Acknowledgements

This book began as a PhD thesis at University College Cork (UCC), and was completed as I embarked on my academic career in National University of Ireland, Galway (NUI Galway). It is therefore the result of many people's time, energy and support for which I am very grateful.

Firstly, I thank Donal Ó Drisceoil, my supervisor at UCC. Throughout my undergraduate and postgraduate career, he encouraged me to look at history critically, to study topics I was passionate about and not to shy away from controversy. He is an excellent scholar, a mentor and a friend. Over the last number of years, the Department of History at UCC has been a central part of my life and has assisted me in many ways to which I am very grateful. In particular, I would like to thank Sandra McAvoy, Liz Steiner-Scott, David Ryan, Geoff Roberts, Charlotte Holland and all the administrative staff. I know that the friendships I have made there will continue to be a constant, and to Ruth Canning, James Ryan, Barbara O'Donoghue, John Borgonovo, Gregory Foley and all the David's 'Sláinte' – I didn't know it was possible to talk history for so many hours until I met you all. To the staff in the Department of History at NUI Galway, you have all made me feel so welcome, I consider myself incredibly lucky to call Galway home now. As there are far too many excellent colleagues to single out, I want to say to them all that I look forward to the coming years and continuing to work in such a warm, vibrant and engaging department.

Thanks are due to the staff of the UCC's Boole Library and the National Archives of Ireland, in particular Dave, Brendan and Robert. Similarly, the staff of the Limerick Office of the Irish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (ISPCC) let me sit for hours, working my way through reports and files, and I thank in particular Suzanne and Aoife. As always, this would not have been possible without the funding I received as a post-graduate from the Irish Research Council for the Humanities and Social Sciences (IRCHSS). A number of people have guided me in developing this book from a thesis. Maria Luddy and James Ryan read the manuscript in its entirety, for which I am very grateful. At Manchester University Press, Tony Mason, Lianne Slavin and Corinne Orde have been a pleasure to deal with. To Vincent Browne, who kindly agreed to write the foreword, I am

very thankful and as always a fan. To Jim Beresford – we'll write the story of child imprisonment in depth one day soon; this book will only touch on the enormity of your and others' experiences.

I am extremely indebted to my family and friends for their support while this work was in progress. To Jason, you believed I'd finish this long before I did, thank you. Ciara Breathnach has encouraged this work and me for the last number of years to which I am, and continue to be very grateful. To Kate, Áine, Alice, Sarah, Gerry, Mary, Graham, Elaine and Séan – you all helped in so many different ways I hope to repay. To Adrian, you listened to me when I complained, took me away from it when I needed to get away, and made me feel loved all the time. Thank you.

Finally, to Mam, Dad, Lynn and Eva, thank you doesn't even begin. I wish I had the words to express how much you have helped and in so many ways. This is as much yours as mine.

Sarah-Anne Buckley