



HIGH CROSS COLLEGE

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

High Cross College is a Post Primary School providing post primary education to pupils from First Year to Leaving Certificate Year.

In accordance with the requirements of the Children First Act 2015, Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children 2017, the Addendum to Children First (2019) and 2025, Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025 and Child Safeguarding: A Guide for Policy, Procedure and Practice, 2nd ed. (Tusla, 2024), the board of management has adopted the Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment set out in this document.

The board of management has adopted and will implement fully and without modification the Department's Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025 as part of this overall Child Safeguarding Statement and accompanying Risk Assessment.

Key Personnel

Name of the Designated Liaison Person (DLP): Neasa Cosgrove

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

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

Name of Relevant Person: Neasa Cosgrove

Relevant Person can be contacted on: Phone: 085 834 7337 Email: neasa.cosgrove@highcrosscollege.ie

Under the Children First Act 2015 Relevant Person means a person who is appointed by a provider of a relevant service to be the first point of contact in respect of the Child Safeguarding Statement. This person is nominated by the board of management to manage and provide oversight of child protection concerns/allegations of child abuse.

Name of Chairperson of the board of management: Mary Hoade

In the event that both DLP and DDLP are absent and unavailable, and where there is no staff member formally acting in their role, the chairperson of the board of management assumes the role of DLP.

Principles of Best Practice

The board of management recognises that child protection and safeguarding permeate all aspects of school life and must be reflected in all of the school's policies, procedures, practices and activities. In all of these, the school will adhere to the following principles of best practice in child protection and welfare. The school will:

- Recognise that the protection and welfare of children is of paramount importance, regardless of all other considerations
- Fully comply with its statutory obligations under the Children First Act 2015 and other relevant legislation relating to the protection and welfare of children
- Fully co-operate with the relevant statutory authorities in relation to child protection and welfare matters



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- Adopt safe practices to minimise the possibility of harm happening to children and protect members of school personnel from the necessity to take unnecessary risks that may leave themselves open to accusations of child abuse
- Develop a practice of openness with parents and encourage parental involvement in the education of their children
- Fully respect confidentiality requirements as set out in the Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025 in dealing with child protection matters
- Adhere to the above principles in relation to any vulnerable adult.

Procedures and Measures in Place

Our Child Safeguarding Statement has been developed in line with requirements under the Children First Act 2015, the Children First: National Guidance 2017, and Child Safeguarding: A Guide for Policy, Procedure and Practice, 2nd ed. (Tusla, 2024), and the Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025. In addition to the procedures listed in our risk assessment, the following procedures support our intention to safeguard children while they are availing of our service:

1. Procedure for the Management of Allegations of Abuse or Misconduct against School Personnel.

- Where any member of school personnel is the subject of any investigation in respect of any act, omission or circumstance in relation to a child attending the school, the school is required to adhere to the relevant procedures set out in Chapter 7 of the Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025 and to the relevant agreed disciplinary procedures for school staff which are published on the gov.ie website.

2. Procedure for the Safe Recruitment and Selection of School Personnel

- The school is required to adhere to the requirements of the Vetting Act. The selection or recruitment of staff and their suitability to work with children requires the school to adhere to the statutory vetting requirements of the National Vetting Bureau (Children and Vulnerable Persons) Acts 2012 to 2016, and to the wider duty of care guidance set out in relevant Garda vetting and recruitment circulars published by the Department of Education and Youth
- A written protocol is in place authorising immediate action for cases which require an employee to be immediately absented from school for child safeguarding reasons

3. Procedure for Provision of and Access to Child Safeguarding Training and Information

- The school provides information and training to members of school personnel in relation to the identification of the occurrence of harm
- The school has provided each member of school personnel, including any new members (employees and volunteers, board of management members, student teachers and those on work experience) with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment.
- The school ensures that members of school personnel have availed of relevant training and completed child protection training
- The school encourages board of management members to avail of any relevant training and complete child protection training
- The board of management ensures that records of all staff and board member child protection training are maintained

4. Procedure for the Reporting of Child Protection or Welfare Concerns to Tusla

All members of school personnel are required to adhere to the procedures set out in the Child Protection



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Procedures for Schools 2025, in relation to reporting of child protection concerns to Tusla. Mandated reporting applies to all registered teachers and any other mandated person who may be employed by the school, for example a chaplain or nurse.

5. Procedure for Maintaining a List of Mandated Persons

There is a procedure in place to maintain a list of mandated persons. This list includes all registered teachers and identifies additional employees that are not registered teachers but who are mandated by virtue of their profession.

6. Procedure for Appointing a Relevant Person

There is a procedure in place for appointing a relevant person (the DLP).

7. Location of Procedures

The various procedures referred to in this Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment can be accessed via:

The school's website: www.highcrosscollege.ie

The gov.ie website: www.gov.ie/childprotectionschools

Hard copies available in: Principal's Office, Staff Room

Children First National Guidance 2017 available at: www.tusla.ie

8. This statement is readily available to all parents and guardians on request. A copy of this Statement will be made available to Tusla and the department if requested.
9. This Child Safeguarding Statement will be reviewed annually or as soon as practicable after there has been a change in any matter to which this statement refers.

This Child Safeguarding Statement was adopted by the Board of management on June 8th 2026

Signed: 

Signed:

Chairperson of the Board of Management



Signed:

Principal