
CHILD SAFEGUARDING STATEMENT AND RISK ASSESSMENT

Coláiste Fionnchua



2024-2025

TEMPLATE 1: CHILD SAFEGUARDING RISK ASSESSMENT TEMPLATE

WRITTEN ASSESSMENT OF RISK OF COLÁISTE FIONNCHUA.

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 2017*, the following is the Written Risk Assessment of Coláiste Fionnchua.

1. List of school activities

- Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils.
- Breakfast club / lunch club.
- Recreation breaks for pupils.
- Classroom teaching / small group / One-to-one teaching.
- One-to-one counselling.
- Sporting Activities.
- School outings / School trips involving overnight stay and/or foreign travel.
- Use of toilet/changing/shower areas in schools.
- Fundraising events involving pupils.
- Use of off-site facilities for school activities.
- School transport arrangements including the use of bus escorts.
- Care of children with special educational needs, including intimate care where needed.
- Administration of Medicine and/or first aid.
- Curricular provision in respect of wellbeing.
- Staff meetings at appropriate levels e.g., Year Heads, Pastoral Care.
- Prevention of and dealing with bullying amongst pupils.
- Training of school personnel in child protection matters.
- Use of external personnel to supplement curriculum.
- Use of external personnel to support sports and other extracurricular activities.
- Care of pupils with specific vulnerabilities/ needs such as
 - Pupils from ethnic minorities/migrants
 - Members of the Traveler community
 - Lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender (LGBT) children
 - Children in care
 - Children with additional learning needs
- Use of Information and Communication Technology by pupils in school.
- Application of sanctions under the school's Code of Behavior.
- Students from the school participating in work experience elsewhere.
- Student teachers undertaking training placement in school.
- Use of video/photography/other media to record school events.
- Homework club/evening study.

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

Risk Identified	Policies/Procedures in place to manage risk
Risk of harm not being recognised by school personnel	Sign in/out procedure at Reception/ Identification tag for visitors to the school
Risk of harm not being reported properly and promptly by school personnel	<p>All school personnel are provided with a copy of the school's <i>Child Safeguarding Statement</i>.</p> <p>The <i>Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017</i> are made available to all school personnel and training is provided on staff induction day.</p> <p>All school personnel are aware of DLP and DDLP.</p> <p>A copy of induction material is made available to all new staff.</p>
Risk of child being harmed in the school by a member of school personnel	<p>School Personnel are required to adhere to the <i>Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017</i> and all registered teaching staff are required to adhere to the <i>Children First Act 2015</i>.</p> <p>The school has an Anti-Bullying Policy which fully adheres to the requirements of the Department's <i>Anti-Bullying Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools</i>.</p> <p>The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation and relevant DES circulars in relation to recruitment and Garda vetting.</p> <p>The school adheres to the Teaching Council professional code.</p> <p>The staff handbook contains all relevant information regarding child safeguarding policies and procedures.</p> <p>There are weekly Pastoral Care Team meetings, and a referral system is in place to report concerns.</p>

<p>Risk of child being harmed in the school by another child</p>	<p>The school has an Anti-Bullying Policy which fully adheres to the requirements of the Department's <i>Anti-Bullying Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools</i>.</p> <p>The school has a supervision policy to ensure appropriate supervision of students before and after school and during break time.</p> <p>The school has in place a policy and clear procedures in respect of school outings</p> <p>The school has a Health and Safety policy.</p> <p>The school implements in full the Wellbeing Programme at Junior Cycle</p> <p>The school has a Code of Behavior policy.</p> <p>The school has a Special Educational Needs policy.</p> <p>The school has a peer mentoring programme for students.</p>
<p>Risk of child being harmed in the school by volunteer or visitor to the school</p>	<p>Sign in/out procedure at Reception/ Identification tag for visitors to the school.</p> <p>The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation and relevant DES circulars in relation to recruitment and Garda vetting.</p> <p>Visitors within reason are accompanied by a staff member during the duration of their visit.</p>
<p>Risk of child being harmed by a member of school personnel, a member of staff of another organisation or other person while child participating in out of school activities e.g., school trip, swimming lessons</p>	<p>The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation and relevant DES circulars in relation to recruitment and Garda vetting.</p> <p>The school has in place a policy and clear procedures in respect of school outings</p>

<p>Risk of harm due to bullying of child</p>	<p>The school has a child safeguarding statement and a completed risk assessment document.</p> <p>The school has a DLP and a DDLP.</p> <p>The school has an Anti-Bullying Policy which fully adheres to the requirements of the Department's <i>Anti-Bullying Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools</i>.</p> <p>The school implements in full the Wellbeing Programme at Junior Cycle</p> <p>The school has an acceptable user policy for the use of ICT.</p> <p>The school has in place a mobile phone policy in respect of usage of mobile phones by pupils.</p> <p>The school has adopted a Critical Incident Management Plan</p> <p>The school has in place a Home School Liaison policy and related procedures.</p> <p>The school has in place a policy and procedures for one-to-one counselling.</p> <p>The school holds weekly Pastoral Care Team meetings</p>
<p>Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children in school</p>	<p>The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation and relevant DES circulars in relation to recruitment and Garda vetting.</p> <p>The school adheres to DES guidelines with regard to supervision and substitution.</p> <p>The school adheres to DES guidelines around pupil /teacher ratio for supervision.</p>
<p>Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children while attending out of school activities</p>	<p>The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation and relevant DES circulars in relation to recruitment and Garda vetting.</p> <p>The school has in place a policy and clear procedures in respect of school outings.</p> <p>The schools adheres to DES guidelines around pupil /teacher ratio for supervision.</p>

<p>Risk of harm due to inappropriate relationship/communications between child and another child or adult</p>	<p>The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation and relevant DES circulars in relation to recruitment and Garda vetting.</p> <p>The school has an acceptable user policy for the use of ICT</p> <p>The school has in place a mobile phone policy in respect of usage of mobile phones by pupils.</p>
<p>Risk of harm due to children inappropriately accessing/using computers, social media, phones, and other devices while at school</p>	<p>The school has an acceptable user policy for the use of ICT.</p> <p>The school has in place a mobile phone policy in respect of usage of mobile phones by pupils.</p>
<p>Risk of harm to children with SEN who have particular vulnerabilities</p>	<p>The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation and relevant DES circulars in relation to recruitment and Garda vetting.</p> <p>The school has an acceptable user policy for the use of ICT.</p> <p>The school has in place a mobile phone policy in respect of usage of mobile phones by pupils.</p> <p>The school has adopted a Critical Incident Management Plan</p> <p>The school has in place a Home School Liaison policy and related procedures.</p> <p>The school has in place a policy and procedures for one-to-one counselling.</p> <p>The school has weekly Pastoral Care Team meetings.</p> <p>The school has a Special Educational Needs policy and is implementing the new model to Support Students with Special Educational Needs.</p>

<p>Risk of harm to child while a child is receiving intimate care</p>	<p>The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation and relevant DES circulars in relation to recruitment and Garda vetting.</p> <p>All school personnel are provided with a copy of the school's <i>Child Safeguarding Statement</i>.</p> <p>The <i>Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017</i> are made available to all school personnel and training is provided at staff induction day.</p> <p>The school has a Special Educational Needs policy and is implementing the new model to Support Students with Special Educational Needs.</p> <p>The school adheres to DES guidelines around the duties of SNA's.</p>
<p>Risk of harm due to inadequate code of behavior</p>	<p>The school has a code of conduct/behavior policy.</p> <p>The school has an Anti-Bullying Policy which fully adheres to the requirements of the Department's <i>Anti-Bullying Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools</i>.</p> <p>The school has a robust pastoral care structure and student files which contain all records and communication with home.</p> <p>Work has commenced on a review code of conduct/behavior.</p>

<p>Risk of harm in one-to-one teaching, counselling, coaching situation</p>	<p>School Personnel are required to adhere to the <i>Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017</i> and all registered teaching staff are required to adhere to the <i>Children First Act 2015</i>.</p> <p>The school has an Anti-Bullying Policy which fully adheres to the requirements of the Department's <i>Anti-Bullying Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools</i>.</p> <p>The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation and relevant DES circulars in relation to recruitment and Garda vetting.</p> <p>Teachers are required to adhere to the Teaching Council professional code.</p> <p>The staff handbook contains all relevant information regarding child safeguarding policies and procedures.</p> <p>The school has a Health and Safety policy.</p> <p>The school has a robust pastoral care structure including a student support referral system.</p>
<p>Risk of harm caused by member of school personnel communicating with pupils in appropriate manner via social media, texting, digital device, or other manner</p>	<p>The school has an acceptable user policy for the use of ICT.</p> <p>The school has in place a mobile phone policy in respect of usage of mobile phones by pupils.</p> <p>The school has a robust pastoral care structure including a student support referral system.</p>

<p>Risk of harm caused by member of school personnel accessing/circulating inappropriate material via social media, texting, digital device, or other manner</p>	<p>The school has an acceptable user policy for the use of ICT.</p> <p>The school has in place a mobile phone policy in respect of usage of mobile phones by pupils.</p> <p>The school has a robust pastoral care structure including a student support referral system.</p>
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3. The school has the following procedures in place to address the risks of harm identified in this assessment -

- All school personnel are provided with a copy of the school's *Child Safeguarding Statement*
- The *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017* are made available to all school personnel.
- School Personnel are required to adhere to the *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017* and all registered teaching staff are required to adhere to the *Children First Act 2015*
- The school implements in full the Wellbeing Programme at Junior Cycle
- The school has an Anti-Bullying Policy which fully adheres to the requirements of the Department's *Anti-Bullying Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools*
- The school has a supervision policy to ensure appropriate supervision of students before and after school and during break time.
- The school has in place a policy and clear procedures in respect of school outings.
- The school has a Health and Safety policy.
- The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation and relevant DES circulars in relation to recruitment and Garda vetting.
- Teachers are required to adhere to the Teaching Council professional code.
- The school complies with the agreed code of practices for dealing with complaints (National Agreement March 2011)
- The school has a Additional Educational Needs policy.
- The school –
 - Has provided each member of school 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.
- Maintains records of all staff and board member training
- The school has in place a code of behavior for pupils.
- The school has an acceptable user policy for the use of ICT.
- The school has in place a mobile phone policy in respect of usage of mobile phones by pupils.
- The school has adopted NEPS Critical Incident Management Plan
- The school has in place a Home School Liaison policy and related procedures.
- The school has in place a policy and procedures for one-to-one counselling.
- The school has in place a policy and procedures in respect of student teacher placements.
- The school has in place a policy and procedures in respect of pupils of the school undertaking work experience in external organisations

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 endeavored 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 27-09-2022. It shall be reviewed as part of the school’s annual review of its Child Safeguarding Statement.

Signed _____ Date _____

Chairperson, Board of Management

Signed _____ Date _____

Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Template 2: Child Safeguarding Statement Template

Coláiste Fionnchua, Mitchelstown, Co. Cork 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 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 Fionnchua, Mitchelstown, 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 Edward Cronin (PRINCIPAL)
3. The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is Aoife O'Keeffe (DEPUTY PRINCIPAL)
4. The Board of Management recognises that child protection and welfare considerations permeate all aspects of school life and must be reflected in all 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 DES 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 DES 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 above named DLP as the “relevant person” (as defined in the Children First Act 2015) to be the first point of contact in respect of the school’s 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 attached as an appendix to this statement.
- The various procedures referred to in this Statement can be accessed via the school’s website, the DES 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 25-09-24.

Signed: _____

Chairperson of Board of Management
Management

Signed: _____

Principal/Secretary to the Board of

Date: _____

Date: _____

Template 3: Checklist for Review of the Child Safeguarding Statement

The *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017* require the Board of Management must undertake a review of its Child Safeguarding Statement and that the following checklist shall be used for this purpose. The review must be completed every year or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which the Child Safeguarding Statement refers. Undertaking an annual review will also ensure that a school also meets its statutory obligation under section 11(8) of the Children First Act 2015, to review its Child Safeguarding Statement every two years.

The checklist is designed as an aid to conducting this review and is not intended as an exhaustive list of the issues to be considered. Individual Boards of Management shall include other items in the checklist that are of relevance to the school in question.

As part of the overall review process, Boards of Management should also assess relevant school policies, procedures, practices, and activities vis a vis their adherence to the principles of best practice in child protection and welfare as set out in the school's Child Safeguarding Statement, the Children First Act 2015 and the *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017*.

	Yes/No
1. Has the Board formally adopted a Child Safeguarding Statement in accordance with the 'Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools 2017'?	Yes
2. As part of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement, has the Board formally adopted, without modification, the 'Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools 2017'?	Yes
3. Does the school's Child Safeguarding Statement include a written assessment of risk as required under the Children First Act 2015?	Yes
4. Has the Board reviewed and updated where necessary the written assessment of risk as part of this overall review?	Yes
5. Has the DLP attended available child protection training?	Yes
6. Has the Deputy DLP attended available child protection training?	Yes
7. Have any members of the Board attended child protection training?	Yes

8. Are there both a DLP and a Deputy DLP currently appointed?	Yes
9. Are the relevant contact details (Tusla and An Garda Síochána) to hand?	Yes
10. Has the Board arrangements in place to communicate the school's Child Safeguarding Statement to new school personnel?	Yes
11. Is the Board satisfied that all school personnel have been made aware of their responsibilities under the 'Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools 2017' and the Children First Act 2015?	Yes
12. Has the Board received a Principal's Child Protection Oversight Report at each Board meeting held since the last review was undertaken?	Yes
13. Since the Board's last review, was the Board informed of any child protection reports made to Tusla/An Garda Síochána by the DLP?	Yes
14. Since the Board's last review, was the Board informed of any cases where the DLP sought advice from Tusla/and as a result of this advice, no report to the HSE was made?	No
15. Since the Board's last review, was the Board informed of any cases where an allegation of abuse or neglect was made against any member of school personnel?	No
16. Has the Board been provided with and reviewed all documents relevant to the Principal's Child Protection Oversight Report?	Yes
17. Is the Board satisfied that the child protection procedures in relation to the making of reports to Tusla/An Garda Síochána were appropriately followed in each case reviewed?	Yes
18. Is the Board satisfied that, since the last review, all appropriate actions are being or have been taken in respect of any member of school personnel against whom an allegation of abuse or neglect has been made?*	Yes
19. Were child protection matters reported to the Board appropriately recorded in the Board minutes?	Yes
20. Is the Board satisfied that all records relating to child protection are appropriately filed and stored securely?	Yes
21. Has the Board been notified by any parent in relation to that parent not receiving the standard notification required under section 5.6 of the 'Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools 2017'?	No
22. In relation to any cases identified at question 21 above, has the Board ensured that any notifications required section 5.6 of the 'Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools 2017' were subsequently issued by the DLP?	Yes
23. Has the Board ensured that the Parents' Association (if any), has been provided with the school's Child Safeguarding Statement?	Yes
24. Has the Board ensured that the patron has been provided with the school's Child Safeguarding Statement?	Yes
25. Has the Board ensured that the school's Child Safeguarding Statement is available to parents on request?	Yes
26. Has the Board ensured that the Stay Safe programme is implemented in full in the school? (Applies to primary schools)	N/A

27. Has the Board ensured that the Wellbeing Programme for Junior Cycle students is implemented in full in the school? (Applies to post- primary schools)	Yes
28. Has the Board ensured that the SPHE curriculum is implemented in full in the school?	Yes
29. Is the Board satisfied that the statutory requirements for Garda Vetting have been met in respect of all school personnel (employees and volunteers)? *	Yes
30. Is the Board satisfied that the Department's requirements in relation to the provision of a child protection related statutory declaration and associated form of undertaking have been met in respect of persons appointed to teaching and non-teaching positions? *	Yes
31. Is the Board satisfied that, from a child protection perspective, thorough recruitment and selection procedures are applied by the school in relation to all school personnel (employees and volunteers)? *	Yes
32. Has the Board considered and addressed any complaints or suggestions for improvements regarding the school's Child Safeguarding Statement?	Yes
33. Has the Board sought the feedback of parents in relation to the school's compliance with the requirements of the child safeguarding requirements of the 'Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools 2017'	No
34. Has the Board sought the feedback of pupils in relation to the school's child safeguarding arrangements?	No
35. Is the Board satisfied that the 'Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools 2017' are being fully and adequately implemented by the school?	Yes
36. Has the Board identified any aspects of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement and/or its implementation that require further improvement?	Yes
37. Has the Board put in place an action plan containing appropriate timelines to address those aspects of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement and/or its implementation that have been identified as requiring further improvement?	Yes
38. Has the Board ensured that any areas for improvement that that were identified in any previous review of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement have been adequately addressed?	Work in Progress

*In schools where the ETB is the employer the responsibility for meeting the employer's requirements rests with the ETB concerned. In such cases, this question should be completed following consultation with the ETB.

Signed _____ Date _____

Chairperson, Board of Management

Signed _____ Date _____

Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Template 4: Notification regarding the Board of Management’s review of the Child Safeguarding Statement

To: Denis Leamy CEO of the CETB

The Board of Management of Coláiste Fionnchua wishes to inform you that:

- The Board of Management’s annual review of the school’s Child Safeguarding Statement was completed at the Board meeting of 25-9-2024.
- This review was conducted in accordance with the “Checklist for Review of the Child Safeguarding Statement” published on the Department’s ‘website www.education.ie

Signed _____ Date _____

Chairperson, Board of Management

Signed _____ Date _____

Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management