COLÁISTE POBAIL NA CÚLÓIGE

Príomhoide/Principal: Sarah Ferns

Leas-Príómhoide / Deputy Principal: Ciaran Wrynne

Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment

For:	**Coolock Community College**	
At:	**Clonshaugh Road, Coolock, Dublin 17, D17 KH66**	

This school is a: (tick appropriate) ☐primary ☒post-primary ☐ special 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 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):

Sarah Ferns

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

Ciaran Wrynne

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

Name of Relevant Person

Sarah Ferns

(In schools this person is the DLP)

Relevant Person can be contacted on:

0871926488	sarah.ferns@coolockcc.cdetb.ie

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:

Wesleigh O'Hagan

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

List of School Activities	
1.	Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils
2.	Recreation breaks for pupils
3.	Classroom teaching
4.	One-to-one teaching
5.	One-to-one learning support
6.	One-to-one counselling
7.	Outdoor teaching activities
8.	Online teaching and learning remotely
9.	Sporting Activities
10.	School outings
11.	School trips involving overnight stay
12.	School trips involving foreign travel
13.	Use of toilet/changing/shower areas in schools
14.	Annual Sports Day
15.	Fundraising events involving pupils
16	Use of off-site facilities for scho ol activities
17.	School transport arrangements including use of bus escorts
18.	Care of children with special educational needs, including intimate care where needed,
19.	Care of any vulnerable adult students, including intimate care where needed
20.	Management of challenging behaviour amongst pupils, including appropriate use of restraint where required
21.	Management of provision of food and drink
22.	Administration of Medicine
23.	Administration of First Aid
24.	Curricular provision in respect of SPHE - JC, SPHE - LC
25.	Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst pupils
26.	Training of school personnel in child protection matters
27.	Use of external personnel to supplement curriculum
28.	Use of external personnel to support sports and other extra-curricular activities
29.	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 - Children in care - Children on CPNS - Children with medical needs -

30.	Recruitment of school personnel including - - Teachers/SNA's - Caretaker/Secretary/Cleaners - Sports coaches - External Tutors/Guest Speakers - Volunteers/Parents/Guardians in school activities - Visitors/contractors present in school during school hours - Visitors/contractors present during after school activities -
31.	Use of Information and Communication Technology by pupils in school, including social media
32.	Application of sanctions under the school's Code of Behaviour including detention of pupils, confiscation of phones etc.
33.	Students participating in work experience in the school
34.	Students from the school participating in work experience elsewhere
35.	Student teachers undertaking training placement in school
36.	Use of video/photography/other media to record school events
37.	After school use of school premises by other organisations
38.	Use of school premises by other organisation during school day
39.	Breakfast club
40.	Homework club/evening study

Risks Identified for Each School Activity	
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, swimming lessons
7.	Risk of harm due to inappropriate use of online remote teaching and learning communication platform such as an uninvited person accessing the lesson link, students being left unsupervised for long periods of time in breakout rooms
8.	Risk of harm due to bullying of child
9.	Risk of harm due to racism
10.	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children in school
11.	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children while attending out of school activities
12.	Risk of harm due to inappropriate relationship/communications between child and another child or 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, including medical vulnerabilities
15.	Risk of harm to child while a child is receiving intimate care
16.	Risk of harm due to inadequate code of behaviour
17.	Risk of harm in one-to-one teaching, counselling, coaching situation
18.	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
19.	Risk of harm caused by member of school personnel accessing/circulating inappropriate material via social media, texting, digital device or other manner

Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risks	
1.	All school personnel are provided with a copy of the school's *Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment*
2.	The *Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025* are made available to all school personnel
3.	School Personnel are required to adhere to the *Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025* and all registered teaching staff are required to adhere to the *Children First Act 2015* as well as supporting the continued implementation of the best practice guidance set out in Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children 2017 and it's Addenda 2019 and 2025.
4.	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.
5.	The school implements in full the SPHE curriculum at Junior and Senior Cycle.
6.	The school implements in full the Wellbeing Programme at Junior Cycle
7.	School authorities have a code of behaviour and an anti-bullying policy in place in accordance with the department's 'Bí Cineálta' procedures to prevent and address bullying in schools and as outlined in Circular 55/2024
8.	The school has complied with the Understanding Behaviours of Concern and Responding to Crisis Situations developed by the Department of Education and Youth to address uncertainty for staff on how to respond when facing crisis situations where there are concerns regarding physical safety
9.	The school undertakes anti-racism awareness initiatives
10.	The school has a yard/playground supervision policy to ensure appropriate supervision of children during, assembly, dismissal and breaks and in respect of specific areas such as toilets, changing rooms etc.
11.	The school has in place a policy and clear procedures in respect of school outings
12.	The school has a Health and Safety policy
13.	The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation and relevant DEY circulars in relation to recruitment and Garda vetting
14.	The school has a codes of conduct for school personnel (teaching and non-teaching staff)
15.	The school complies with the agreed disciplinary procedures for teaching staff
16.	The school has a Special Educational Needs policy

17.	The school has an intimate care policy/plan in respect of students who require such care
18.	The school has in place a policy and procedures for the administration of medication to pupils
19.	The school has provided each member of school staff with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment
20.	The school ensures all new staff are provided with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment
21.	The school encourages staff to avail of relevant training
22.	The school encourages board of management members to avail of relevant training
23.	The school maintains records of all personnel and board member training
24.	The school has in place a policy and procedures for the administration of First Aid
25.	The school has in place a code of behaviour for pupils
26.	The school has an Acceptable Use Policy in place, to include provision for online teaching and learning remotely, and has communicated this policy to parents
27.	The school has in place a policy governing the use of smart phones and tablet devices in the school by pupils as per Circular 38/2018 and the national guidelines.
28.	The school has in place a Critical Incident Management Plan
29.	The school has in place a Home School Liaison policy and related procedures
30.	The school has in place a policy and procedures for the use of external persons to supplement delivery of the curriculum
31.	The school has in place a policy and clear procedures for one-to-one teaching activities
32.	The school has in place a policy and procedures for one-to-one counselling
33.	The school has in place a policy and procedures in respect of student teacher placements
34.	The school has in place a policy and procedures in respect of students undertaking work experience in the school
35.	The school has in place a policy and procedures in respect of pupils of the school undertaking work experience in external organisations
36.	The school has in place a policy in relation to assisting members of school personnel in respect of disclosures of retrospective abuse
37.	The school has considered the questions in Appendix 1 of the Child Protection and Safeguarding Procedures for Boarding Facilities

	Associated with Recognised Schools 2023 and implemented the necessary risk mitigation measure

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.

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 Tuesday 8th September 2026 (*most recent review date)*

Signed:*		**Date**:

Chairperson of the board of management

Signed:*		**Date**:

Principal/Secretary to the board of management

This Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment is expected to be reviewed again on September 2027 *(expected review date)*

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.

Principal's Office Deputy Principal's Office