



ST. CONLETH'S COLLEGE
SENIOR SCHOOL

Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment

Child Safeguarding Statement:

St. Conleth's College Secondary School 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 Unitary Manager/CEO of St. Conleth's College has agreed the Child Safeguarding Statement set out in this document.

- 1 The Unitary Manager/CEO 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 Dónal Ó Dúlaing, Principal.**
- 3 **The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is Angleina Hopkins, Deputy Principal.**
- 4 **The Relevant Person is Dónal Ó Dúlaing.**
- 5 The Unitary Manager/CEO 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 Department of Education 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 The Unitary Manager/CEO to avail of relevant training
 - The Unitary Manager/CEO maintains records of all staff 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.
- 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 The Unitary Manager/CEO 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.


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.

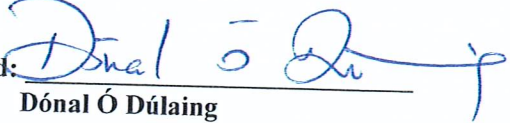
7 This statement has been published on the school's website and has been provided to all members of school personnel, the Parents' Association (if any) and the patron. It is readily accessible to parents and guardians on request. A copy of this Statement will be made available to Tusla and the Department if requested.

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 Unitary Manager/CEO on 15/09/23

This Child Safeguarding Statement was reviewed by the Unitary Manager/ CEO on 15/09/23

Signed: 
Tony Kilcommons
Unitary Manager/CEO

Signed: 
Dónal Ó Dúlaing
Senior School Principal

Date: 15/09/23

Date: 15/9/'23

CHILD SAFEGUARDING RISK ASSESSMENT:

Written Assessment of Risk of St. Conleth's College Senior School

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 (revised 2023)*, the following is the Written Risk Assessment of [St. Conleth's College].

1. List of school activities

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- Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils.
- Recreation breaks for pupils.
- Classroom teaching.
- One-to-one teaching.
- One-to-one counselling.
- One-to-one learning.
- Outdoor teaching activities.
- Sporting Activities.
- School outings.
- School trips involving overnight stay.
- School trips involving foreign travel.
- Use of toilet/changing/shower areas in schools.
- Management of School Canteen
- Annual Sports Days.
- Fundraising events involving pupils.
- Use of off-site facilities for school activities.
- Care of children with special educational needs.
- Administration of Emergency Medicine.
- Administration of First Aid.
- Curricular provision in respect of SPHE, RSE and other relevant programmes.
- Prevention 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 extra-curricular activities.
- Remote Teaching and Learning.
- Care of pupils with specific vulnerabilities/ needs such as:
 - Pupils 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.
 - Pupils with medical needs..
- Recruitment of school personnel including -
 - Teachers/SNA's.
 - 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.
- Participation by pupils in religious ceremonies/religious instruction external to the school.
 - Use of Information and Communication Technology by pupils in school.
 - Application of sanctions under the school's Code of Behaviour including detention of pupils, confiscation of phones etc.
 - Students participating in work experience in the school.
 - 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.
 - After school use of school premises by other organisations.
 - Evening Study.

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

- 1.) Risk of harm not being recognised by school personnel.
- 2.) Risk of harm not being reported properly and promptly by school personnel.
- 3.) Risk of child being harmed in the school by a member of school personnel.
- 4.) Risk of child being harmed in the school by another child.
- 5.) Risk of child being harmed in the school by volunteer or visitor to the school.
- 6.) 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.
- 7.) Risk of harm due to bullying of child by school personnel.
- 8.) Risk of harm due to Racism and other forms of discrimination.
- 9.) Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children in school.
- 10.) Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children while attending out of school activities.
- 11.) Risk of harm due to inappropriate relationship between a child and another child.
- 12.) Risk of harm due to inappropriate relationship between a child and an adult.
- 13.) Risk of harm due to children inappropriately accessing/using computers, social media, phones and other devices while at school.
- 14.) Risk of harm to children with SEN who have particular vulnerabilities.
- 15.) Risk of harm due to inadequate Code of Behaviour.
- 16.) Risk of harm in one-to-one teaching, counselling, coaching situation.
- 17.) Risk of harm caused by member of school personnel communicating with pupils in an inappropriate manner via social media, texting, digital device or other manner.
- 18.) Risk of harm caused by member of school personnel accessing/circulating inappropriate material via social media, texting, digital device or other manner.

19.) Risk of Harm due to Remote Teaching and Learning.

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

- 1.)
 - a) All school personnel are provided with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement.
 - b) All school personnel must complete the Children's First Online Tutorial.
- 2.)
 - a) The *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools (revised 2023)* are made available to all school personnel
 - b) School Personnel are required to adhere to the *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools (revised 2023)* and all registered teaching staff are required to adhere to the *Children First Act 2015* and its **Addendum (2019)**
 - c) All school personnel must complete the Children's First Online Tutorial.
- 3.)
 - a) School Personnel are required to adhere to the *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools (revised 2023)* and all registered teaching staff are required to adhere to the *Children First Act 2015* and its **Addendum (2019)**
 - b) All staff are garda vetted by the school through the JMB.
- 4.)
 - a) The school implements in full the SPHE curriculum.
 - b) The school implements in full the Wellbeing Programme at Junior Cycle level.
 - c) 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.
 - d) The school has a yard/playground supervision rota to ensure appropriate supervision of children during breaks and in respect of specific areas such as toilets, corridors etc.
 - e) The school has in place a policy and clear procedures in respect of school outings
 - f) The school has a Health and Safety Policy.
 - g) The school has a Code of Behaviour Policy for pupils, which must be signed by both Parent and Child.
 - h) The School implements the SHARE Programme.
 - i) The School implements the Helping Hands Programme.
 - j) The School has a "House System" in place.
5. The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation and to the relevant DES circulars in relation to recruitment and Garda vetting.
6.
 - a.) Procedures for a vetting disclosure when participating in out of school activities
 - b.) The school will adhere to its policy on school outings.
 - c.) The school has in place a policy and procedures for the use of external sports coaches.

7. The school has a Code of Conduct/Competencies for school personnel
8.
 - a.) Break-time and Yard Supervision Policy in place.
 - b.) Classroom Supervision procedures are in place.
 - c.) Registration / Roll Call procedures are in place.
 - d.) The school has a Code of Conduct/Competencies for school personnel (teaching and non-teaching)
 - e.) The school has an AUP Policy in place
 - f.) The school has procedures in place for staff and pupils on the school premises after school hours.
9. School Trip/Outing Policy in place.
10.
 - a.) The School implements the SHARE Programme.
 - b.) The school implements in full the SPHE curriculum.
 - c.) The school has an AUP Policy in place.
11.
 - a.) All school personnel must complete the Children's First Online Tutorial
 - b.) The school has an AUP Policy in place.
 - c.) The School implements the SHARE Programme.
 - d.) The school implements in full the SPHE curriculum
 - e.) The school has a Code of Conduct/Competencies for school personnel
- 12.)
 - a.) The school has an AUP Policy in place.
 - b.) The school has in place a Code of Behaviour for pupils, which must be signed by both pupil and parents.
- 13.)
 - a.) The school has a Special Educational Needs Policy.
 - b.) The school has a Pastoral Care Team.
 - c.) The school has a Lean In / Lean Out Policy in place.
- 14.) The Code of Behaviour is reviewed and updated annually.
- 15.)
 - a.) The school has a Code of Conduct/Competencies for school personnel (teaching and non-teaching)
 - b.) The school has in place a policy and clear procedures in place for staff in respect of one to one teaching.
 - c.) The school has in place a policy and procedures for the use of external sports coaches.
 - d.) The school has in place a policy and procedures for one-to-one counselling, special needs one to one counselling and teacher one to one counselling – The school has in place a policy and procedures in respect of student teacher placements see school base: mentoring of student teachers and status and responsibilities of student teachers.
 - e.) See Staff Legal Responsibilities.

- 16.) a.) The school has e-mailed each member of school staff with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement part of New Teachers' Pack.
- b.) Ensures all new staff are provided with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement.
- c.) The school has a Code of Conduct/Competencies for school personnel (teaching and non-teaching)
- d.) The School has a Digital and Social Media Policy in place for Pupils.
- e.) The School has a Digital and Social Media Policy in place for Staff.
- f.) The School has an SPHE Policy in place.
- g.) The School has a SHARE Programme in place.
- h.) The school has an AUP Policy in place.
- i.) All school personnel must complete the Children's First Online Tutorial.
- 17.) a.) The school has e-mailed each member of school staff with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement part of New Teachers' Pack.
- b.) The School has a Digital and Social Media Policy in place for Pupils.
- c.) The School has a Digital and Social Media Policy in place for Staff.
- d.) The school has a Code of Conduct/Competencies for school personnel (teaching and non-teaching) see SchoolBase.
- e.) All school personnel must complete the Children's First Online Tutorial.
- 18.) St. Conleth's Staff and Pupils adheres to its Remote Learning and Teaching Policy.

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 (revised 2023)*

In undertaking this risk assessment, the Unitary Manager/CEO 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.