



Child Safeguarding Statement 2021

Coláiste Iognáid 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), 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 Coláiste Iognáid 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

David O'Sullivan

3 The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is

Claire Lohan

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

The school will also adhere to the above principles in relation to any adult pupil 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 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 DE 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 Department of Education and available on the DE 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 schools 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 and the Addendum to Children First (2019), the Board has carried out an assessment of any potential for harm to a child while attending the school or participating in school activities. A written assessment setting out the areas of risk identified and the school's procedures for managing those risks is included with the Child Safeguarding Statement.
- The various procedures referred to in this Statement can be accessed via the school's website, the DE 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 _____ [date].

This Child Safeguarding Statement was reviewed by the Board of Management on 17th May 2021.

Signed: Justin Fairley

Chairperson of Board of Management

Date: 17th May 2021

Signed: D. O'Sullivan

Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Date: _____



Written Assessment of Risk for Coláiste Iognáid 2021

In accordance with section 11 of the Children First Act 2015 and with the requirements of Chapter 8 of the *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017*, the following is the Written Risk Assessment of [name of school].

1. List of school activities

- 1.
2. Teaching & Learning
3. Work Experience (Transition Year)
4. Social Outreach (Transition Year)
5. Extra-curricular Activities – Rowing, Rugby, Hockey, Basketball, Gaelic, Mountaineering Water polo, Swimming, Debating, after-school games club.
6. One-to-One Counselling/Guidance
7. School outings and overnight trips
8. Supervised study
9. Guest speakers
10. Fundraising – internal and external on behalf of charities.
11. Retreats
12. Exams
13. Online Learning
14. Non-class time (break times, moving between classrooms)

2. The school has identified the following risk of harm in respect of its activities -

The College identifies the following potential risks of harm from its activities

- Risk of harm not being identified or reported by school personal.
- Risk of harm from school employee or volunteer
- Risk of harm from a pupil (Bullying)
- bullying during online classes particularly during break out rooms/unsupervised periods.
- Risk of harm from external agency worker counselling a pupil or working one-to-one with a student
- Risk of harm from a contractor.
- Risk of harm in one-to-one teaching, counselling, and Visitors to the College who are giving workshops, guest talks.
- Risk of harm from social media and inappropriate use of information
- Risk of harm from inappropriate adult-student conversation and communication
- Risk of harm for inadequate supervision of school outings
- Risk of harm from peer-pressure
- Risk of harm to students with S.E.N.
- Risk of harm to students with intimate care needs

3. The school has the following procedures in place to address the risks of harm identified in this assessment -



The Following procedures are in place to address risks of harm

- All Teachers are vetted by the Teaching Council
 - All SNA's, PME's, non-teaching staff, to be vetted through the JMB on appointment.
 - All registered teachers appointed to the College to sign a Statutory Declaration.
 - All volunteers who support curricular and extra-curricular activities to be vetted by JMB
- All doors to classrooms and offices to have glass panelling.

One –to –one teaching is officially timetabled where possible.

All extra-curricular activities to involve two adults where possible.

Hired coach drivers of the Colaiste Iognaid School Bus are vetted.

Visitors Book to be signed by all visitors/contractors on entry to College – this does not happen currently

Where an extra-curricular activity organises an exchange involving host families the College will vet families on behalf of the visiting students. Where our students are being hosted abroad in an officially sanctioned extra-curricular activity the child protection laws of that jurisdiction will apply.

Talks, workshops, and demonstrations by invitees of the College to be accompanied by a teacher.

The responsibility for vetting officials/professionals from D.E.S., N.E.P.S., E.W.O., H.S.E., S.E.C. etc. lies with those agencies. The B.O.M. will assume they are compliant with all vetting procedures as employees of the above named.

All staff provided with a copy of the School's Child Safeguarding Statement

D.E.S. Child Protection Procedures 2017 available on College website

All Staff to be given a Child Protection Procedures.

School implements a full SPHE curriculum

School provides supervision and substitution cover

School has a Health and Safety

School has S.S.Ps (IEPs) and care plan for pupils with S.E.N and complex medical needs

School has a policy for mainstream students working/visiting the ASD Unit

School has Code of Behaviour

School has anti-bullying policy

School has I.C.T. policy

School has Critical Incident Management Policy

School has a policy with respect to outings (sporting/cultural/retreats)

School staff have availed of relevant Child Protection training

School has TY Work Experience guidelines.

School has TY Social Outreach guidelines.

Child Protection Oversight Report Presented at every ordinary board meeting

AUP in place, Online learning protocols sanctioned by BOM and communicated to all partners

Supervision rota in place, scheduled on Compass, regularly reviewed.

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.