

Mid West School for the Deaf

www.midwestschoolforthe deaf.com



Mid West School for the Deaf
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Roll number: 19719H

Registered Charity Number: 20140427

Child Safeguarding Statement 2021-2022

Designated Liaison Person: Maria Allen

Deputy Designated Liaison Person: Rory Kiff



Child Safeguarding Statement

November 2021

The Mid West School for the Deaf is a special school providing early intervention, primary, and post-primary education to pupils from Early Intervention (ages 3 upwards) to post-primary school leavers (up to the age of 19 [where applicable]).

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 2017](#) and [Tusla Guidance on the preparation of Child Safeguarding Statements](#), the Board of Management of the Mid West School for the Deaf 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 2017 as part of this overall Child Safeguarding Statement

2 **The Designated Liaison Person (DLP) is** Maria Allen

3 **The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is** Rory Kiff

4 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.

5 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 2017 and to the relevant agreed disciplinary procedures for school staff which are published on the DE 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 DE 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 2017, including in the case of registered teachers, those in relation to mandated reporting under the Children First Act 2015.
- In this school the Board has appointed the abovenamed DLP as the "relevant person" (as defined in the Children First Act 2015) to be the first point of contact in respect of the schools child safeguarding statement.
- 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 DE website or will be made available on request by the school.
- In relation to the use of Irish Sign Language the school encourages state bodies to avail of the services of suitably qualified ISL interpreters where required.

6 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.

7 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 **11th of November 2021**

This Child Safeguarding Statement was reviewed by the Board of Management on **11th of November 2021** [most recent review date].

Signed: 

Chairperson of Board of Management

Signed: 

Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Date: 11/11/2021

Date: 11th Nov 2021

Child Protection Practices

The staff and BoM of this school have identified the following as areas of specific concern in relation to Child Protection. Following discussion and consultation, the staff and BoM have agreed that the following practices be adopted:

- Physical contact between school personnel and the child should always be in response to the needs of the child and not the needs of the adult

While physical contact may be used to comfort, reassure or assist a child, the following should be factors in determining its appropriateness:

- It is acceptable to the child
- It is open and not secretive
- The age and developmental stage of the child

School personnel should avoid doing anything of a personal nature for children that they can do for themselves. School personnel should never engage in or allow:

- The use of inappropriate language or behaviours
- Physical punishment of any kind
- Sexually provocative games or suggestive comments about or to a child
- The use of sexually explicit or pornographic material

All media products (Videos, CDs, DVDs etc.) should be checked for their appropriateness with regard to age and suitability.

Visitors/Guest Speakers

The School Visitors Policy was ratified by the Board of Management on 13/11/2017.

Appropriately appointed and screened visiting teachers of varying disciplines, engaged by the BoM of Mid West School for the Deaf to perform specific duties, will be left work with a class alone at the Principal's discretion

Visitors/Guest speakers should never be left alone with pupils. The school (Principal/ teachers) has a responsibility to check out the credentials of the visitor/guest speaker and to ensure that the material in use is appropriate.

Children with specific toileting/intimate care needs

The Intimate Care Policy was originally drafted by the Board of Management in 2018 and was updated and ratified in August 2020.

- In all situations where a pupil needs assistance with toileting/intimate care, a meeting will be convened, after enrolment and before the child starts school, between parents/guardians, class teacher, special needs assistant, Principal and if appropriate the pupil. The purpose of the meeting will be to ascertain the specific needs of the child and to determine how the school can best meet those needs
- The staff to be involved in this care will be identified and provision will be made for occasions when the particular staff involved are absent. A written copy of what has been agreed will be made and kept in the child's file
- Two members of staff will be present when dealing with intimate care/toileting needs. Any deviation from the agreed procedure will be recorded and notified to the DLP and the parents/guardians.

Toileting accidents

Clean underwear and suitable clothing will be kept in the school so that if a pupil has an 'accident' of this nature, they will in the first instance be offered fresh clothing into which they can change.

If the pupil for whatever reason cannot clean or change themselves and the parents/guardians cannot be contacted, the child will be assisted by members of staff familiar to the child. In all such situations, two members of staff should be present. A record of all such incidents will be kept and Principal and parents will be notified.

Accidents

While every precaution will be taken under our Health and Safety Statement to ensure the safety of children, we realise that accidents will happen. Accidents will be noted in our Incident book and will be addressed under our Accident Policy as part of Health and Safety.

On-to-one teaching

The Policy and Procedures for one to one teaching and activities was drafted and ratified by the Board of Management on 21/03/2018. It was updated and ratified by the Board of Management on 24/08/2020.

- It is the policy in this school that one-to-one teaching can sometimes be in the best interest of the child
- Every effort will be made to ensure that this teaching takes place in an open environment
- Parents of children who are to be involved in one-to-one teaching will be informed and their agreement sought
- Work being carried out by Special Needs Assistants will be carried out under the direction of the class teacher in an open environment.

Changing for games/PE/Swimming

Pupils will be expected to dress and undress themselves for Games/PE/Swimming. Where assistance is needed, this will be done in the communal area and with the consent of parents. Under no circumstances will members of staff/volunteers be expected to or allowed to dress/undress a child unsupervised in a cubicle/private area. In such situations where privacy is required, the parents/guardians of the child will be asked to assist the child.

The BoM of Mid West School for the Deaf ensures that all swimming volunteers apply to be vetted. At all times there must be adequate supervision of pupils. While every effort will be made to adhere to best practice as agreed and outlined above, in the event of an emergency where this is not possible or practicable, a full record of the incident should be made and reported to the principal and parents.

Attendance

The Attendance Policy was ratified on 25/09/2017

Our school attendance will be monitored as per our attendance policy. With regards to child protection, we will pay particular attention to trends in non-attendance. We will also monitor non-attendance in correlation with signs of neglect/physical/emotional abuse.

Behaviour

The Code of Behaviour was ratified on 13/11/2017.

Children are encouraged at all times to play co-operatively and inappropriate behaviour will be addressed under our Code of Behaviour. If an incident occurs which we consider to be of a sexualised nature, we will notify the DLP who will record it and respond to it appropriately.

Bullying

The Anti-Bullying Policy was ratified on 11/11/2021.

Bullying behaviour will be addressed under our Anti-Bullying policy. If the behaviour involved is of a sexualised nature or regarded as being particularly abusive, then the matter will be referred to the DLP.

Children travelling in staff cars

Members of the school staff will not carry children alone in their cars at any time.

Communication

Every effort will be made to enhance pupil-teacher communication. If pupils have concerns they will be listened to sympathetically. The SPHE/Oral/Sig. Language/RE programmes allow for open pupil-teacher communication, which is hoped will aid the pupil-teacher relationship. If teachers have to communicate with pupils on a one-to-one basis, they are requested to leave the classroom door open or request a colleague to attend. Further details or communications are found in the school's Communication Policy.

Induction of Pupils

The Admissions Policy was ratified by the Board of Management on the 30th April 2020.

All parents and children will be made aware of attendance rules and their implications as laid down in the Education Welfare Act (2000). All parents will be informed of the programmes in place in the school that deal with personal development e.g. RSE, Walk Tall, Stay Safe and SPHE and Wellbeing. All new parents will be given a copy of the school's Admission Policy, which outlines the procedures parents and children should use when contacting the school if there are absences or concerns of an educational/personal/family matter. Parents are encouraged to make an appointment with the class teacher/principal if they wish to discuss their child's progress as per the Parent Teacher Communication Policy. All parents will be given a copy of the school's Code of Behaviour and Anti-Bullying policies.

Child Protection Contacts

Designated Liaison Person (DLP)

Maria Allen

Deputy Designated Liaison Person (DLP)

Rory Kiff

Roxboro Garda Station

Telephone: 061-214 340

Tusla Social Work Department

Telephone: 061 483 097

Roxtown Health Centre, Clare Street, Limerick



Review of the Child Safeguarding Statement 2021

The *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017* require the Board of Management must undertake a review of its Child Safeguarding Statement and that the following checklist shall be used for this purpose. The review must be completed every year or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which the Child Safeguarding Statement refers. Undertaking an annual review will also ensure that a school also meets its statutory obligation under section 11(8) of the Children First Act 2015, to review its Child Safeguarding Statement every two years.

The checklist is designed as an aid to conducting this review and is not intended as an exhaustive list of the issues to be considered. Individual Boards of Management shall include other items in the checklist that are of relevance to the school in question.

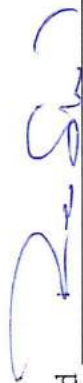
As part of the overall review process, Boards of Management should also assess relevant school policies, procedures, practices and activities vis a vis their adherence to the principles of best practice in child protection and welfare as set out in the school's Child Safeguarding Statement, the Children First Act 2015 and the *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017*.

	Yes/No
1. Has the Board formally adopted a Child Safeguarding Statement in accordance with the 'Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools 2017'?	Yes
2. As part of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement, has the Board formally adopted, without modification, the 'Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools 2017'?	Yes
3. Does the school's Child Safeguarding Statement include a written assessment of risk as required under the Children First Act 2015?	Yes
4. Has the Board reviewed and updated where necessary the written assessment of risk as part of this overall review?	Yes

	Yes/No
5. Has the DLP attended available child protection training?	Yes
6. Has the Deputy DLP attended available child protection training?	Yes
7. Have any members of the Board attended child protection training?	Yes
8. Are there both a DLP and a Deputy DLP currently appointed?	Yes
9. Are the relevant contact details (Tusla and An Garda Síochána) to hand?	Yes
10. Has the Board arrangements in place to communicate the school's Child Safeguarding Statement to new school personnel?	Yes
11. Is the Board satisfied that all school personnel have been made aware of their responsibilities under the 'Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools 2017' and the Children First Act 2015?	Yes
12. Has the Board received a Principal's Child Protection Oversight Report at each Board meeting held since the last review was undertaken?	Yes
13. Since the Board's last review, was the Board informed of any child protection reports made to Tusla/An Garda Síochána by the DLP?	No
14. Since the Board's last review, was the Board informed of any cases where the DLP sought advice from Tusla/and as a result of this advice, no report to the HSE was made?	Yes
15. Since the Board's last review, was the Board informed of any cases where an allegation of abuse or neglect was made against any member of school personnel?	NO
16. Has the Board been provided with and reviewed all documents relevant to the Principal's Child Protection Oversight Report?	Yes
17. Is the Board satisfied that the child protection procedures in relation to the making of reports to Tusla/An Garda Síochána were appropriately followed in each case reviewed?	Yes

	Yes/No
18. Is the Board satisfied that, since the last review, all appropriate actions are being or have been taken in respect of any member of school personnel against whom an allegation of abuse or neglect has been made?*	N/A
19. Were child protection matters reported to the Board appropriately recorded in the Board minutes?	Yes
20. Is the Board satisfied that all records relating to child protection are appropriately filed and stored securely?	Yes
21. Has the Board been notified by any parent in relation to that parent not receiving the standard notification required under section 5.6 of the 'Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools 2017'?	No
22. In relation to any cases identified at question 21 above, has the Board ensured that any notifications required section 5.6 of the 'Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools 2017' were subsequently issued by the DLP?	N/A
23. Has the Board ensured that the Parents' Association (if any), has been provided with the school's Child Safeguarding Statement?	Yes
24. Has the Board ensured that the patron has been provided with the school's Child Safeguarding Statement?	Yes
25. Has the Board ensured that the school's Child Safeguarding Statement is available to parents on request?	Yes
26. Has the Board ensured that the Stay Safe programme is implemented in full in the school? (applies to primary schools)	Yes
27. Has the Board ensured that the Wellbeing Programme for Junior Cycle students is implemented in full in the school? (applies to post-primary schools)	Yes
28. Has the Board ensured that the SPHE curriculum is implemented in full in the school?	Yes
29. Is the Board satisfied that the statutory requirements for Garda Vetting have been met in respect of all school personnel (employees and volunteers)? *	Yes
30. Is the Board satisfied that the Department's requirements in relation to the provision of a child protection related statutory declaration and associated form of undertaking have been met in respect of persons appointed to teaching and non-teaching positions?*	Yes

	Yes/No
33. Has the Board sought the feedback of parents in relation to the school's compliance with the requirements of the child safeguarding requirements of the 'Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools 2017'?	Yes
34. Has the Board sought the feedback of pupils in relation to the school's child safeguarding arrangements?	Yes
35. Is the Board satisfied that the 'Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools 2017' are being fully and adequately implemented by the school?	Yes
36. Has the Board identified any aspects of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement and/or its implementation that require further improvement?	Yes 1. Gates 2. Minuting CPOR reports
37. Has the Board put in place an action plan containing appropriate timelines to address those aspects of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement and/or its implementation that have been identified as requiring further improvement?	1. Postponed to part of new build/prefabs 2. Immediately
38. Has the Board ensured that any areas for improvement that that were identified in any previous review of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement have been adequately addressed?	Postponed to part of new build/prefabs

Signed 
Chairperson, Board of Management

Signed 
Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Date 11/11/2021

Date 11 Nov 2021



Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment

Written Assessment of Risk of the Mid West School for the Deaf

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 2017*, the following is the Written Risk Assessment of Mid West School for the Deaf

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 -
1. Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 10, 12, 22, 29, 30	Arrival and Dismissal of Pupils Policy, Supervision Policy, Code of Behaviour, Anti-bullying Policy, Acceptable Use Policy, Child Safeguarding Statement, Child Protection Procedures, Covid Response Plan.
2. Recreation breaks for pupils	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 10, 12, 22, 29, 30	Supervision Policy, Code of Behaviour, Anti-bullying Policy, Child Safeguarding Statement, Child Protection Procedures, Intimate Care Policy, Health and Safety Policy, Administration of Medication Policy, School adheres to the requirements of Garda Vetting legislation, Emergency use of mobile phone on yard for staff, Covid Response Plan.
3. Classroom teaching	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 10, 11, 12, 15, 16, 17, 21, 22, 29, 30	Supervision Policy, Code of Behaviour, Anti-bullying Policy, Child Safeguarding Statement, Acceptable Use Policy, ICT Policy, Child Protection Procedures, Stay Safe programme, Wellbeing programme, SPHE, Health and Safety Policy, Covid Response Plan, School Visitors Policy, Glass panel on doors, Doors remain open if children are accessing the store room, Use of curved mirror in classroom to highlight blind spots. Student Passports in files.
4. One to one teaching and provision of counselling support.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 10, 11, 12, 15, 16, 17, 22, 29, 30	Supervision Policy, Code of Behaviour, Anti-bullying Policy, Child Safeguarding Statement, Acceptable Use Policy, ICT Policy, Policy on One-to-One teaching, Distance Learning Policy, Child Protection Procedures. Glass panel on doors, Covid Response Plan.

5. Outdoor teaching activities	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 12, 14, 15, 16, 17, 21, 22, 29, 30	Supervision Policy, Arrival and Dismissal of Pupils Policy, Code of Behaviour, Anti-bullying Policy, Child Safeguarding Statement, Child Protection Procedures, Stay Safe programme, Wellbeing programme, SPHE, Health and Safety Policy, Intimate Care Policy, School adheres to the requirements of Garda Vetting legislation, Administration of Medication Policy, Covid Response Plan, Emergency use of mobile phone on yard for staff, Close Childers's Road gate for whole school activities in the front yard.
6. Sporting activities	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 12, 15, 22, 29, 30	Supervision Policy, Code of Behaviour, Anti-bullying Policy, Child Safeguarding Statement, Child Protection Procedures, School Outings Policy, Stay Safe programme, Wellbeing Programme, SPHE, Intimate Care Policy, Covid Response Plan.
7. School Outings: - Local Supervised activities - Lidl - Sit n sip - Weekly Mass - Playground - Nature walks - Our Lady Queen of Peace - Our Lady of Lourdes - Local Unsupervised activities - Credit union - Costcutter - Lidl - Sit n' Sip - Supervised Offsite Activities - Peoples Park & Art Gallery - Lime Tree Theatre - Crescent Shopping Centre - Baggot Estate - Funderland	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 12, 13, 15, 16, 17, 22, 29, 30	Supervision Policy, Arrival and Dismissal of Pupils Policy, Code of Behaviour, Anti-bullying Policy. Child Safeguarding Statement, Child Protection Procedures, School Outings Policy, Intimate Care Policy, Stay Safe programme, Wellbeing Programme, SPHE, Covid Response Plan. Use of hi-vis jackets when off campus where relevant. School adheres to the requirements of Garda Vetting legislation.

▪ Catholic Institute ▪ Swimming ▪ Laurel Hill ▪ Ice skating ▪ Dreamland ▪ Audiology ▪ University of Limerick ▪ Dóchas Sensory Room • Unsupervised Offsite activities ▪ Public transport Crescent Shopping Centre	8 School trips involving overnight stay	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 15, 16, 17, 19, 29, 30	Supervision Policy, Arrival and Dismissal of Pupils Policy, Code of Behaviour, Anti-bullying Policy. Child Safeguarding Statement, School Outings Policy. Child Protection Procedures, Stay Safe programme, Wellbeing programme, SPHE, Health and Safety Policy, Intimate Care Policy, Covid Response Plan.
9. Use of toilet, changing areas. Showering		1, 2, 3, 4, 8, 9, 10, 12, 13, 20, 22, 29, 30	Child Safeguarding Statement, Child Protection Procedures, Stay Safe programme, Wellbeing programme, SPHE Policy, Intimate Care Policy, Code of Conduct for School personnel, Code of Behaviour, Covid Response Plan.
10. Sports day		1, 2, 3, 4, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 19, 29, 30	Supervision Policy, Code of Behaviour, Anti-bullying Policy, Child Safeguarding Statement, Child Protection Procedures, School Visitors Policy, School Outings Policy, Intimate Care Policy, Stay Safe programme, Wellbeing programme, SPHE, School adheres to the requirements of Garda Vetting legislation, Communication policy, Covid Response Plan.
11. Fundraising events involving students		1, 2, 6, 7, 9, 10, 12, 13, 14, 19, 29, 30	Stay Safe programme, Child Protection Procedures, Child Safeguarding Statement, Wellbeing programme, SPHE, School adheres to the requirements of Garda Vetting legislation, Communication Policy, School Outings Policy, Supervision Policy, Communication Policy, Intimate Care Policy and Staff Code of Conduct, Covid Response Plan.

12. Use of off-site facilities for school activities	1, 2, 6, 7, 9, 10, 12, 13, 14, 19, 29, 30	Stay Safe programme, Wellbeing programme, SPHE, School adheres to the requirements of Garda Vetting legislation, Communication Policy, School Outings Policy, Supervision Policy, Child Safeguarding Statement, Child Protection Procedures, Intimate Care Policy and Staff Code of Conduct, Covid Response Plan.
13. School transport arrangements including use of Bus Escorts	1, 2, 7, 9, 10, 13, 14, 16, 17, 20, 29, 30	School adheres to the requirements of Garda Vetting legislation, Child Safeguarding Statement, Child Protection Procedures, Communication Policy, Supervision Policy, Arrival and Dismissal of Pupils Policy, Stay Safe programme, School Outings Policy, Wellbeing programme, SPHE, Covid Response Plan, Encourage staff to get relevant training, Administration of Medicine Policy, First Aid Training, Training in the administration of an Epi-Pen, Training in the administration of Buccal Midazolam.
14. Care of pupils with special educational needs including intimate care where needed	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 29, 30	School adheres to the requirements of Garda Vetting legislation, Communication Policy, Child Protection Procedures, Child Safeguarding Statement, Stay Safe programme, Wellbeing programme, SPHE, Intimate Care Policy, Administration of Medicine Policy, School Outings Policy, Supervision Policy, Staff Code of Conduct, Code of Behaviour, and Anti-Bullying Policy, Covid Response Plan.
15. Care of any vulnerable adult students, including intimate care where needed	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 29, 30	School adheres to the requirements of Garda Vetting legislation, Child Protection Procedures, Child Safeguarding Statement, Communication Policy, Supervision policy, Stay Safe programme, Wellbeing programme, SPHE, Intimate Care Policy, Administration of Medicine Policy, School Outings Policy, Staff code of Conduct, Code of Behaviour, Anti-Bullying Policy, Covid Response Plan.
16. Management of challenging behaviour amongst pupils, including appropriate use of restraint where required	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 19, 20, 21, 22, 24, 29, 30	Code of Behaviour- re one on one teaching, Supervision Policy, Code of Conduct for School personnel, School Outings Policy, Stay Safe programme, Wellbeing programme, SPHE, Intimate Care Policy, Child

		Safeguarding Statement, Child Protection Procedures, Covid Response Plans, Codicil to Code of Behaviour where appropriate
17. Administration of medicine	1, 2, 3, 6, 10, 12, 29, 30	Stay Safe programme, Wellbeing programme, SPHE, Intimate Care Policy, Child Safeguarding Statement, Child Protection Procedures, Supervision Policy, Administration of Medicine Policy, Covid Response Plan, Training in the administration of an Epi-Pen, and Training in the administration of Buccal Midazolam.
18. Administration of first aid	1, 2, 3, 6, 10, 12, 29, 30	Stay Safe programme, Wellbeing programme, SPHE, Intimate Care Policy, Child Safeguarding Statement, Child Protection Procedures, Supervision Policy, Administration of Medicine Policy, Training in the administration of an Epi-Pen, and Training in the administration of Buccal Midazolam, Covid Response Plan.
19. Curricular provision in respect of SPHE, RSE and Stay Safe	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 20, 29, 30	Child Safeguarding Statement, Wellbeing programme, Stay Safe programme, SPHE, Child Protection Procedures, Code of Conduct for School Personnel, RSE Policy, Intimate Care Policy, Acceptable Use Policy, ICT Policy, Covid Response Plan.
20. Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst pupils	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 29, 30	Acceptable Use Policy, ICT Policy, Code of Behaviour, Anti-bullying Policy, Supervision Policy, SPHE Policy, Child Protection Procedures, Child Safeguarding Statement, Covid Response Plan.
21. Training of School personnel in Child protection matters	1-20, 29, 30	Child Safeguarding Statement, Child Protection Procedures, Supervision Policy, Covid Response Plan.
22. Use of External Personnel to supplement Curriculum	1, 2, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 16, 17, 19, 20, 29, 30	Child Safeguarding Statement, Child Protection Procedures, Supervision Policy, Stay Safe programme, Wellbeing programme, SPHE, School adheres to the requirements of Garda Vetting legislation, Communication Policy, School Visitors Policy, Covid Response Plan.
23. Use of External Personnel to Support Sports and other Extra Curricular Activities	1, 2, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 16, 17, 19, 20, 29, 30	Child Safeguarding Statement, Child Protection Procedures, Supervision Policy, Stay Safe programme, Wellbeing programme, SPHE, School adheres to the requirements of Garda Vetting legislation, Communication Policy, School

		Visitors Policy, Covid Response Plan.
24. Care of pupils with specific vulnerabilities or needs such as: • Pupils from ethnic minorities/migrants • Members of the Traveller community • Lesbian, Gay, Bi-sexual or Transgender (LGBT) • Pupils perceived to be LGBT • Pupils of minority religious faiths. • Children in care. • Children on CPNS • Children with medical needs	1-20, 29, 30	Code of Behaviour, Anti-bullying Policy, Communication Policy, Child Safeguarding Statement, Child Protection Procedures, Covid Response Plan, Supervision Policy. Stay Safe programme, Wellbeing programme, SPHE, School adheres to the requirements of Garda Vetting legislation. Training in the administration of an Epi-Pen, and Training in the administration of Buccal Midazolam.
25. Recruitment of school personnel including - • Teachers/SNA's • Caretaker/Secretary/Cleaners • Sports coaches • External Tutors/Guest Speakers • Volunteers/Parents in school activities • Visitors/contractors present in school during school hours • Visitors/contractors present during after school activities	1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 12, 13, 15, 16, 20, 29, 30	Child Safeguarding Statement, Encourage staff to get relevant training, Child Protection Procedures, Covid Response Plan, Stay Safe programme, Wellbeing programme, SPHE, School adheres to the requirements of Garda Vetting legislation, Communication Policy.
26. Participation by pupils in religious ceremonies/religious instruction external to the school	1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 12, 13, 15, 29, 30	Supervision Policy, Code of Behaviour –School Personnel, Child Safeguarding Statement, Covid Response Plan. Child Protection Procedures, School Outings Policy, Intimate Care Policy.
27. Use of Information and Communication Technology by pupils and school personnel in school, including social media	1, 2, 3, 4, 7, 9, 10, 11, 12, 15, 16, 17, 22, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30	Code of Behaviour, Acceptable Use Policy, ICT Policy, Distance Learning Policy, Child Protection Procedures, Child Safeguarding Statement, Covid Response Plan.
28. Application of sanctions under school code of behaviour- Lunch time supervision	1, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 10, 12, 29, 30	Supervision Policy, Code of Behaviour, Codicil to Code of Behaviour, Anti-bullying Policy, Child Safeguarding Statement, Child Protection Procedures, Acceptable Use Policy, Covid Response Plan.

29. Students participating in work experience in the school	1, 3, 4, 5, 7, 10, 11, 12, 15, 16, 17, 29, 30	Supervision Policy, Code of Behaviour, Anti-bullying Policy, Communication Policy, Child Safeguarding Statement, Covid Response Plan, Acceptable Use Policy, ICT Policy, School Visitors Policy, Child Protection Procedures, Stay Safe programme, Wellbeing programme, SPHE, School adheres to the requirements of Garda Vetting legislation.
30. Student from the school participating in work experience elsewhere	6, 7, 10, 11, 12, 14, 15, 29, 30	Work Experience Policy. Acceptable Use Policy, ICT Policy, Stay Safe programme, Covid Response Plan, Wellbeing programme, SPHE, Work Experience Policy, School adheres to the requirements of Garda Vetting legislation
31. Student teachers undertaking training placement in the school	1, 3, 4, 5, 7, 10, 11, 12, 15, 16, 17, 29, 30	Supervision Policy, Code of Behaviour, Anti-bullying Policy. Communication Policy, Child Safeguarding Statement, Acceptable Use Policy, ICT Policy, Visitors Policy, Child Protection Procedures, Covid Response Plan, Stay Safe programme, Wellbeing programme, Work Experience Policy, SPHE, School adheres to the requirements of Garda Vetting legislation.
32. Use of video/photography/other media to record school events	23, 29, 30	Acceptable Use Policy, ICT Policy, School Visitors Policy, Child Protection Procedures, Covid Response Plan.
33. After school use of school premises by other organisations	18, 29, 30	School Visitors Policy, Child Safeguarding Statement, Child Protection Procedures, Covid Response Plan.
34. Use of school premises by other organisations during school day	1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 12, 13, 15, 29, 30	Supervision Policy, Code of Behaviour, Anti-bullying Policy. Child Safeguarding Statement, Child Protection Procedures, Covid Response Plan.
35. Breakfast Club	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 8, 7, 11, 10, 12, 29, 30	Arrival and Dismissal of Pupils Policy, Supervision Policy, Code of Behaviour, Covid Response Plan, Acceptable Use Policy, ICT Policy, Anti-bullying Policy, Child Safeguarding Statement, Child Protection Procedures.
36. Use of external personnel not supplementing the curriculum, for example, delivery persons.	1, 3, 4, 5, 7, 10, 11, 12, 15, 16, 17, 29, 30	Stay Safe programme, Wellbeing programme, SPHE, Child Safeguarding Statement, Covid Response Plan. Child Protection Procedures, School adheres to the requirements of Garda Vetting legislation.

37. Use of kitchen	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 10, 11, 12, 14, 15, 20, 21, 22, 29, 30	Stay Safe programme, Wellbeing programme, Child Safeguarding Statement, Covid Response Plan, Child Protection Procedures, SPHE and School adheres to the requirements of Garda Vetting legislation.
38. Students independently moving around the school.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 10, 11, 12, 14, 15, 20, 21, 22, 29, 30	Supervision Policy, Code of Behaviour, Anti-bullying Policy, Child Safeguarding Statement, Covid Response Plan, Acceptable Use Policy, ICT Policy, Child Protection Procedures, School Visitors Policy, Stay Safe programme, Wellbeing programme, SPHE.
39. Use of sensory room	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 10, 11, 12, 14, 15, 16, 17, 20, 21, 22, 29, 30	Supervision Policy, Code of Behaviour, Anti-bullying Policy, Child Safeguarding Statement, Covid Response Plan, Acceptable Use Policy, ICT Policy, Child Protection Procedures. School Visitors Policy, Stay Safe programme, Wellbeing programme, SPHE and Glass panel on doors.
40. Use of laundry room	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 10, 11, 12, 14, 15, 20, 21, 22, 29, 30	Supervision Policy, Code of Behaviour, Anti-bullying Policy, Child Safeguarding Statement, Child Protection Procedures, Covid Response Plan, School Visitors Policy, Stay Safe programme, Wellbeing programme, SPHE. Glass panel on doors.
41. In-school celebrations	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 16, 17, 20, 21, 22, 23, 29, 30	Supervision Policy, Code of Behaviour, Covid Response Plan, Anti-bullying Policy, Communications Policy, Intimate Care Policy, Child Safeguarding Statement, Acceptable Use Policy, ICT Policy, Child Protection Procedures, School Visitors Policy, Stay Safe programme, Wellbeing programme, SPHE. Glass panel on doors.
42. Use of school gates	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 12, 14, 15, 16, 17, 21, 22, 29, 30	Supervision Policy, Arrival and Dismissal of Pupils Policy, Code of Behaviour, Anti-bullying Policy, Covid Response Plan, Child Safeguarding Statement, Child Protection Procedures, Stay Safe programme, Wellbeing programme, SPHE, Health and Safety Policy, Intimate Care Policy, School adheres to the requirements of Garda Vetting legislation, Administration of Medication Policy, Emergency use of mobile phone on yard for staff. Close Childers's Road gate for whole school activities in the front yard.

43. Online teaching and learning remotely	1,2,3,4,7,9,10,11,12,15,16,17,22,24,25,26,27,28, 29, 30	Acceptable Use Policy, ICT Policy, Distance Learning Policy, Covid Response Plan, Supervision Policy, Code of Behaviour, Anti-bullying Policy, Child Protection Procedures, One to one Teaching Policy, Child Safeguarding Statement, SPHE Policy, Parent Teacher Communication Policy
44. Use of Isolation Room	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 10, 11, 12, 14, 15, 16, 17, 20, 21, 22, 29, 30	Supervision Policy, Arrival and Dismissal of Pupils Policy, Code of Behaviour, Anti-bullying Policy, Covid Response Plan, Child Safeguarding Statement, Child Protection Procedures, Stay Safe programme, Wellbeing programme, SPHE, Health and Safety Policy, Intimate Care Policy, Administration of Medicine Policy. School adheres to the requirements of Garda Vetting legislation, Administration of Medication Policy
45. Management of provision of food and drink	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 12, 15, 18, 20, 21, 29, 30	Supervision Policy, Arrival and Dismissal of Pupils Policy, Code of Behaviour, Anti-bullying Policy, Covid Response Plan, Child Safeguarding Statement, Child Protection Procedures, Stay Safe programme, Wellbeing programme, SPHE, Health and Safety Policy, Administration of Medicine Policy. School adheres to the requirements of Garda Vetting legislation, Administration of Medication 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 2017*

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.

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. 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 (1) identify, as required under the Children First Act, 2015, any risks of harm that may exist in respect of the school’s activities, (2) identify and assess the adequacy of the various procedures already in place to manage those risks of harm and (3) identify and put in place any such additional procedures as are considered necessary to manage any risk identified.

The Addendum to Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children 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.

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.

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 2017.



MWSD Risks of harm index

1. Risk of harm not being recognised by school personnel
2. Risk of harm not being reported properly and promptly by school personnel
3. Risk of child being harmed in the school or while engaging in distance learning by a member of school personnel
4. Risk of child being harmed in the school or while engaging in distance learning by another child
5. Risk of child being harmed in the school by volunteer or visitor to the school
6. 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
7. Risk of harm due to bullying of child
8. Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children in school
9. Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children while attending out of school activities or while engaging in distance learning
10. Risk of harm due to inappropriate relationship/communications between child and another child or adult
11. Risk of harm due to children inappropriately accessing/using computers, social media, phones and other devices while at school or while engaging in distance learning
12. Risk of harm to children with SEN who have particular vulnerabilities, including medical vulnerabilities
13. Risk of harm to child while a child is receiving intimate care
14. Risk of harm due to inadequate code of behaviour
15. Risk of harm in one-to-one teaching, counselling, coaching situation at school or while engaging in distance learning
16. Risk of harm caused by member of school personnel communicating with pupils in appropriate manner via social media, texting, digital device or other manner
17. Risk of harm caused by member of school personnel accessing/circulating inappropriate material via social media, texting, digital device or other manner
18. Risk of harm due to after-school use of school premises by other organisations after hours, e.g. visitors leaving inappropriate pictures on school computers or taking copies of students' pictures that are displayed on the walls
19. Risk of harm caused by inappropriate photos or videos taken by members of the public when our students are attending events outside of school
20. Risk of harm due to inadequate staff training in the area of child protection
21. Risk of unexpected or unwanted visitors.
22. Risk of harm due to student lack of understanding in relation to appropriate touch of adults or other students.
23. Risk of inappropriate use of images/recording of pupil by visitors and at outside events.

24. Risk of harm to children due to unauthorised recordings of distance learning classes or meetings
25. Risk of harm due to inappropriate use of online remote teaching and learning communication platforms such as an uninvited person accessing the lesson link and students being left unsupervised for long periods of time in breakout rooms
26. Risk of harm due to outdated versions of cyber security on the child's devices
27. Risk of harm due to a child's lack of understanding of on-line safety
28. Risk of harm due to a child not engaging in distance learning
29. Risk of harm due to racism
30. Risk of harm due to child's inability to communicate/express if a child protection issue has occurred

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 2017*

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 has been completed by the Board of Management on **11th of November 2021**. It shall be reviewed as part of the school's annual review of its Child Safeguarding Statement.

Signed  Date 11/11/2021

Chairperson, Board of Management

Signed  Date 11th Nov 2021

Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management



MWSD Procedures to address risks of harm

- All school personnel are provided with a copy of the school's *Child Safeguarding Statement*
- The *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017* are made available to all school personnel
- School Personnel are required to adhere to the *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017* and all registered teaching staff are required to adhere to the *Children First Act 2015* and its Addendum (2019)
- The school implements in full the Stay Safe Programme
- The school implements in full the SPHE curriculum
- The school implements in full the Wellbeing Programme at Junior Cycle
- The school has an Anti-Bullying Policy which fully adheres to the requirements of the Department's *Anti-Bullying Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools*
- The school undertakes anti-racism awareness initiatives
- 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 a Health and Safety policy
- 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) mentioned in school's Code of Behaviour
- The school complies with the agreed disciplinary procedures for teaching staff
- 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
- The school –
 - 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

- 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 and a Codicil to the Code for some pupils on a specific behaviour programme
- 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
- The school is currently developing a policy governing the use of smart phones and tablet devices in the school by pupils as per circular 38/2018
- The school has in place a Critical Incident Management Plan
- The school has in place a policy and procedures for the use of external persons to supplement delivery of the curriculum (School Visitors Policy)
- The school has in place a policy and procedures for the use of external sports coaches (School Visitors Policy)
- The school has in place a policy and clear procedures for one-to-one teaching activities and counselling
- The school has in place a policy and procedures in respect of student teacher placements (School Visitors Policy & Work Experience Policy)
- The school has in place a policy and procedures in respect of students undertaking work experience in the school
- The school has in place a policy and procedures in respect of pupils of the school undertaking work experience in external organisations

Mid West School for the Deaf

www.midwestschoolforthe deaf.com



Mid West School for the Deaf
Childer's Road
Rosbrien
Limerick

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Email: midwestdeafschool@gmail.com
Web: midwestschoolforthe deaf.com
Roll number: 19719H
Registered Charity Number: 20140427

Notification regarding the Board of Management's review of the Child Safeguarding Statement

To the Parent's Association,

The Board of Management of the Mid West School for the Deaf wishes to inform you that:

- The Board of Management's annual review of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement was completed at the Board meeting of 11/11/2021
- This review was conducted in accordance with the "Checklist for Review of the Child Safeguarding Statement" published on the Department's website www.education.ie

Signed Fr. John Walsh

Date 11/11/2021

Fr. John Walsh

Chairperson, Board of Management

Signed Maria Allen

Date 11th Nov 2021

Maria Allen

Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management



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Notification regarding the Board of Management's review of the Child Safeguarding Statement

To School Staff,

The Board of Management of the Mid West School for the Deaf wishes to inform you that:

- The Board of Management's annual review of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement was completed at the Board meeting of 11/11/2021
- This review was conducted in accordance with the "Checklist for Review of the Child Safeguarding Statement" published on the Department's website www.education.ie

Signed Fr. John Walsh

Date 11/11/2021

Fr. John Walsh

Chairperson, Board of Management

Signed Maria Allen

Date 11th Nov 2021

Maria Allen

Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management



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Notification regarding the Board of Management's review of the Child Safeguarding Statement

To St. Senan's Education Office,

The Board of Management of the Mid West School for the Deaf wishes to inform you that:

- The Board of Management's annual review of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement was completed at the Board meeting of 11/11/2021
- This review was conducted in accordance with the "Checklist for Review of the Child Safeguarding Statement" published on the Department's website www.education.ie

Signed 

Fr. John Walsh

Chairperson, Board of Management

Date 11/11/2021

Signed 

Maria Allen

Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Date 11th Nov 2021