

OUR LADYS SECONDARY SCHOOL



HEALTH AND SAFETY STATEMENT

Our Lady's Mission Statement

This policy was created in accordance with Our Lady Secondary School's Mission Statement.

Our Lady's Secondary School is a Voluntary Catholic Secondary School operating under the trusteeship of CEIST according to the traditions of the Sisters of Mercy. We, the staff and students, enjoy working together to realise our full potential in a healthy, safe, stimulating and friendly environment where the atmosphere is one of mutual respect, cooperation and challenge. We take a holistic approach focusing on the wellbeing and development of each individual socially, culturally and academically. Within our school community, each student is treated equally. All are considered uniquely talented, with effort valued as much as excellence. On a day-to-day basis, the Christian message inspires everyone in the school to be charitable, inclusive and understanding.

School Context

Our Lady's Secondary School is a Voluntary Catholic School under the trusteeship of CEIST. The school is Co-Educational and currently has approximately 800 students and over 60 teachers as well as a range of ancillary and support staff. The school has a Board of Management comprised of Trustee Nominees, Teacher Nominees and Parent Nominees. The Board of Management delegates the day-to-day running of the school to the Principal. The school supports the principles of inclusiveness, equality of access and parental choice in relation to enrolment. In supporting these principles it also recognizes the rights of the Trustees CEIST, the Religious and Educational Philosophy of the Sisters of Mercy and the funding and resources available.

Mercy Philosophy of Education

Inspired by the vision of Catherine McAuley, Mercy Education is committed to holistic development and to the achievement of the full potential of each student, particularly those who are disadvantaged or marginalised. It is a process informed and influenced by the teaching and example of Jesus Christ and is conducted in an atmosphere of care, respect and joy. Mercy Education is committed to ongoing whole school development in collaboration and partnership with the Board of Management, Staff, Students, Parents/Guardians and the wider community.

CEIST Core Values

The Core Values of CEIST are:

- Promoting Spiritual & Human Development
- Achieving Quality in Teaching and Learning
- Showing Respect for Every Person
- Creating Community
- Being Just and Responsible

Safety Statement

1. This document has been prepared in compliance with the Safety, Health and Welfare at Work Act 2005.

2. Responsibilities of the Board of Management

The board recognises and accepts its statutory responsibilities and its obligations as an employer to direct, manage and achieve in so far as is reasonably practicable, the safety, health and welfare of every employee, pupil and visitor alike. This policy is designed to cater for all people equally and does not discriminate on the grounds of religious belief, political opinion, sex, disability, marital status or age. The board will at each of its meetings include occupational health and safety on its agenda. The board will be responsible for ensuring that adequate financial and physical resources are provided to deal adequately with occupational health and safety issues as they arise. The board may be requested or request to review specific issues during the year as the need arises.

3. Responsibilities of the Principal as Safety Officer

The Principal has executive responsibility for the day to day management and co ordination of all occupational health and safety matters in the school in accordance with the health and safety policy agreed by the Board of Management. The Principal is responsible for the following:

- I. Liaising with the B.O.M. on policy issues and any problems in implementing the health and safety policy.
- II. Carrying out statutory reporting of accidents to the Health and Safety Authority
- III. Ensuring that issues raised by staff on potential hazards are investigated acted upon appropriately to remove or reduce the hazard to an acceptable level.
- IV. Ensuring that safety precautions are implemented when employing outside contractors.
- V. Ensure that all staff members have access to the Safety Statement and have read and signed it.
- VI. Provide information for the safety of new employees, bring to their attention the Safety Statement and their own responsibilities to their employer.
- VII. Ensure that all staff are aware that an Accident Report Form must be completed for all accidents and that all accidents are investigated.

4. Responsibilities of the Deputy Principal

- I. Keep up to date on the duties imposed on the school and its employees by Health and Safety Legislation and advise the Principal as Safety Officer, of any changes to same.
- II. Ensure that the Safety Statement is reviewed on an annual basis.
- III. Ensure that sound and safe work practices are observed at all times.
- IV. Ensure that Fire Safety Policy is followed at all times including that regular fire drills take place and that a review of each drill and associated evacuation procedures is carried out. Any problems in this area should be brought to the attention of the Principal as Safety Officer.
- V. Brief staff re. fire drill protocols.

- VI. Arrange that all students are briefed re. fire drill protocols.
- VII. Devise and implement a system for ensuring that visitors and contractors are informed of Fire Safety Policy.
- VIII. Devise an evacuation and verification process for visitors and contractors.
- IX. Arrange staff supervision rota of students to ensure their safety. X. Arrange relevant staff in-service in health and safety as appropriate.

5. Responsibilities of the Safety Committee

The Safety Committee is made up of representatives of teachers, S.N.A.'s and ancillary staff. The committee has responsibility for:

- I. Consulting with and advising the Principal and Deputy Principal on safety matters in the school.
- II. Monitoring all aspects of safety and health in the workplace.
- III. Ensuring that the Safety Policy is implemented.
- IV. Advising all staff on aspects of safety in the school.
- V. Meet H.S.A. Inspectors on visits to the school when required.
- VI. Hold a minimum of two meetings per year.
- VII. Make recommendations on amendments to the Safety Statement.

The current members of the Safety Committee are: Eddie Kelly (Principal and Safety Officer); Jane Treanor (Deputy Principal) Darren Bishop (Deputy Principal), Adeline Bruen (Teacher), Paul Mc Guirk (Teacher), Kathryn Higgins (Teacher), Enda Tourish (Teacher / A.S.T.I. School Steward), Tony Graham (S.N.A.), Hugh Carragher (Caretaker), Dolores Mc Mahon (Secretary).

6. Responsibilities of Teachers

Teachers are responsible for the day to day management of health and safety in the classroom and other areas of the school. The responsibilities of teachers include: I. Promoting an interest in and enthusiasm for health and safety issues. II. Taking reasonable care of his/her own safety/health and welfare and that of any other person who may be affected by his/her own acts or omissions while at work. III. Carrying out regular inspections to ensure the classroom / work area is adequate as regards health, safety and welfare and passing on this information to the Principal.

- IV. To report to the Principal without unreasonable delay, any defects in equipment, place of work or system of work, which might endanger safety, health or welfare, of which he/she becomes aware of.
- V. Ensuring that any measures identified as necessary by the risk assessments are fully implemented as soon as is reasonably practicable.
- VI. Enforcing rules of conduct as outlined in the school's Code Of Behaviour VII. Investigating, recording and reporting incidents/accidents that occur in their domain, as detailed in the school incident reporting procedure.
- VIII. Ensuring students involved in accidents receive first aid or medical attention as required.
- IX. Adequately supervising, instructing, informing and training students to enable them to participate in school activities safely.
- X. Wearing and insisting that all students wear personal protective clothing/equipment

and apparel as appropriate.

- XI. Taking a full and active part in all training for safety that the school organises.
- XII. Actively participate in all fire drills and implement fully agreed protocols.
- XIII. Record all incidents/accidents on Accident Report Form.

7. Responsibilities of Special Needs Assistants

Special Needs Assistants have responsibilities towards the students in their care. Their responsibilities include the following:

- I. Taking reasonable care for his/her own safety, health and welfare and that of any other person who may be affected by his/her acts or omissions while at work.
- II. Ensuring that equipment, furniture and the work environment are suitable for the tasks undertaken and the needs of the individual.
- III. To report to the teacher without unreasonable delay any defect in equipment, place of work or system of work, which might endanger safety, health or welfare, of which he/she becomes aware.
- IV. Taking a full and active part on all training programs for safety that the school organises.
- V. Ensuring students in their care are evacuated in line with protocols when fire alarm is activated.
- VI. Record all incidents/accidents on Accident Report Form.

8. Responsibilities of Supervisors

Teachers and other staff, who supervise, have responsibilities for the students prior to school starting, during breaks and after school. The responsibilities of those supervising include the following:

- I. Ensuring a degree of proactivity in supervising commensurate with the activities students are involved in and the age and maturity of the students.
- II. Enforcing rules of conduct that are outlined in the school's Code of Behaviour.
- III. Ensuring students do not enter areas that are out of bounds at particular times of the day.
- IV. Investigating, recording and reporting incidents/accidents that occur in their domain, as detailed in the school incident reporting procedure.
- V. Ensuring students involved in accidents receive first aid or medical attention as required.
- VI. Keeping good order both inside and outside the school premises.
- VII. Actively participate in fire safety drills.
- VIII. Record all incidents/accidents on Accident Report Form.

9. Responsibilities of Administrative Staff

The responsibilities of administrative staff include the following:

- I. Actively participating in fire drills.
- II. Carrying out regular inspections to ensure the office is satisfactory in terms of health and safety.
- III. Reporting any defects in office equipment as soon as possible.
- IV. Maintaining a list of emergency numbers.
- V. Taking reasonable care of their own safety, health and welfare and that of any other person who may be affected by their acts/omissions while at work.
- VI. Record all

incidents/accidents on Accident Report Form.

10. Responsibilities of Caretakers

The caretakers have responsibility for the general care and maintenance of the school. Their responsibilities include:

- I. Taking reasonable care of their own safety, health and welfare and that of any other person who may be affected by their acts or omissions while at work.
- II. Carrying out regular inspections to ensure the internal and external school grounds and buildings are satisfactory as regards health, safety and welfare. The findings of such inspections should be communicated to the Principal as soon as possible after the inspection has taken place.
- III. Reporting to the Principal, without unreasonable delay, any defects in plant, equipment, place of work or system of work, which might endanger safety, health or welfare of which they become aware.
- IV. Making correct use of machinery, apparatus, tools, dangerous substances or any other equipment.
- V. Using suitable appliances, protective clothing, equipment or other aids provided to secure safety, health or welfare and not to interfere with or misuse any of same.
- VI. Being thoroughly familiar with the operating procedures before using machinery or power equipment.
- VII. Ensuring that no one has access to areas which are hazardous or where hazardous work is in progress.
- VIII. Preventing the build up of rubbish, in particular combustible material.
- IX. Ensuring the proper maintenance of furniture, equipment and the work environment within the school.
- X. Disposing of all faulty furniture and equipment which is beyond repair.
- XI. Not carrying out any tasks that they are not competent or permitted to carry out or which involve unreasonably high risk.
- XII. Turning off all equipment not in use overnight.
- XIII. Taking a full and active part in all training programs for safety that the school organises facilitates or recommends.
- XIV. Implementing all areas of safety training.
- XV. Reporting to the Principal any activities which may compromise health, safety or welfare of any member of the school community, visitor or contractor.
- XVI. Record all incidents/ accidents on Accident report Form.

11. Responsibilities of the Cleaning Staff.

Cleaning staff have responsibility for the general cleanliness and hygiene of the school. They have specific responsibilities, in the context of health and safety, to:

- I. Take reasonable care for their own safety, health and welfare and that of any other person who may be affected by their actions or omissions while at work.
- II. Co-operate with the Principal, Caretaker and any other person to such an extent as will enable the Principal or the other competent person to comply with any of the relevant statutory provisions.

- III. Reporting to the Principal, without unreasonable delay, any defects in plant,

equipment, place of work or system of work, which might endanger safety, health or welfare of which they become aware.

- IV. Be familiar with fire drill protocols.
- V. To attend immediately to spillages.
- VI. To use appropriate signage when cleaning is in progress or where a spillage or other hazardous object is present.
- VII. To ensure all mats and carpets are properly laid.
- VIII. Record all incidents/accidents on Accident Report Form.

12. Responsibilities of Temporary Employees

Temporary workers directly employed by Our Lady's Secondary School whether on a fixed term contract or not, will as regards, health, safety and welfare are generally considered as employees. They will assume the duties and responsibilities commensurate with their role, as outlined in the preceding sections.

13. Safety Representative

The Safety Representative may consult with and make representations to the Principal, as Safety Officer, on safety, health and welfare matters relating to the employees in their place of work. The Principal in consultation with the Board of Management must consider these representations, and act on them if necessary. The intention of these consultations is to prevent accidents and ill health, to highlight problems and identify means of overcoming them. The functions of the Safety Representative include: I.

Accompanying an H.S.A. Inspector carrying out an inspection under section 64 of the 2005 Act other than the investigation of an accident or dangerous occurrence (although this may be allowed at the discretion of the inspector)

- II. At the discretion of the H.S.A. inspector, and where the employee concerned so requests, be present when an employee is being interviewed by an inspector about an accident or dangerous occurrence at work.
- III. Make representations to the Board of Management on safety, health and welfare at the place of work.
- IV. Make verbal or written representations to H.S.A. inspectors including on the investigation of accidents or dangerous occurrences.
- V. Receive advice and H.S.A. inspectors in relation to safety, health and welfare in the place of work.

The current Safety Representative is Enda Tourish

14. Responsibilities of First Aiders

The responsibilities of occupational first aiders are to:

- I. Participate in certificate and refresher training.
- II. Where required, promptly administer first aid to any employee, student, contractor or visitor in accordance with knowledge or training.
- III. Conduct periodic inspection and co-ordinate replenishment of first aid supplies and equipment including defibrillators.

15. Responsibilities of Contractors and Subcontractors

It is the responsibility of all contractors and subcontractors to:

- I. Ensure that all their employees comply with Our Lady's Secondary School safety rules and procedures.
- II. Not put at risk any of the employees or students of Our Lady's Secondary School.
- III. Promptly report all accidents/incidents to the Principal as Safety Officer.
- IV. Produce their safety statement to the Principal on request and prior to commencing work.
- V. Carry appropriate insurance cover.
- VI. Take appropriate safety precautions with systems of work, equipment, personal protection, etc.
- VII. Ensure all equipment and tools brought onto the school's premises be of sound construction and meet the statutory requirements applicable to these tools and equipment.
- VIII. Cordon off the boundaries of the contractors operation, where possible, and mark them with warning signs.
- IX. Comply with all relevant legal obligations, in particular the provisions of the Safety, Health and Welfare at Work Act 2005, the Safety, Health and Welfare (General Application) Regulations 2007 and the Safety Health and Welfare (Construction Regulations) 2006.

16 Duty of all staff

It is not appropriate for any member of staff in a school to be under the influence of any intoxicant.

It is the duty of all staff, if reasonably required by his or her employer, to submit to any reasonable and proportionate tests for intoxicants by, or under the supervision of a registered medical practitioner who is a competent person as prescribed.

17. Hazards

Following a detailed review of the school premises and activities a number of hazards have been identified. These are listed in Appendix 1 to this statement together with procedures for dealing with them where appropriate.

18. Safety Training

All employees will be:

- (a) Advised on the nature and location of fire equipment and how it might be operated.
- (b) Instructed in evacuation procedures.
- (c) Notified of any changes in safety procedures.
- (d) Periodically offered training in first aid.

19. Welfare

(a) Toilet and cloakroom facilities are provided and employees must help to maintain a high standard of hygiene in these areas.

(b) Any person who is under medical supervision or on prescribed medication and who has been certified fit for work, should notify the Principal of any known side effects or temporary physical disabilities which could hinder their work performance and which may be a danger to either themselves or their fellow workers or pupils. The Principal will arrange or assign appropriate tasks for that person to carry out in the interim.

(c) It is recognised that from time to time staff may experience work related stress. It is our aim to be proactive in the reduction/management of sources of stress. Staff who are subject to occupational stressors are encouraged to seek assistance from school management who may refer them to Call Care, the Occupational Health Service Medmark.

(d) Our Lady's Policy Dignity in the Workplace outlines the procedures which should be followed by any member of the school community who may experience sexual harassment, harassment or bullying.

(f) This school is committed to protecting the reproductive health of all employees. A pregnant employee must notify management of her condition as soon as is practicable after it occurs and, at time of notification, give or produce for inspection a medical or other appropriate certificate confirming her condition.

20. First Aid(See Appendix 2)

First Aid is available in the following areas: (a) Secretary's Office

(b) Gym

(c) H.E. Rooms

(d) Science Labs

Sick students must report directly to the Principal or Deputy-Principal or the relevant Year head. With their permission they should make contact with home via the Secretary's office before leaving the premises. They should also sign out if going home due to illness. No medication should be administered to any student unless on medical advice and with prior approval of parents/guardians. If a student sustains an injury he/she should be brought to the Secretary's office. If the student is bleeding protective gloves should be used when administering first aid. If deemed necessary the student may be brought to a more private location for treatment. Parents may be contacted or medical assistance sought if deemed necessary. Details of the injury should be recorded on the Accident Report Form kept in the office.

21. Fire

(a) Fire Protection

Fire extinguishers, hose reels and fire blankets are provided and correctly sited to meet

statutory and insurance requirements.

All fire fighting equipment is tested and serviced annually. In accordance with the recommendation of the appropriate Irish Standard for fire equipment, 20% of fire extinguishers will be discharged each year and relevant employees trained in the use of the equipment.

All fire exits and emergency paths or exits are clearly marked.

(b)Prevention

- (a) Regular fire drills are held.
- (b) Students are made aware of fire prevention

Liaison with relevant authorities takes place as is necessary.

c)Evacuation

An evacuation procedure has been prepared and is provided for each employee. Evacuation drills will take place at least twice per year or more frequently if required. Employees are reminded to familiarise themselves with the procedures so that a fast and effective evacuation of the premises can be completed in the event of an emergency.

22. Smoking

As Our Lady's Secondary School is a public building smoking is prohibited by

law. 23.Accident/Incident Report Procedures

(a)All incidents, no matter how trivial, whether to employees, pupils or visitors, must be reported to the Safety Officer through the Accident report Form which is attached to the weekly information email sent to staff and can be accessed through the shared staff information drive. This is necessary to monitor the progress of safety standards and to ensure that proper medical attention is given where required.

(b)An Accident Report is sent out each week on the information email and can be accessed through the staff shared drive.

(c)Accidents shall be notified to Insurers on appropriate forms.

(d) All stress related absences greater than three days to be reported to the

H.S.A. 24.Sport

The protocols for those involved in sport are outlined in Appendix 3. There are also comprehensive guidelines for P.E. outlined in Appendices 6 and 7.

25. Visitors to the school

- (a) All parents and visitors to the school should use the visitor's car par if travelling by car.
- (b) All parents and visitors should report in the first instance to the school office and sign the Visitors Book.
- (c) No contractor may undertake work on the school site without permission of the Principal or his agent other than in an emergency, e.g. fire, flooding or to make safe following theft/vandalism.
- (d) Contractors are responsible for the Health and Safety of their employees and for their safe working practices, which must not constitute a hazard to staff, students and visitors to the school.
- (e) Hirer's of the school premises must use school equipment correctly and use appropriate safety equipment. They must also have their own insurance in place of which a copy must be furnished to the school.

26. Transport

The protocols for transport are outlined in Appendix 5

27. Lone Worker Procedures

The B.O.M. is committed to ensuring staff, volunteers and contractors enjoy a safe working environment. It is recognised that there are occasions when teaching, support, administrative, cleaning staff may be required, or choose, to work alone or in isolated situations. This however may introduce risks for a normally non-hazardous work activity.

Procedure:

- (a) Staff should seek permission from the Principal to work alone in the building outside of normal school hours.
- (b) The experience and training of all staff and the activities to be undertaken will be taken into consideration before allowing lone working. Lone workers must be considered capable of responding correctly in an emergency situation by the Principal. Whenever possible it is recommended that staff work with a colleague.
- (c) Staff should not enter the school premises if there are signs of intruders but should contact the Principal and if necessary the Gardaí.
- (d) Staff should lock entrance doors upon entering and leaving the building. The alarm should also be activated on leaving the building.
- (e) Staff should not work alone if they have a medical condition that might cause incapacity or unconsciousness.
- (f) Contractors should have access to their own first aid kit suitable for treating minor injuries.
- (g) Lone workers should not undertake activities that involve the handling of money, working at height or any task which is potentially hazardous given their own level of experience and the nature of the task.

28. Student Pregnancy

The protocols are outlined in appendix 8

29 List of Appendices

1. Hazards
2. First Aid
3. Sports Protocols
4. Administration of Prescribed Medicines
5. Transport
6. P.E. Code of Behaviour
7. Protocol for Pregnant Students
8. Emergency Response Protocol
9. Fire Safety Policy

30. Conclusion

This Safety Statement has been prepared based on conditions existing in the School at the time of writing. It may be altered, revised or updated as required to reflect any changes in those conditions.

31. Review

There is a statutory obligation to review this policy on an annual basis.

Signed: *Dr. Gary Carville*

Date: February 29th 2024

Chairperson Board of Management

Review date: 2026

Appendix 1

Hazards

1. Science Rooms

Hazard

Dangerous chemicals are stored in these rooms and are used for experiments. Flammable liquids are stored and used during experiments. Bunsen burners, hotplates, power supplies, specialised glassware, dissection instruments and lasers are used during experiments. Gas taps and electrical sockets are present in science rooms for experimental purposes.

Procedures for dealing with hazard

- (a) The Science Rooms are to be locked except when in use. Each teacher is responsible for locking the room at the end of each class.
- (b) When the class teacher is absent the class should be supervised at an alternative location whenever possible
- (c) Pupils are not allowed to remain in Science Rooms without a teacher present.
- (d) Chemicals must be properly labelled and stored.
- (e) Out of date chemicals must be disposed of in an appropriate manner. (f) Safety equipment provided (e.g. gloves, safety glasses, etc) must be used by teachers and pupils.
- (g) Detailed instructions on the safe use of science rooms are prominently displayed therein.
- (h) Broken glassware to be disposed of in the appropriate manner.
- (i) After school students should only be in the Science Rooms at the request of, and under the supervision of, a teacher.
- (j) Eating and drinking is prohibited in Science Rooms.
- (k) Chemical stores are kept locked.
- (l) Fume cupboards are available to enable safe use of hazardous chemicals.
- (m) Students are made aware of general and specific hazards before commencing experiment work.
- (n) Safety exits are clearly displayed and not obstructed.
- (o) Gas and electricity can be shut down by a main control in each science room.
- (p) Fire extinguishers are available.
- (q) A First Aid Box is available in each science room- supplied with plasters, sterile wipes, eye wash and burns spray.
- (r) Accidents are reported in the school's main Accident Report Form book. (s) Membership of CLEAPPS provides the Science Department with up to date health and safety information.

2. Home Economics Kitchens

Hazard

Cooking and preparation of hot foods which could splash or spill on teachers or students. Risk of cuts when preparing ingredients for cooking. Cookers are operated by gas and electricity which require special safety procedures.

Procedures for dealing with hazard

- (a) The kitchen must be locked except when in use. Each teacher is responsible for locking the room at the end of the class.
- (b) Pupils are not allowed in the room unless a teacher is present.
- (c) Safety equipment supplied (e.g. gloves) must be used by teachers and students where appropriate.
- (d) All gas and electricity must be shut down at the main control.
- (e) Plasters and sterile wipes are available in the First Aid Box.
- (f) A mop is available for spillages.
- (g) In the event of minor burns a burn spray is available in the First Aid Box. Medical attention should be sought if the incident is serious.
- (h) Fire extinguisher is available in corridor outside kitchens. A fire blanket is also available.
- (i) A poster highlighting safety procedures is prominently displayed in each kitchen. (j) Fire escape route prominently displayed in each kitchen.
- (k) Any electrical appliance or piece of equipment found to be in an unsafe condition to be reported immediately to the appropriate authority.
- (l) When the class teacher is absent the class should be supervised at an alternative location whenever possible.
- (m) After school students should only be in the Home Economics Rooms at the request of, and under the supervision of, a teacher.

3.Sewing Room

Hazard

Sewing machines contain sharp needles which present a danger to

safety. **Procedures for dealing with hazard.**

- (a) The Sewing Room must be locked except when in use. Each teacher is responsible for locking the room at the end of each class.
- (b) A First Aid Box is available.
- (c) All electrical appliances must be switched off at the end of each class. (d)

Students are not permitted to use any equipment (e.g. sewing machines, scissors, etc.) except under the supervision of their class teacher.

(e) After school students should only be in the Sewing Room at the request of, and under the supervision of, a teacher.

4. Art Room

Accident Prevention

TEACHING SAFELY

As teachers, we have the major responsibility for ensuring the safety of the students. This is not limited to having a safe classroom for students. We also have the major responsibility for ensuring that students receive adequate safety instruction and that they are properly supervised. The following are some rules we abide by to ensure that we best protect our students and ourselves

1) Instruct Students in Safety

Information on the hazards of art materials and techniques should be incorporated into all classes and students should be tested on this material as they are in other areas. Preferably this instruction should include some written information (e.g. data sheets, written safety rules, books) that are placed at Hazard areas around room. Also the interactive board may be used to project rules as students perform the task.

2) Supervise Students Carefully

For both safety and liability reasons, there should always be adequate supervision of students in classrooms. Safety rules should be rigidly enforced. Students should never be allowed to work in the Art Room without direct supervision.

3) Awareness of Special Needs of Disabled or Other High Risk Students Some students, such as emotionally disturbed students, physically disabled students, or pregnant students might need special supervision and attention. In some instances they may not be capable of using the same materials and processes as other students. Careful evaluation is needed in each case to determine what special precautions might be necessary

4) Preparedness For Emergencies

This includes fire drill procedures, use of fire extinguishers, proper spill control procedures, how to shut down processes and machinery in an emergency, what to do in case of an accident, and who to contact in an emergency. There is also a First Aid Box in the Art Room for use in small accidents. It is located on top shelf over first sink.

5) Report All Accidents and Illnesses

All accidents (even minor ones such as a small cut) and illnesses suspected of being related to art materials (allergic reaction, spills, fainting etc.) are reported on the Accident

Report Form which is in the office.

6) Enforce Good Work Practices

- * Do not allow eating or drinking in the Art Room
- * Do not wash hands with solvents; use soap and water. To remove oil paints, or oil based inks, use baby oil and then soap and water, or use gloves provided. * Do not allow loose long hair (tie back), loose sleeves,(roll up), necklaces (remove) around machinery.

7) Teacher as role model for students

As a teacher, it is necessary to obey the safety regulations oneself in order to impress on the students the importance of these rules.

Major incidents associated with art rooms include:

Fires originating with photography chemicals and flammable chemicals such as paint thinners and removers.

Frequently reported Art Room accidents include:

- Inhalation of fumes from heated glazes and sprays
- Eye injuries associated with chemical splashes, flying chips, and airborne dusts
- Cuts when using scissors, knives and carving chisels
- Failure to wipe up spills immediately... Slips/falls on spilled liquids
- Toxicity of materials...Poisoning from chemical misuse
- Paper Guillotine
- Mechanical Tools
- Craft Knives
- Improper ventilation
- Not knowing current safety procedures such as First Aid
- Lifting of heavy loads such as Clay
- Poor maintenance of equipment
- Using equipment for an unintended purpose

Accident Prevention

To minimize the potential for accidents to occur in the Art Rooms the following procedures should be adopted:

- Before students begin a new art project, safety rules should be presented to students. The instructor should verify that students understand the rules.
- The First Aid Box in the Art Room should be fully stocked and equipped.
- Gloves provided for cleaning.
- Class room safety rules published and displayed.
- Supervised equipment used.
- Secure storage for materials.
- Secure storage for equipment in storeroom.

- School safety rules made know to students.
 - Annual equipment, furniture and room check.
 - Fire extinguisher in Art Room checked and maintained as recommended. •
- Students informed of evacuation procedures and evacuation map visible in Art Room.
- Storage facilities: Storeroom has lock and key.
 - After school students should only be in the Art Room at the request of, and under the supervision of, a teacher.
 - The Art Room must be kept locked except when in use.

Cooperation required from students: Pupils to be informed regularly Rules regarding what to do in case of an accident:

- Pupils to stay calm, inform the teacher of what has occurred and await instruction from teacher. A student may be dispatched to get assistance from the school office or another teacher. The teacher will stay with the student who has been injured. In case of an accident with the teacher a student should seek help from the school office or another teacher.

Rules regarding what to do in case of a fire:

- Fire evacuation procedures should be clearly displayed. Pupils to stay calm, leave all their goods in the classroom and line up in an orderly fashion as directed by the teacher. If a fire should occur near a student the student should inform the teacher immediately. Students should follow the agreed evacuation procedures outlined above.

5.T4 Subjects

Hazard

There are a number of dangerous machines in this room such as the circular saw. In addition a number of the instruments used have the potential to be dangerous.

Procedures for dealing with hazard.

- (a) The T4 Rooms must be kept locked except when in use. Each teacher is responsible for locking the room at the end of each class.
- (b) When the class teacher is absent the class should be supervised at an alternative location whenever possible
- (c) All machines should be used **only** under the supervision and guidance of the class teacher.
- (d) An external audit was carried out by a Health and Safety consultant. (e) On first

entering the workshop students have the rules explained to them. They are then allocated a bench which they will use for the remainder of their time in the workshop.

- (f) All machines are tested on a regular basis. The teachers then discuss the results of the tests. A record of all tests is kept.
- (g) All teachers have received appropriate First Aid instruction.
- (h) Signage is used to reinforce good practice.
- (i) Faulty or malfunctioning equipment should be brought to the attention of the class teacher immediately.
- (j) Schoolbags should not be left near machines where there is a risk of a student tripping on them.
- (k) Pupils are not allowed in the room unless a teacher is present.
- (l) Appropriate safety equipment must be used by teacher and students(e.g. safety glasses)
- (m) After school students should only be in the Construction Studies Room at the request of, and under the supervision of, the class teacher.
- (n) Each student must adhere by the workshop rules:
 - a. Show courtesy and respect towards other students at all times.
 - b. Use hand tools correctly.
 - c. No running in the workshop.
 - d. Keep the workshop tidy.
 - e. Wear goggles when using machines to keep eyes safe.
 - f. Do not use a machine without having been shown how to use it properly and without permission to use it.
 - g. Know where the emergency exit is.
 - h. Be aware of the location of fire extinguishers.
 - i. Wear a mask when using equipment that produces fumes.
 - j. Check that tools are safe to use.
 - k. Tie back long hair.
 - l. Only one person per machine.
 - m. Obey all teacher instructions.
 - n. Ensure there is no loose clothing.

6.Computer Rooms

Hazard

There is a high density of electrical sockets in these rooms. There is the potential to access sites of an inappropriate nature.

Procedures for dealing with hazard

- (a) Computer Rooms must be kept locked except when in use. Each teacher is responsible for locking the room at the end of each class.
- (b) When the class teacher is absent the class should be supervised at an alternative location whenever possible
- (c) Computers should be used only under the supervision of the class

- teacher. (d) Pupils are not allowed in the room unless a teacher is present.
- (e) Faulty and malfunctioning equipment should be brought to the attention of the teacher and I.T. administrator immediately.
- (f) After school students should only be in the Computer Rooms at the request of, and under the supervision of, a teacher.
- (g) Students are permitted to use the computers for school related work only. (h) All students and staff must abide by and follow the Internet Acceptable Usage Policies.

7.Gym

Hazard

There is a number of pieces of equipment (e.g. climbing frame) which are potentially dangerous if left unsupervised. Condensation may lead to damp patches on the floor which could cause students to slip and injure themselves.

Procedures for dealing with hazard.

- (a) Gym must be kept locked except when in use. Each teacher is responsible for locking the gym after class.
- (b) All equipment should only be used under the supervision of a ~~qualified~~ teacher.
- (c) Faulty equipment should be brought to the attention of the teacher immediately.
- (d) A mop is provided to clear damp areas on the floor.
- (e) Appropriate clothing and footwear should be used for all activities undertaken.
- (f) A First Aid Box is available for minor injuries.
- (g) In the event of serious injury professional medical assistance should be sought.
- (h) School bags should not be placed on the gym floor.
- (i) Students are not allowed in the Gym unless a teacher is present.

8.Horticulture

Hazard

There is a number of pieces of equipment which are potentially dangerous if not used in the correct manner.

Procedures for dealing with hazard.

- (a) Students are taught the correct method of handling, transporting and storing tools.
- (b) The main tools used are spades, digging forks, secateurs and loppers. (c) Most tools are manually operated but students are also taught overall safety on the farm

and in the garden.

(d) Accidents are reported in the Accident Report Form in the office. (e) Chemicals are rarely used as organic horticulture is taught. In the very few cases where the lessons refer to chemicals a placebo is used and students wear protective clothing, goggles and gloves.

(f) When leaving the classroom to work outside or to visit a location off the school premises students are given instructions re. the route to be taken, the length of time it should take and to remain together.

9.Student Movement

Hazard

The teachers are class based which entails considerable student movement during the course of the day. There is potential for congestion and student injury due to trips and falls.

Procedures for dealing with risk.

- (a) Students are instructed to walk from class to class. No running is permitted.
- (b) Students are supervised before school, at break-time, at lunchtime and immediately after school.
- (c) A one way system is recommended in certain areas of the school at busy times of the day.
- (d) To facilitate student movement students must queue for class as designated (e) School bags may not be left in certain areas(indicated by signage and markings)

10.School grounds

Hazard

There are a number of areas on the school grounds which are potentially

dangerous. **Procedures for dealing with risk**

The following areas are out of bounds to students;

- (a) All classrooms (except under the supervision of a teacher)
- (b) All rooftops
- (c) Boiler House
- (d) Concert Hall (except under the supervision of a teacher)
- (e) All electrical appliances (unless being used under supervision)
- (f) Back of gym
- (g) Main school buildings (except G.P.A. area) during break and lunchtime as notified.
- (h) School Kitchen
- (i) All plant and equipment
- (j) Caretaker's workshop
- (k) Convent Avenue

11. School bags

Hazard

School Bags left in inappropriate places constitute a risk in respect of trips and falls.

Procedures for dealing with risk

- (a) Lockers are provided for all students who wish to avail of them.
- (b) Bags are not permitted in areas which block doors, fire exits or in areas where there is pedestrian traffic.
- (c) Where racks are provided students are expected to use these for the storage of their bags.

12.School Canteen

Hazard

Risk from spillages of hot drink. Large numbers assembling in a confined area may lead to crushing.

Procedures for dealing with risk

- (a) A queuing system is in operation for those wishing to purchase food in the canteen. The queue is monitored and roped off from the rest of the G.P.A. (b)

The G.P.A. is supervised at break time and lunchtime

(c) First Years are permitted to leave class five minutes early to reduce congestion.

(d) Students are instructed to clean up spillages immediately. Mops and clothes are available.

Appendix 2 First Aid

First Aid Kits are available in the Secretary's Office; Gym and H.E. Room. There are also three kits available for teams. For matches the kit should be collected and returned to office. T.Graham is responsible for the maintenance of First Aid Kits. Kits are to be checked and replenished on a weekly basis. Each kit should contain the following:

- Deep Freeze Cold Spray(1)
- Savlon Anti-septic wipes(1)
- Elastoplast Antiseptic dressings(1)
- Tubigrip bandage(1)
- Instant Ice Pack(1)
- Stevi Strip Scissors(1)
- Crepe Bandage(3)
- Surgical Tape(1)
- Conforming Bandage(1)
- Savlon Anti-septic bandage(1)
- Eye pads(2)
- Distilled water(1)
- Pairs of gloves(20)
- Sticky Bandages(7)

The following person is fully qualified to administer first aid: Tony Graham

Defibrillators are available: In the school office and the school gym. An additional one is available when school teams are playing matches.

Personnel trained to use a defibrillator: T.Graham; J.O'Boyle; E.Kelly; E.Tourish; D.Bishop; K.Clerkin;B.McArdle.

Appendix 3 Sports Protocols

- All students are insured as part of the school insurance scheme. • Two people to accompany a team to games. If cover cannot be provided for two members of staff one member of staff will travel with one other adult approved by the Principal. At least one of the supervising adults must be the same gender as the team members.
- All team mentors to be provided with basic training in first aid. • Team mentor is responsible for bringing a first aid kit to all games. • In the event of a serious injury a team mentor will immediately contact the school Principal and the parent/guardian of the injured student.
- If the injury requires immediate medical attention the teacher should contact the emergency services and one of the two adults in charge should accompany the student to the

hospital, accompanied by two students, if available. That person should wait at the hospital with the student until such time as a parent/guardian or other family member arrives.

- If an injury requires the attention of a local doctor a mentor should accompany the student to the doctor on their return to school and wait with the student until such time as a parent/guardian or other family member arrives.
- If the parent/guardian of the injured student is in attendance at the game they may take the student to the hospital/ doctor if they wish to do so.
- The teacher should report any incident requiring medical attention on an Accident Report Form upon his/her return to the school.

Appendix 4

Administration of Prescribed Drugs

- I. School staff is prohibited from administering any medication to students with the exception of administering an epi-pen in the case of an allergic where the parents/guardians have given prior approval.
- II. Parents should inform school authorities of any student allergies at time of enrolment or when such allergies come to notice. Written consent should be given if parents wish that an epi-pen be administered to their son/daughter.
- III. School authorities should be notified if a student is on any ongoing medication e.g. treatment for diabetes (adrenalin pen etc)
- IV. Where necessary the school will store and make available to the student prescribed medication in accordance with written medical instructions from the student's doctor. The school authorities will also make available a suitable location for administering the medication.
- V. All medication should be administered out of public view.
- VI. No student should consume prescribed medication on the school premises without the prior knowledge and approval of the Principal.

Appendix 5

Transport

The close proximity of the student population to motorised traffic constitutes a significant risk. A number of protocols have been put in place to minimise this risk: a) Students are not permitted to take motorised vehicles onto the school premises. b) All parents and visitors should park in the visitor's car park.

- c) Designated disability parking spots have been provided.
- d) Access to the school grounds is regulated by a coded traffic barrier. Only authorised vehicles may pass beyond this point.
- e) A maximum vehicular speed of 5Km/hr is indicated by prominently displayed signage.
- f) Vehicular speed is also regulated by a number of speed ramps.
- g) School buses do not enter the school premises but stop at designated areas near the boundary of the school grounds. Supervision is provided in the evening when a large number of students are departing on buses at the same time.
- h) Parents' cars are not permitted to enter the school grounds to drop or collect

students unless approved by Principal when there are exceptional circumstances (e.g. the student is on crutches or in a wheelchair).

Appendix 7

Protocol for students who are pregnant while attending Our Lady's Secondary School.

This protocol is based on the Guidelines as contained in the

'Guidelines for Best Practice in Supporting Students who are Pregnant and those who are Parents within our Education System'. Produced by Treoir

This document provides a working template for schools to develop guidelines for best practice around the needs of these students. Our Lady's will also shape and develop this to ensure that it facilitates students who are pregnant and their parents to receive the maximum support that the school can provide within the context and ethos of Our Lady's.

Teen pregnancy and parenthood can with effective support lead to positive outcomes for the parent and child. The education system is one of the agencies well placed to promote this aspect of social inclusion. Teenage pregnancy and parenthood has been identified as an important social, health and education issue.

Aim of This Protocol

- To put in place supports aimed at ensuring that students who become pregnant or who are parents are supported to continue in education¹.
- Respond to a disclosure of pregnancy
- Identify and respond to the individual needs of students who are pregnant and those who are parents in the school
- Support the student while attending Our Lady's for the duration of their pregnancy and support their return to education following the birth of their baby • Ensure within the resources available to Our Lady's, that health and safety matters relating to a pregnancy are met. This may where necessary and appropriate involve referral to outside agencies
- Ensure that each student who is pregnant is aware of the range of supports available to her.
- Provide a recommended sample of a student care plan, which will set out clearly the roles and responsibilities of the school and student
- Raise the awareness of those in education on the necessity to both sustain an environment where student care is paramount and whereby a student who is pregnant will feel able to disclose their pregnancy
- Enable the school to respond in a focused and planned way to the range of needs

that emerge throughout the pregnancy

Core Principles underpinning this protocol

- The vulnerability of a student who is pregnant needs to be kept to the fore at all times.
- There may be a number of issues in relation to disclosure, health issues and choices.
- Partnership between school, home/family, community/statutory agencies and voluntary bodies is central to supporting a student in this context.
- Respect and support from within the school for those who volunteer to work with these students

Confidentiality

- Confidentiality is about managing sensitive information that arises in a trusting relationship and doing so in a manner that is respectful, professional, and trustful and in accordance with the policy practice of Our Lady's.
- All staff members must inform the Principal if it comes to their attention that a student at Our Lady's is pregnant.
- Principal will inform relevant personnel including relevant staff, students' parents and where appropriate relevant outside agencies
- Having informed the Principal, all staff should treat in confidence information about students including: name, address, biographical details and other descriptions of the individual's life and circumstances which might result in identification of the student member.
- It is good practice to inform the student (preferably with their consent) that the Principal will be informed of the disclosure.
- The personal circumstance of any student should be disclosed to other staff only on a 'need to know' basis.
- Staff should always show respect for the interests and welfare of students. .

Disclosure

The following guidelines aim to ensure that in the event of a disclosure of a pregnancy that the disclosure is handled in a manner, which is respectful, sensitive and at all times is supportive of the students' well-being. Students should feel safe and comfortable in coming forward to make disclosures. A disclosure of pregnancy may come from the student themselves, her partner (who may also be a student), parents or a third party.

Staff cannot make a promise to keep a disclosure of pregnancy a secret as the Principal must be informed. This must be managed in a sensitive transparent way with the student concerned.

It is important to consider the following when a disclosure is made

- The initial disclosure may be a partial disclosure or a series of indirect questions about

pregnancy which is often to gauge the reaction of the staff member to the fact that the student may be pregnant

- The student may be experiencing a wide range of emotions in response to the pregnancy which can often be conflicting and traumatic and include;
 - a. fear, uncertainty with regard to what is involved
 - b. guilt, blame, embarrassment confusion and anxiety while awaiting a reaction from the person to whom the disclosure is being made
 - c. fear of consequence from the disclosure particularly if the parent/guardian is unaware of the pregnancy
 - d. stigma resulting from the perceived reaction from the staff, other students and the community generally.

- If the disclosure is by the student herself or father she will most likely have deliberately chosen the person whom they wish to disclose to because of their sense of trust in the person

- All disclosures of pregnancy or suspected pregnancy should be treated seriously in an informed, sensitive and professional manner

- It is important to observe what is said and the behaviour of the student as the disclosure is being made, noting any signs of anxiety, stress, fear etc

- In the event that a disclosure occurs when the teacher is otherwise occupied, finding the space, including physical space, to stop and listen is important

- Allow the student to talk without prompting, do not rush the student • Maintain a calm atmosphere throughout this time

- Avoid questions that provide a yes or no answer as these may curtail the spontaneous nature of the disclosure

- Be honest and do not promise what you cannot deliver especially confidentiality.
- Check with the student how she/he is at the moment both psychologically and health wise

- Inform the student about the procedure that is followed and if known, the level of assistance, which the school and external agencies, can provide

- Agree / outline the next steps with the student in the process, in particular explore if parents/ guardians are aware of the pregnancy and how best to manage this

- Should the student disclose or if it is suspected that the pregnancy occurred as a result of child abuse, the Principal/ Designated Child Protection teacher must be informed immediately and the school child protection policy implemented in line with the

Children First Guidelines and Department of Education Guidelines.

School Response to Disclosure

- If Psychological Report if available it must be reviewed immediately •

The Principal will appoint a contact person for child.

- Structured meetings on a regular basis will take place with the contact person and the student and if required the Principal.
- The Principal and one other (usually the contact person) will liaise with parents and outside agencies

Working with parents/guardians of student concerned

In the spirit of working in partnership with parents/guardians and in safeguarding the health and safety of a student **the school has a responsibility to ensure that if parents are unaware of the pregnancy that they are informed about the pregnancy at the earliest possible convenience.**

In order to ensure the best outcome for the student if a disclosure/ suspicion of pregnancy has emerged the following points should be borne in mind:

- Be sensitive to the rights, needs and concerns of parents/guardian
- Good practice suggests, in order to ensure an ongoing working relationship with the parent/guardian, open, honest and non-judgmental communication from the start is essential
- As an initial step it is important to work with the student on a one-to-one basis to explain why the parents/carers need to know particularly from a health perspective and to enable the student to tell them herself at home
- Parents/guardians need to be informed and if the student remains unable to inform the parents/guardian on her own, the key support person and the principal could set up a meeting with the parents/guardians in consultation with the student and support the student when telling her parents/guardian herself.
- If the student remains unable or refuses to inform the parents/guardian, it is important that she is informed that the school is obliged to do so in her best interests, unless doing so is likely to endanger the student in any way. In the event that such a potential risk has been identified the school/centre of education will need to determine the nature and extent of the risk and if necessary liaise with colleagues in the local Health Service Executive without delay to agree on an appropriate plan of action

- If no such risk is identified the principal/ key support person will set up a meeting with the parents/guardian and the student to inform them about the pregnancy, remaining at all times sensitive to the potential stresses at this time. It is important that the school offer support to the student and the parents/guardian and link them to other support services as required.
- The school should reassure the parents/guardian and the student of their commitment to support the student to remain in school and partake in school life.
- A set of subsequent meetings to be arranged to provide ongoing support and information with both the parents/guardian and the student. During these meetings the parents/guardian should be informed of the role the school will now play in partnership with the parents, student and other agencies. This may include the development of a care plan for the student.

Fatherhood

- The needs of young men who are expectant parents or are parents within our education system are quite often similar to those of young women. They too may feel isolated and alone with a different set of responsibilities than that of their peers who are not parents.
- For those who are no longer in a relationship with the child's mother and are not their child's main carer this can be a very lonely time.
 - Many feel guilty about not being able to support the mother and child properly, emotionally and financially.
 - A number of barriers have been identified as to why young fathers are not more involved in their children's upbringing, namely inadequate housing, low income and resistance from the mother or mother's family.
 - It is recommended that schools acknowledge young men who are expectant parents and put in place supports aimed at ensuring that they are supported to continue their education and encouraged to play an active role in the parenting of their children.

Student Care Plan

- In order to create the best conditions to support the student throughout their pregnancy and to provide the necessary level of support to the student good practice would suggest that a care plan be developed in partnership with the student, parent / guardian and any relevant external agency
- The care plan should be developed to meet the individual needs of the student which will address: *support during pregnancy, health and safety matters, expectations of the school with regard to the performance of the student and address the issue of continuing in education following the birth.*
- All aspects of this plan should be developed in consultation with the student concerned.

- Maintaining the balance between supporting the student and carrying out its business in a normal way is crucial for the school. This may involve discussing with the student and parents/guardian what is acceptable behaviour and norms for the student during pregnancy and after the birth. This discussion should take account of the needs of the student, teachers and other students.
- It may be necessary to agree with the student any parameters on discussion of the pregnancy with their peers.
- Agreement on how to address issues such as non-attendance or time keeping will need to be addressed in the student care plan.
- The care plan should address the following issues:

a. Role and responsibilities of staff

b. Health and safety

c. Academic considerations

d. Liaising with external agencies

Template for Student Care Plan

Student Profile

Name:

Date of Birth:

Address:

Tel Numbers

Home: Mobile/s :

Parent/Guardian

Names:

Address:

(If different from above)

Name/s and contact numbers in the event of an emergency Name/s:

Relationship to student concerned:

Tel Numbers:

Home:

Mobile/s:

School details

Name of school:
Academic year:
Class Tutor/ Year Head:
Designated Teacher:

Medical Profile: during pregnancy

General Practitioner

Name:
Address:

Tel Numbers:
Surgery: Mobile/s:

Maternity Services/Obstetrician

Names:
Address:

Name/s and contact numbers in the event of an emergency

Name/s:
Tel Numbers:
Surgery: Hospital:

Relevant Medical Details:

Expected date of delivery:
(Medical letter of confirmation to be attached)

Expected date to commence maternity leave:

Ante natal care appointment schedule:

Any additional medical information which may be relevant to the school eg allergies:

a. Role and Responsibilities of Staff

- Our Lady's will designate a member of staff who will act as a key support person to work with the student throughout the pregnancy and after the birth.

In as far as in possible the individual should be student centered and have a specific interest in such matters as pastoral care and have shown particular skills in the area of student support

- The key support person is not expected to have expertise with regard to counseling a

student who is pregnant on the outcomes of that pregnancy and options open to her at that time

- The support person/teacher would act on behalf of the school as a liaison with the student and the parents/guardian in addressing issues raised by the pregnancy for both the student, the school and other agencies as required
- The key support person in collaboration with the student and his/her parents/guardians would design a care plan for the care of the student while attending school.
- The care plan will involve the parents/guardian and the student meeting with the assigned staff member at intervals during the pregnancy
- It is recommended that the key support person should meet with the student at regular intervals, at least monthly to monitor and review the plan
- Provision should also be made for additional ad hoc meetings with the student at other times as specific needs arise and to offer whatever support is relevant
- The key support person may also need to attend external meetings with other agencies, which may arise when implementing the plan.

b. Health and Safety

- The school a duty of care to ensure that the school environment promotes conditions where the health and safety of each student is safeguarded while on the school campus.
- Our Lady's may have to reviews its Health and Safety policy document in light of pregnancy and parenthood among students.
- The following issues will need to be addressed in the care plan.
 1. A review of access to the school buildings and classrooms to ensure that in as far as is reasonable that adjustments are made to facilitate ease of access to locations of study and class and that all potential health hazards are identified and addressed be they physical or environmental such as chemicals, infectious diseases etc.
 2. It may therefore be necessary to carry out a potential hazard identification audit.
 3. The provision of information on health related matters in conjunction with other agencies (the local Health Service Executive, health and safety authority etc) on any potential risks associated with pregnancy and school attendance will include:
 - particular contact sports such as PE, team sports
 - Academic school/centre of education based activities, which may involve exposure to any chemicals considered to be hazardous in the event of

exposure during pregnancy

- Any infectious health conditions which may arise in the school
- Physical safety matters such as: potential difficulties regarding the student moving within the environs of the school/centre of education, carrying bags, size of desks, climbing stairs, need for special breaks, access to school/ centre transport/ bus etc
- Flexibility around the wearing of the school uniform to ensure that the student is as comfortable as possible etc.

4. Duration of maternity leave may need to be decided. In employment situations an employee must take at least four weeks before the end of the week her baby is due (as medically certified) and four weeks after the birth and is entitled to a minimum period of eighteen weeks maternity leave. (Maternity Protection Act 1994)

5. The school will / may need to be informed by the student about visits to GPs and to both antenatal and postnatal care

6. An ongoing review of the plan will occur throughout the pregnancy, in particular liaising with other agencies such as local parent support programmes
To ensure that emerging needs are met.

c. Academic Considerations

It is recommended that an academic plan to meet the student's requirements be drawn up. This plan would make provision for the following:

- Identifying potential subjects requiring attention in conjunction with the range of needs which may arise throughout the stages of pregnancy and birth ensuring at all times the ongoing inclusion of the student in the school activities
- How and when to access extra tuition if required.
- Special exam arrangements if required
- Childcare and counselling considerations.
- **Template for academic year profile: during pregnancy** An audit of the curricular expectations for the academic year will ensure that any particular areas with specific demands such as exams, practical's, field trips etc can be planned for in advance taking account of additional factors which may arise for a student who is also a parent, in particular adopting flexible arrangements regarding school work timeframes and deadlines etc.

SUBJECT AREAS SPECIFYING ANY SCHEDULED ACTIVITIES EG EXAMS, PROJECTS ETC:

Subject Specific Demands Action Plan/Comment

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.

Extra-Curricular Subject

- 11.
- 12.
- 13.

EXTRA TUITION REQUIREMENTS:

SPECIFIC ACADEMIC/EXAM REQUIREMENTS

d. Liaising with External Agencies

- Our Lady's will work in close liaison with external agencies and act as a source of referral if and when the need arises
- The principal or support person involved with the student would refer the student to appropriate agencies to discuss the options available to her during the pregnancy and post birth.
- In the event of a miscarriage or still birth she will continue to support and care for the student in liaison with other relevant agencies.
- Consideration may need to be given to the distances students may have to travel to access ante-natal care, which can create regular and significant absences from school.
- The potential difficulties that travelling long distances to access services in late pregnancy needs to be recognised and in such situations flexibility may be required if students wish to commence maternity leave earlier than expected.

Supporting the Student after the Birth

- New challenges arise for the student and the school in supporting the student after the birth of her child. The student is now a parent and will be coming to terms with her new responsibilities.

- The challenges presented by the birth of the child may cause the student to review her commitment to completing her education. It is important that the support process begun during pregnancy continues.

- The following issues may need to be addressed:
 1. Student as a parent within the school
 2. Continual affirmation of the student as a young person with the same needs as other young people her age

3. When necessary harness external support structures that will assist the student to continue in education.

Student a Parent within the School

- In consultation with the student, the school may need to plan how best to manage the student's return to the school post the birth of the baby and her reintegration to the class.
- Practical issues relating to the student's role as a parent may also need to be addressed, such as increased academic support due to maternity leave, facilitating attendance at child health clinics etc.
- It is important that the student is given every opportunity to reintegrate into school based activities as soon as is reasonably safe to do so.
- It may be appropriate to await a medical certificate of fitness for reintegration to particular activities such as sports etc.
- Given the additional demands that parenting will entail it is important that the school adopts a flexible approach with regard to the participation of the student in particular school activities and academic demands.
- Consideration may also need to be given to the extent to which the student concerned can introduce his/her baby to the school or class concerned.
- Encourage the student to be continually engaged in activities with their peers such as sports, field trips, excursions etc. Although their lives have changed, they are still young people with the same needs as their peers.
- Continued liaison with external agencies is imperative to enable the student to cope with the additional demands both psychological and practical of being a parent.

Support for students who choose not to return to education In the event that the student concerned does not return to school/centre of education following the birth of her baby, it is important that the key support person meets with the student subsequently. A meeting should be held to provide her with the opportunity to address any concerns she may have which may act as an impediment to her returning to complete her education.

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Appendix 8 Emergency Response Protocol

- Defibrillator to be sent as a matter of course in cases of collapse. There is a defibrillator in the school office, one in the gym and one to be available to school

teams.

- Keys to double gate at Íontas to be taped to each defibrillator.
- 999 to be called
- Emergency response to be outlined to students.
- Exact location of incident to be given.
- Barrier to be left in raised position.
- Person to be designated to stand at entrance to meet ambulance and family members.
- Once parents have been sent for siblings to be taken calmly from class and looked after in Principal's office. Should not be let go to scene of incident unless authorised by Principal.
- Work with Iontas to ensure double gate kept clear.