Sligo Grammar School

Company Limited by Guarantee

THE MALL, SLIGO.
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Headmaster
Mr. Michael Hall M Sc.

Child Safeguarding Statement 2026/27

Sligo Grammar School, The Mall, Sligo, County Sligo, is a secondary school with boarding facilities, providing post-primary education to students 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 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 Sligo Grammar School 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 **Mr Michael Hall**

3. The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP is **Mr Jimmy Staunton/ Mr Bryan Henry after 05 October 2026**

4. The Board of Management recognises that child protection and welfare considerations permeate all aspects of school and boarding 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;
- fully respect confidentiality requirements in dealing with child protection matters.

The school will also adhere to the above principles in relation to any adult student 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

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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 DES 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 DES and available on the DES 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 s 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, the Board has carried out an assessment of any potential for harm to a child while attending or boarding at 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 attached as an appendix to these procedures.

- The various procedures referred to in this Statement can be accessed via the school's website, the DES website or will be made available on request by the school.

Note: The above is not intended as an exhaustive list. Individual Boards of Management shall also include in this section such other procedures/measures that are of relevance to the school in question.

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 1st February 2018.

Reviewed
1st February 2018
21st January 2019
23rd September 2019
21st September 2020
16th September 2021
16th November 2022
18 September 2023
16th September 2024
15th September 2025

Signed Mark L Regan Date _15th Sept 26_
On behalf of the Board of Management

Signed [illegible] Date _15th Sept 26_
Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Due for next Review: September 2027

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Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment 2026/27

Written Assessment of Risk of Sligo Grammar School, The Mall, Sligo, Co Sligo

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 Sligo Grammar School, The Mall, County Sligo.

1. **List of school activities**
   - Daily arrival and dismissal of students
   - Recreation breaks for students
   - Classroom teaching
   - One-to-one teaching
   - One-to-one counselling
   - Outdoor teaching activities
   - Sporting activities
   - School outings
   - School trips involving overnight stay
   - School trips involving foreign travel
   - Use of toilet/changing/shower areas in school and boarding areas
   - Sports days
   - Fundraising events involving students
   - Use of off-site facilities for school activities
   - School transport arrangements including use of bus escorts
   - Care of children with special educational needs, including intimate care where needed
   - Care of any vulnerable adult students, including intimate care where needed
   - Management of challenging behaviour amongst students, including appropriate use of restraint where required
   - Administration of medicine
   - Administration of first aid
   - Curricular provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe programmes
   - Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst students
   - Training of school personnel in child protection matters
   - Use of external personnel to supplement curriculum
   - Use of external personnel to support sports and other extra-curricular activities
   - Care of students with specific vulnerabilities/needs such as
     - Students from ethnic minorities/migrants
     - Members of the Traveller community
     - Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender or questioning (LGBTQ+) children

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- Risk of harm due to children inappropriately accessing/using computers, social media, phones and other devices while at school or in the boarding house
- Risk of harm to children with SEN who have particular vulnerabilities
- Risk of harm to child while a child is receiving intimate care
- Risk of harm due to inadequate code of behaviour
- Risk of harm in one-to-one teaching, counselling, coaching situation
- Risk of harm caused by member of school personnel communicating with students in appropriate manner via social media, texting, digital device or other manner
- Risk of harm caused by member of school/boarding personnel accessing/circulating inappropriate material via social media, texting, digital device or other manner.

3. **The school has the following procedures in place to address the risks of harm identified in this assessment**
   - All school/boarding 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/boarding personnel
   - School/boarding 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*
   - 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 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 DES circulars in relation to recruitment and Garda vetting.
   - The school complies with the agreed disciplinary procedures for teaching staff
   - The school has a Special Educational Needs policy
   - 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 code of behaviour for students
   - The school has in place an ICT policy in respect of usage of ICT by students
   - The school has in place a mobile phone policy in respect of usage of mobile phones by students
   - The school has in place a Critical Incident Management Plan
   - The school has in place a policy and procedures in respect of students of the school undertaking work experience in external organisations
   - The school has supervision procedures in place to ensure appropriate supervision of children, during the normal timetable and outside of class

- Students perceived to be LGBTQ+
- Students of minority religious faiths
- Children in care
- Children on CPNS

- Recruitment of school personnel including -
  - Teachers/SNA's/Supervisors/Substitute teachers
  - 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
- Participation by students in religious ceremonies/religious instruction external to the school
- Use of Information and Communication Technology by students in school
- Application of sanctions under the school's Code of Behaviour including detention of students, confiscation of phones etc.
- Students participating in work experience in the school
- Students from the school participating in work experience elsewhere
- Student teachers undertaking training placement in school
- Use of video/photography/other media to record school events
- After-school use of school premises by other organisations
- Use of school premises by other organisations during school day
- Breakfast club
- Canteen services
- Homework club/evening study
- Boarding house; including study areas, dormitories, bathrooms, dining and recreational areas.

2. **The school has identified the following risk of harm in respect of its activities -**
   - Risk of harm not being recognised by school/boarding personnel
   - Risk of harm not being reported properly and promptly by school /boarding personnel
   - Risk of child being harmed in the school by a member of school/boarding personnel
   - Risk of child being harmed in the school/boarding house by another student
   - Risk of child being harmed in the school/boarding house by a volunteer or visitor to the school grounds
   - Risk of child being harmed by a member of school/boarding 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 bullying of child
   - Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children in school/boarding house
   - Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children while attending out of school activities
   - Risk of harm due to inappropriate relationship/communications between child and another child or adult

- time, in the school and boarding areas and in respect of specific areas such as the canteen, toilets, changing rooms, showers etc
- The school has an administration of medicine policy in relation to responsibilities of staff members and procedures to be followed.

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 1st February 2018. It shall be reviewed as part of the school's annual review of its Child Safeguarding Statement.

It was reviewed by the Teaching Staff on 13 December 2018.
Reviewed on 21 January 2019
Reviewed on 23 September 2019
Reviewed on 21 September 2020
Reviewed on 16 September 2021
Reviewed on 16 November 2022
Reviewed on 18th September 2023
Reviewed on 16th September 2024
15th September 2025

Signed Niall L. Regan Date _15th Sept 26_
On behalf of the Board of Management

Signed Gemma Hall Date _15th Sept 26_
Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Due for next Review: September 2027