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation and relevant DE circulars in relation to recruitment and Garda vetting

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Homework Club	<p>Risk of child being harmed in the school by a member of school personnel</p> <p>Risk of child being harmed in the school by another child</p> <p>Risk of child being harmed in the school by volunteer or visitor to the school</p>	<p>The school has in place a policy and procedures for external persons working in the school</p> <p>The school has in place a policy and procedures for the use of external sports coaches</p> <p>The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation and relevant DE circulars in relation to recruitment and Garda vetting</p> <p>The school has an Anti-Bullying Policy which fully adheres to the requirements of the Department's <i>Anti-Bullying Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools</i></p> <p>The school has in place a code of behaviour for pupils</p> <p>Glass panels in doors</p>
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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.