

Chapel Street, Dundalk.
Co. Louth, A91 N798.
Tel: 042 9334336
fax: 042-9338380
Email: office1@colaisteris.ie
www.colaisteris.ie



Coláiste Rís

Roll No. 638800

Child Protection and Safeguarding Statement of Coláiste Rís:

Coláiste Rís 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 (revised 2023) and Tusla Guidance on the preparation of Child Safeguarding Statements, the Board of Management of **Coláiste Rís** 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 (revised 2023) as part of this overall Child Safeguarding Statement.
- 2 The Designated Liaison Person (DLP) is **Nóilín Ní Dhulaing**.
- 3 The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is **John Moylan**
- 4 **The Relevant person is Nóilín Ní Dhulaing**
- 5 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.

6 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 (revised 2023) and to the relevant agreed disciplinary procedures for school staff which are published on the gov.ie website.
- In relation to the selection or recruitment of staff and their suitability to work with children, the school adheres to the statutory vetting requirements of the National Vetting Bureau (Children and Vulnerable Persons) Acts 2012 to 2016 and to the wider duty of care guidance set out in relevant Garda vetting and recruitment circulars published by the DES and available on the gov.ie 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 (revised 2023), 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, 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 gov.ie website or will be made available on request by the school.
- 7 This statement has been published on the school’s website and has been provided to all members of school personnel, the Parents’ Association 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.
- 8 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 October 6th 2019.

The Child Safeguarding Statement was review by the Board of Management on 5th September 2023

Signed: Brian Murtogh
Chairperson of Board of Management

Signed: Noah L. O'Leary
Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Date: 5/9/23

Date: 5/9/2023

Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment – Coláiste Rís

In accordance with section 11 of the Children First Act 2015 and with the requirement of Chapter 8 of the *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools (revised 2023)* the following is the Written Risk Assessment of **Coláiste Rís**

List of school activities	The school has identified the following risk of harm in respect of its activities –	The school has the following procedures in place to address the risks of harm identified in this assessment
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Daily arrival of children to the building and dismissal of pupils 	Harm from other pupils, unknown adults	No child admitted individually to school; Presence of Management/ Arriving teachers/ Ancillary & Canteen staff. Supervision of dismissal at main exit.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recreation breaks for pupils 	Adults may enter the yard Bullying Harm by other pupils	Entry to the school is by permission only. Supervision Arrangements – Monitoring by adults (teachers/ SNAs) on yard/ corridor or canteen duty. Code of behaviour & Anti-bullying Policy.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Classroom teaching 	Harm by school personnel Harm by other pupils	Glass panel in the doors; Visitation by other adults; Experience of supervising teacher; Other children present.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> One-to-one teaching/ meeting/ testing Sporting Activities 	Harm by school personnel Harm by pupils including bullying Harm by school personnel or other adults	Glass panel in doors; Open door policy Anti-bullying policy Garda Vetting is required by all personnel involved in activity. Every effort is made to adequately supervise all elements (changing/ transfer to/ from venue where necessary/ actual activity) by teacher.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> School outings/trips 	Harm by pupils including bullying Harm by school personnel Harm by adults	School's Code of behaviour and Anti-bullying Policy still apply; Transport is arranged by school; Adequate Teacher supervision; Organising teacher happy that all personnel involved are appropriately vetted.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use of toilet/changing areas in schools 	Inappropriate behaviour Harm from other children	Every effort to adequately supervise children's use of facilities; discourage any assembly in bathrooms;

	Harm from school personnel	restrict the number of children leaving any class at a time; Code of behaviour & Anti-bullying Policy.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual Sports Day 	<p>Inappropriate behaviour</p> <p>Harm from other children</p> <p>Harm from school personnel</p>	<p>Adequate supervision in transfer and at venue</p> <p>Code of behaviour;</p> <p>Care taken with toileting access arrangements.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fundraising events involving pupils 	<p>Inappropriate behaviour</p> <p>Harm from other children</p> <p>Harm from school personnel</p> <p>Harm from a parent/adult</p>	<p>Student involvement only with parental permission;</p> <p>Code of Behaviour; Anti-Bullying Policy; Reassurance for students that they will be listened to if a problem arises.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transporting of sick children home or to hospital 	Harm from school personnel	<p>Always bring extra students so that adult is never alone with one student.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inappropriate relationships or communications between child and another child/ adult 	<p>Inappropriate behaviour</p> <p>Harm from other children</p> <p>Harm from school personnel</p> <p>Harm from a parent/adult</p>	<p>Code of Behaviour; Anti-Bullying Policy; ICT policy; SPHE policy; Child Protection policy;</p> <p>No adult member of school personnel should use mobile phone/ social media to communicate with individual students.</p> <p>Reassurance for students with our Open Door Policy that they will be listened to if a problem arises.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> School transport arrangements 	<p>Harm from other personnel</p> <p>Harm from pupils</p>	<p>Code of behaviour; Anti-Bullying Policy; Reassurance for students and parents that they will be listened to if a problem arises.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Care of children with special educational needs 	<p>Harm by school personnel</p> <p>Harm by other pupils</p>	<p>Anti-Bullying Policy; Awareness of the students' needs and appropriate behaviour of all staff</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Management of challenging behaviour amongst pupils including appropriate use of restraint 	Injury/harm to pupils and staff	<p>Encouragement of Staff to behave with restraint and to ensure that other staff are present</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Administration of Medicine 	Harm to pupil/pupils	<p>Only with Parental permission</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Administration of First Aid 	Harm to pupil	<p>Staff training; Doors must remain open or aid only administered with other adults present;</p> <p>Records of accidents/administration kept and reports filled out and kept at office were appropriate.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Curricular provision in respect of SPHE, RSE 	Non-teaching of content	<p>School implements SPHE, RSE in full</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst pupils 	Bullying	<p>Anti-Bullying Policy; Code of Behaviour</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Training of school personnel in child protection matters 	Harm not recognised or reported promptly	<p>Child Safeguarding Statement & DES procedures made available to staff</p>

	DLP & DDLP to attend PDST face to face training; Online training offered by PDST attended by all staff.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of external personnel to supplement curriculum 	Harm by external personnel	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Care of pupils with specific vulnerabilities/ needs such as <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ from ethnic minorities/migrants ➢ Members of the Traveller community ➢ Lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender (LGBT) children ➢ Pupils perceived to be LGBT ➢ Pupils of minority religious faiths ➢ Children in care 	Bullying Harm from adult personnel Harm from pupils	Anti-Bullying Policy & Code of Behaviour Vigilance on the part of all in a supervisory capacity SPHE Programme taught in its entirety
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recruitment of school personnel <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Teachers/SNAs ➢ Caretaker/Secretary/Cleaners ➢ Sports coaches ➢ External Tutors/Guest Speakers ➢ Volunteers/Parents in school activities ➢ Visitors/contractors present in school during school hours ➢ Visitors/contractors present during after school activities 	Harm from personnel	Current vetting procedures are carried out when recruiting. All existing school employees are vetted. Proper records of vetting are stored in the school. Encourage staff to check on any adult on the school premises beyond reception. Notify staff if external contractors are in the building during school hours. Regular visitors are vetted; Occasional visitors report to office; External visitors are not to use student bathrooms.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of ICT by pupils in school 	Harm by adults Bullying – Cyber Bullying	Anti-Bullying Policy Restricted access to the internet Teacher Supervision & Monitoring Regular monitoring and updating of mobile phone & IT policies

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Application of sanctions under the school's Code of Behaviour including detention of pupils, confiscation of phones etc. 	Potential for harm as a result of students not going home at usual time or not being able to contact parents	Appropriate informing of parents re detention in keeping with Code of Behaviour; making school phones available for students to contact parents in emergency.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students participating in work experience in the school 	Harm by incoming student	Student must be supervised by the relevant teacher Garda Vetting is required for all students over age of 16
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students from the school participating in work experience elsewhere 	Harm to students	All work places are checked and visited in so far as is practicable; students are assured that their report back/ complaints will be listened to.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Student teachers undertaking training placement in school 	Harm to school's pupils	Garda Vetting is required for all training teachers; induction for new teachers including trainees
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use of video/photography/other media to record school events 	Harm by adults Bullying	Parental permission is required Anti-Bullying Policy; Code of Behaviour ICT policy
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> After school use of premises by school personnel 	Harm by adults	Use of room with window panel; operate where practicable with open door; encourage other adults to drop in when passing.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Out of school time study 	Harm to students Bullying behaviour among students	Teacher vigilance at breaks; teachers to take care not to be alone with individual students; Anti-bullying policy.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Covid-19 	Illness caused by exposure to Covid-19	Sanitisation of school from cleaning covid grant Follow the public health recommendations and keep the school community fully informed of them.

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 no 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 (revised 2023)*

In undertaking this risk assessment, the board of management has endeavoured to identify as far as possible the risks of harm that are relevant to this school and to ensure that adequate procedures are in place to manage all risks identified. While it is not possible to foresee and remove all risk of harm, the school has in place the procedures listed in this risk assessment to manage and reduce risk to the greatest possible extent.

This risk assessment has been completed by the Board of Management on 5th September 2023. It shall be reviewed as part of the school's annual review of its Child Safeguarding Statement.

Signed Brian Murphy Date 5/9/23

Chairperson, Board of Management

Signed [Signature] Date 5/9/2023
Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management