

Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment

For:	Coláiste an Chreagáin
At:	Mountbellew, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway

Coláiste an Chreagáin is a post-primary school.

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

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

Name of the Designated Liaison Person (DLP):

Ann Marie Carroll

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

Teresa Silke

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

Name of Relevant Person

Ann Marie Carroll

(In schools this person is the DLP)

Relevant Person can be contacted on:

0909679231

AnnMarie.Carroll@gretb.ie

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

Name of Chairperson of the board of management, or in an ETB school the Chief Executive or their delegate:

David Leahy

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

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

- Recognise that the protection and welfare of children is of paramount importance, regardless of all other considerations.
- Fully comply with its statutory obligations under the Children First Act 2015 and other relevant legislation relating to the protection and welfare of children.
- Fully co-operate with the relevant statutory authorities in relation to child protection and welfare matters.
- Adopt safe practices to minimise the possibility of harm happening to children and protect members of school personnel from the necessity to take unnecessary risks that may leave themselves open to accusations of child abuse.
- Develop a practice of openness with parents and encourage parental involvement in the education of their children.
- Fully respect confidentiality requirements as set out in the Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025 in dealing with child protection matters.
- Adhere to the above principles in relation to any vulnerable adult.

Procedures and Measures in Place

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

> Procedure for the Management of Allegations of Abuse or Misconduct against School Personnel Relating to a Child Availing of Our Service

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

> Procedure for the Safe Recruitment and Selection of School Personnel to Work With Children

~ The school is required to adhere to the requirements of the Vetting Act. The selection or recruitment of staff and their suitability to work with children, requires the school to adhere to the statutory vetting requirements of the National Vetting Bureau (Children and Vulnerable Persons) Acts 2012 to 2016, and to the wider duty of care guidance set out in relevant Garda vetting and recruitment circulars published by the Department of Education and Youth and available on the gov.ie website and as outlined in Chapter 10 of the procedures.

~ A written protocol is in place authorising immediate action for cases which require an employee to be immediately absented from school for child safeguarding reasons.

> Procedure for Provision of and Access to Child Safeguarding Training and Information, Including the Identification of the Occurrence of Harm

~ The school provides information and training to members of school personnel in relation to the identification of the occurrence of harm (as defined in the 2015 Act) as follows:

~ The school has provided each member of school personnel, including any new members of school personnel, (employees and volunteers, board of management members, student teachers and those on work experience) with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment.

- ~ The school ensures that members of school personnel have availed of relevant training and completed child protection training.
- ~ The school encourages board of management members to avail of any relevant training and complete child protection training.
- ~ The board of management ensures that records of all staff and board member child protection training are maintained.

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

- ~ All members of school personnel are required to adhere to the procedures set out in the *Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025*, in relation to reporting of child protection concerns to Tusla. Mandated reporting applies to all registered teachers and any other mandated person who may be employed by the school, for example a chaplain or nurse. A full list of those people who are mandated persons is set out in Appendix 1 procedures.

> Procedure for Maintaining a List of the Persons (if any) in the Relevant Service Who Are Mandated Persons

- ~ There is a procedure in place to maintain a list of mandated persons. Schools may on occasion employ additional staff who are mandated by virtue of their profession. This list will include all registered teachers and identify additional employees that are not registered teachers.

> Procedure for Appointing a Relevant Person (In schools this person is the DLP)

- ~ There is a procedure in place for appointing a relevant person.

The various procedures referred to in this Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment can be accessed via the [school's website](#), the [gov.ie](#) website or will be made available on request by the school.

In accordance with the Children First Act 2015, the Addendum to Children First 2019 and 2025, and the *Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025*, the board of management 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.

Note: The procedures and measures in place outlined above, are not intended as exhaustive list. Individual boards of management shall also include in this section such other procedures and measures that are of relevance to the school.

This statement has been published on the school's website or will be made available on request by the school. It has been provided to all members of school personnel, the parents' association (if any), the patron and parents. A copy of this statement and risk assessment will be made available to Tusla and the department if requested.

This Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment will be reviewed annually or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which this statement refers.

Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment

Coláiste an Chreagáin

In accordance with Section 11 of the Children First Act 2015 and with the requirements of Chapter 9 of the Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025, the following is the written Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment.

School Activities	Risks Identified	Procedures / Measures in Place
Arrival, dismissal & early/late presence	Risk of harm not recognised by school personnel, unauthorised access	Garda vetting of all staff; Child Protection Procedures, Supervision Rota
Breaks & lunchtime	Risk of harm not being reported properly and promptly by members of school personnel, inadequate supervision	The Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025 are made available to all school personnel, Supervision Rota, Protocol for leaving school.
Corridors & locker areas	Risk of harm in unsupervised or crowded areas	High visibility supervision, Clear behavior expectations
Toilets /changing/shower areas	Risk of harm in unsupervised areas from peers/staff	Child Protection Training, Recruitment of staff Supervision protocols for specific areas
Empty School Periods (before/after school)	Safeguarding risks outside school hours when school is less supervised	Designated areas with staff rostered for supervision during these times
Classroom teaching	Risk of peer harm; risk of bullying of student in classroom	Child Protection Procedures, SPHE Curriculum, Code of Behaviour,

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One-to-one teaching	Risk of harm in one-to-one teaching, inappropriate interactions	Codes of conduct for school personnel, staff adhere to Child protection Procedures, Garda Vetting Legislation compliance
Guidance & Counselling	Student vulnerability, confidentiality risks not being reported correctly, promptly by school personnel	Child protection Procedures to all personnel, Adhere to Child Protection Procedures
Online learning / AI	Cyberbullying risk of harm due to inappropriate use of technology, misuse of AI	AUP, Digital safety, AI aligned with Department advice, Mobile Phone Policy, Digital Wellbeing & Online Safety Education, Firewalls.
Work experience	Risk of unsafe placements	Monitoring and vetting of workplace locations
School trips	Risk of lack of supervision, lost child, risk from stranger/peer/staff injury	Code of Behaviour Staff/Students, Child Protection Training, Risk assessments; Health and Safety Policy, Supervision Protocol
Sporting and Extra-Curricular Activities	Risk of injury, One-to-one coaching risk	Garda Vetting, Supervision Protocols, Adherence to Child Protection Protocols, Supervision Protocols
Changing Rooms in school/other schools	Reduced Control, privacy risk	Clear staff supervision protocols, Code of Behaviour, Venue Checks
External Coaches/Speakers	Risk of unvetted Individuals	Visitor Sign-In, Garda Vetting for all external coaches/speakers where applicable, Adherence to Child Protection Procedures, Supervision
Recruitment	Risk of unsuitable or unqualified staff	GRETB adherence to Garda vetting, Detailed references sought, Rigorous interview process


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Substitute and Temporary Staff	Lack of familiarity with procedures	Garda vetting for all staff. Induction briefing, Access to safeguarding document, Compliance with DoEY Circulars
Student Teachers and Placements	Inexperience, Unclear boundaries	Teaching Council Guidelines for student teacher Placement, Supervision and Induction Guidelines
SEN students	Increased vulnerability	SEN Policy, SNA Support, Care Plans, Professional Development for staff
Behaviour management	Escalation, inappropriate handling	Code of Behaviour, De-escalation strategies
First Aid	Inadequate First Aid response	First Aid Trained staff, Clear Procedures, Health and Safety Policy
Administration of Medication	Risk of incorrect administration, safeguarding risk	Clear procedures for administration of medication, Trained Staff
Social media	Risk of cyberbullying, Inappropriate Social media contact	AUP Policy, Code of Behaviour, Mobile Phone Policy, Staff Code of Contact
Transport	Supervision gaps, harm on school transport	Health and Safety Policy, Supervision on school transport, Clear Expectations
Child protection reporting	Failure to report, recognize harm	Training Child Protection Procedures, Adhere to Children First Act 2015
Staff training in Child Protection Procedures	Lack of awareness	Child Protection Procedures Training records

Coláiste an Chreagáin Child Protection Statement and Risk Assessment

In undertaking this Child Safeguarding Statement and 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 Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment was reviewed by the board of management on _____ (most recent review date)

Signed:*		Date:
		20/05/26

Chairperson of the board of management

Signed:*		Date:
		20/05/26

Principal/Secretary to the board of management

This Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment is expected to be reviewed again on _____ (expected review date)

* Document to be printed and signed with original signature

Appendix - Location of copies of the Child Protection Procedures and Children First Guidance

This may be in the form of specifying the online location for the procedures (Department of Education and Youth website www.gov.ie/childprotectionschools and/or the school website), providing a link to the Children First National Guidance 2017 [Children First National Guidance 2017.pdf](#), and stating the number and location of hard copies of these procedures available in the school.

4 HARDCOPIES

4 ENTRANCES TO EACH BUILDING

