



HIGH CROSS COLLEGE

Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment for High Cross College, Currylea, Tuam, Co. Galway H54 V620.

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 set out below.

Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified	Procedures/Measures in Place to Mitigate Risk
1	Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils	Risk of harm not being recognised; inappropriate adult-pupil contact; pupils leaving with unauthorised adults	- Supervision arrangements in place - Clear protocols for pupil collection - Identification required for early collection - Code of Behaviour enforced - Child Safeguarding Statement in place
2	Recreation breaks for pupils	Bullying; inappropriate physical contact; pupils leaving school premises without permission	- Supervision by staff on rota basis - Anti-Bullying Policy implemented - Code of Behaviour enforced - Yard/playground rules displayed - Sign-in/out procedures for pupils leaving premises
3	Classroom teaching	Inappropriate adult-pupil interactions; pupils accessing inappropriate content online; risk of harm not recognised	- Code of Behaviour for pupils - Staff Code of Conduct - Acceptable Use Policy - Supervision protocols - All staff trained in child protection - Garda vetting completed for all staff
4	One-to-one teaching (including learning support, resource teaching, instrumental tuition)	Inappropriate adult-pupil interaction; allegations against staff; risk of harm not recognised	- Door with glass panel or internal window - Visibility maintained - Scheduling communicated to parents - Staff Code of Conduct - All staff Garda vetted and child protection trained



HIGH CROSS COLLEGE

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified	Procedures/Measures in Place to Mitigate Risk
5	One-to-one counselling	Inappropriate adult-pupil interaction; inadequate record keeping	- Counsellor's qualifications verified - Garda vetting completed - Professional indemnity insurance in place - Door with visibility maintained - Confidentiality policy adhered to - Records maintained securely
6	Toilets/changing areas	Inappropriate adult-pupil interaction; bullying; inappropriate peer interactions	- Clear policies on staff-pupil interactions - Supervision protocols - Anti-Bullying Policy - Staff Code of Conduct - Pupils encouraged to report concerns
7	Annual sports day/school sports activities	Inadequate supervision; inappropriate physical contact; injuries not responded to	- Event planning includes risk assessment - Supervision arrangements - First Aid provision - Parental consent obtained - Emergency contact details available - Staff Code of Conduct
8	School outings/trips (day and overnight)	Inadequate supervision; students becoming separated; inappropriate adult-pupil interactions; external person not Garda vetted	- Risk assessment conducted - Parental consent obtained - Pupil-staff ratios maintained - Emergency procedures in place - Contact details available - All adults Garda vetted - Staff trained in child protection
9	School tours involving overnight stay	All risks as per day trips plus additional overnight supervision risks	- Detailed risk assessment - Parental consent and medical information - Sleeping arrangements ensure appropriate supervision - Clear supervision rota - All accompanying adults Garda vetted - Emergency procedures documented
10	Sporting activities involving physical contact	Inappropriate physical contact; injury	- Staff trained in appropriate coaching methods - Staff Code of Conduct - Supervision always in place - External coaches Garda vetted - Parental consent obtained



HIGH CROSS COLLEGE

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified	Procedures/Measures in Place to Mitigate Risk
11	Use of off-site facilities for school activities (PE, swimming, etc.)	Inadequate supervision; inappropriate interactions with external personnel	- Risk assessment of venue - All external coaches/instructors Garda vetted - School staff supervision maintained - Parental consent obtained - Emergency procedures in place
12	School transport arrangements (including school bus)	Inappropriate adult-pupil interaction; inadequate supervision; bullying	- Garda vetting for drivers - Code of Behaviour applies - Supervision protocols - Bus escort where appropriate - Anti-Bullying Policy enforced
13	Care of children with special educational needs including intimate care needs	Inappropriate adult-pupil interaction; inadequate care provision	- Care plan developed with parents - Staff trained appropriately - Two adults present where possible - Detailed record keeping - Staff Code of Conduct - Regular review of care arrangements
14	Administration of medication	Incorrect dosage; medication administered to wrong pupil; unauthorised access to medication	Medication Policy in place - Written parental consent required - Medication stored securely - Administration recorded in log - Staff trained in administration procedures - Emergency medication procedures in place
15	Administration of First Aid	Inadequate care; inappropriate adult-pupil interaction; lack of appropriate facilities	First Aid Policy in place - Trained first aiders identified - First aid administered in appropriate location - Parents informed of injuries - Incident report completed - First aid supplies maintained
16	Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst pupils	Physical, emotional or psychological harm to pupils	- Anti-Bullying Policy implemented in line with Department guidelines - Staff training on recognising and responding to bullying - Bullying prevention education in curriculum - Incident recording and follow-up



HIGH CROSS

COLLEGE

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified	Procedures/Measures in Place to Mitigate Risk
			procedures - Support for victims and perpetrators
17	Use of video/photography/other media to record school events	Inappropriate recording/sharing of images of pupils; breach of GDPR	- Written parental consent obtained annually - Data Protection Policy in place - Clear guidelines on appropriate use - Images stored securely - Policy on parents photographing school events - Social media policy enforced
18	Use of internet, social media, mobile phones, and other digital technologies by pupils	Access to inappropriate content; contact with unsuitable persons; cyberbullying; sharing of inappropriate images	- Acceptable Use Policy for pupils - Internet filtering in place - Education on online safety in SPHE/Wellbeing - Policy on mobile phones (Circular 38/2018) - Supervision of internet use - Sanctions for misuse in Code of Behaviour
19	Online teaching and remote learning	Pupils accessing inappropriate content; inappropriate adult-pupil or pupil-pupil interactions online; inadequate supervision	- Online Learning Policy developed - Acceptable Use Policy extended to online learning - Guidelines for staff on appropriate online interactions - Platform security settings configured - Recording protocols established - Parents informed of expectations - Reporting procedures communicated
20	Use of external personnel to supplement curriculum (guest speakers, sports coaches, instructors)	Unsupervised access to pupils; inappropriate adult-pupil interaction; persons not Garda vetted	- Garda vetting required for any unsupervised access - School staff supervision maintained - Visitors sign in/out - Policy on external personnel - Qualifications and insurance verified - Induction on child protection procedures
21	Students undertaking work experience in the school	Risk of harm not being recognised; inappropriate interactions with pupils	- Garda vetting completed - Supervision by qualified staff member - Child protection training provided - Clear guidelines on appropriate behaviour - Limited access to pupils - School policies communicated



HIGH CROSS

COLLEGE

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified	Procedures/Measures in Place to Mitigate Risk
22	Students of the school undertaking work experience in external organisations	Risk of harm in external placement; inadequate supervision; inappropriate interactions	- Risk assessment of placement - Parental consent obtained - Placement provider confirms appropriate supervision - Emergency contact procedures - School visits to placement where feasible - Reporting mechanism for concerns
23	Student teachers undertaking training placement in school	Unsupervised access to pupils; inappropriate interactions; risk of harm not recognised	- Garda vetting verified through training institution - Supervision by qualified teacher - Child protection procedures communicated - School policies provided - Mentor teacher assigned - Regular monitoring of placement
24	Participation by pupils in religious ceremonies/religious instruction outside of school	Inadequate supervision of pupils; transport arrangements	- Parental consent obtained - Risk assessment completed - Supervision arrangements in place - Transport vetted and insured - Emergency procedures documented - Code of Behaviour applies
25	Use of school facilities by external organisations outside of school hours	External personnel having unsupervised access to pupils; inadequate vetting procedures	- Hiring agreement includes child protection requirements - Confirmation that external organisation has child safeguarding policies - Garda vetting of external personnel where applicable - School facilities locked when not supervised - Clear demarcation of access areas
26	After-school clubs/extra-curricular activities	Inadequate supervision; inappropriate adult-pupil interaction; external supervisors not vetted	- Supervisors Garda vetted - Parental consent for participation - Sign-in/sign-out procedures - Supervision ratios maintained - Child protection procedures apply - Emergency contact details available
27	School library	Pupils accessing age-inappropriate material; inadequate supervision	- Library materials age-appropriate and reviewed - Supervision during library use - Internet access monitored



HIGH CROSS

COLLEGE

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified	Procedures/Measures in Place to Mitigate Risk
			- Acceptable Use Policy applies - Reporting procedures for concerns
28	Homework club/study hall	Inadequate supervision; bullying; inappropriate interactions	Supervision by Garda-vetted staff - Code of Behaviour enforced - Sign-in procedures - Anti-Bullying Policy applies - Parental consent obtained
29	Fundraising events involving pupils	Inadequate supervision; pupils leaving school with unauthorised persons; external personnel not vetted	- Risk assessment completed - Supervision arrangements in place - Parental consent obtained - External volunteers Garda vetted if unsupervised access - Sign-in/sign-out procedures - Staff oversight maintained
30	School productions/concerts/performances	Inadequate supervision during rehearsals; inappropriate adult-pupil interaction; pupils collected by unauthorised persons	- Supervision during all rehearsals and performances - Garda vetting of external directors/choreographers - Parental consent for participation and late rehearsals - Collection arrangements confirmed - Changing room supervision protocols
31	School prefect/student leadership programmes	Inappropriate pupil-pupil interactions; power imbalances exploited	- Clear role descriptions and boundaries - Training provided to student leaders - Adult supervision maintained - Anti-Bullying Policy applies - Regular review meetings - Reporting mechanisms in place
32	Application of sanctions under the school's Code of Behaviour including detention	Inappropriate use of sanctions; inadequate supervision during detention	- Code of Behaviour implemented consistently - Sanctions proportionate and age-appropriate - Detention supervised by staff - Parents notified - Records maintained - Suspension/expulsion procedures follow Developing a Code of Behaviour guidelines
33	Curricular provision in respect of SPHE,	Inappropriate materials used; external facilitators not properly	- SPHE/RSE/Wellbeing programmes follow curriculum specifications - Resources age-appropriate and approved



HIGH CROSS

COLLEGE

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified	Procedures/Measures in Place to Mitigate Risk
	RSE, and Wellbeing	vetted; pupils' disclosures not responded to appropriately	- External facilitators Garda vetted - Staff trained to respond to disclosures - Parental engagement in RSE policy development - Stay Safe or equivalent programme delivered
34	Staff meetings/in-service training	Pupils left unsupervised or with inadequately vetted supervisors	- Staff meetings scheduled when pupils not present - If supervision required, appropriate arrangements made - Supervisors Garda vetted - Supervision ratios maintained
35	Staff recruitment and Garda vetting	Unsuitable persons gaining access to children	- Recruitment procedures follow Department circulars - All staff Garda vetted before commencing - References verified - Probationary periods applied - Regular re-vetting conducted - Records maintained securely
36	Induction of newly appointed staff members	New staff unaware of child protection procedures; risk of harm not recognised	- Recruitment procedures follow Department circulars - All staff Garda vetted before commencing - References verified - Probationary periods applied - Regular re-vetting conducted - Records maintained securely
37	Prevention of bullying and harassment (including sexual harassment) amongst pupils	Physical, emotional, sexual or psychological harm	- Anti-Bullying Policy implemented - SPHE/Wellbeing curriculum addresses bullying prevention - Staff trained in recognition and response - Reporting and investigation procedures - Support for all involved - Parents informed and involved
38	Staff code of conduct/behaviour	Inappropriate staff behaviour; boundaries unclear	- Staff Code of Conduct in place - Code communicated to all staff - Annual reminder of expectations - Disciplinary procedures for breaches - Training on appropriate professional relationships



HIGH CROSS COLLEGE

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified	Procedures/Measures in Place to Mitigate Risk
39	Visitors/contractors present in school during school hours	Unsupervised access to pupils; persons not vetted	- Visitors sign in/out at reception - Visitor badges issued - Supervision/escort where appropriate - Contractors work scheduled outside school hours where possible - Staff awareness of unidentified persons - Vetting required for repeated/unsupervised access
40	Use of toilet and changing facilities during the school day	Inappropriate adult-pupil or pupil-pupil interactions; inadequate privacy	- Separate facilities for staff and pupils - Separate facilities for male and female pupils - Supervision protocols appropriate to age - Staff Code of Conduct on entering pupil facilities - Maintenance ensures privacy - Anti-Bullying Policy applies

Additional Procedures and Policies

High Cross College also has in place the following policies and procedures which support child safeguarding:

- Code of Behaviour for Pupils
- Anti-Bullying Policy (in line with Department procedures)
- Acceptable Use Policy (internet, devices, online learning)
- Policy on Mobile Phones and Smart Devices (Circular 38/2018)
- Child Protection Policy (superseded by this Child Safeguarding Statement)
- Data Protection Policy
- Special Educational Needs Policy
- Intimate Care Policy (where applicable)
- First Aid Policy
- Administration of Medication Policy
- Critical Incident Management Plan
- Policy on External Persons Supplementing Curriculum Delivery
- Visitor/Contractor Management Policy
- Staff Recruitment and Selection Policy
- Staff Code of Conduct
- ICT Security Policy
- Photography and Video Recording Policy
- School Transport Policy (where applicable)
- School Tours and Outings Policy



HIGH CROSS COLLEGE

- Attendance Policy
- Enrolment Policy
- Relationships and Sexuality Education (RSE) Policy
- Social Personal and Health Education (SPHE) Policy
- Wellbeing Policy
- Dignity at Work Policy
- Home School Liaison Policy (where applicable)
- Policy on Student Teachers and Work Experience Students
- After-School Activities Policy (where applicable)

Publication and Display

This statement has been published on the school's website and is made available on request by the school. It has been provided to all members of school personnel, the parents' association, the patron and parents. A copy of this statement and risk assessment will be made available to Tusla and the Department of Education if requested.

A student-friendly version of this Child Safeguarding Statement, including the name and photograph of the DLP, is displayed next to this statement near the main entrance to the school and at other prominent locations used by students.

Review

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.

This Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment was adopted by the Board of Management on: 8th June 2026

Signed:  Date: June 8th 2026
Chairperson of the Board of Management


Signed: Date: June 8th 2026
Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

This Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment is expected to be reviewed again in June 2027

Appendix: Location of Copies of the Child Protection Procedures and Children First Guidance
Copies of the Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025 and Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children 2017 are available as follows:

Online: Department of Education website: www.gov.ie/childprotectionschools

High Cross College website: www.highcrosscollege.ie

Children First National Guidance 2017: www.tusla.ie

Hard Copies Available at:

Principal's Office, Staff Room, Reception