



# Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment

Coláiste Pobail Fóla 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 Pobail Fóla 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 **Joy Uí Mhurchadha**
- 3 The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is **Gráinne McCormack**
- 4 The Relevant Person is **Joy Uí Mhurchadha**  
(The relevant person is one who can provide information in respect of how the child safeguarding statement was developed and will be able to provide the statement on request. In a school setting the relevant person shall be the designated liaison person.)

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](http://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](http://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.

- 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 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](http://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 Board of Management on 4/12/24

This Child Safeguarding Statement was reviewed by the Board of Management on 13/5/34

Signed: *Dara Fitzpatrick*

Chairperson of Board of Management

Date: 4/12/24

Signed: *Joy W Murchioche.*

Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Date: 4/12/24

## Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment

### Written Assessment of Risk of Coláiste Pobail Fóla

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 PostPrimary Schools (revised 2023)*, the following is the Written Risk Assessment of [name of school].

<b>1. List of school activities</b>	<b>2. The school has identified the following risk of harm in respect of its activities –</b>	<b>3. The school has the following procedures in place to address the risks of harm identified in this assessment -</b>
Supervision of Students	Daily arrival and dismissal of students	The College has created supervision guidelines to ensure appropriate supervision of students during transition times that are reviewed regularly to building challenges on campus. Teachers are aware of CP Fóla's Attendance Policy
Supervision of Students	Lunchtime Supervision	The school has developed guidelines for the supervision of students during assembly, dismissal and breaks
Supervision of Students	School Tours and Outings	All teachers follow the agreed protocols and policies for extra-curricular activities and outings.
Supervision of Students	Use of Toilets	The school has agreed supervision guidelines
Supervision of Students	Visitors to the school and fundraising	At least one teacher present at all times

SNA (Primary Care Needs)	Managing students with Primary Care Needs	Protocols and guidelines are in place as per the Department of Education circulars
Training and Garda Vetting	Classroom Teaching	The Teaching Council and DDLETB vet all personnel
Training and Garda Vetting	One to One Teaching	Teachers are instructed on the correct procedures in working on one to one situations
Training and Garda Vetting	Student Teachers undertaking training placement in the school	Induction protocols and training are in place.
Training and Garda Vetting	Training of school personnel in Child Protection matters	Child Protection delivered annually
Training and Garda Vetting	Use of external personnel to supplement curriculum	Garda vetting and qualified personnel
Training and Garda Vetting	Recruitment of school personnel	DDLETB recruitment covers all requirements
Pastoral Supports	Care of children with Additional Educational Needs	Learning Support Policy adhered to
Pastoral Supports	Prevention and Dealing with Bullying amongst students	Anti-Bullying Policy in place and used.
Student Behaviour	Managing Student Behaviour and sanctions	Code of Behaviour in place and reviewed annually
Student Wellbeing	Encouraging Positive Well-being	A Well-being committee rolls out whole school activities.
Guidance Counselling	Guidance Counselling	No Guidance Counsellor currently in place
Medical Matters	Administration of First Aid/medicine	Adherence to policy
Curricular Provision	SPHE, RSE, Life Skills	The College implements these programs in full.
Remote Teaching and Learning	Teaching on-line	All staff trained in Apple Classroom and Apple Schoolwork
Technology	Use of Technology in the school	The school implements a comprehensive Acceptable Use Policy
Health and Safety	Health and Safety	The College has a Health and Safety policy in place which is reviewed regularly.

Critical Incident Policy	Critical Incident Policy	This policy is reviewed every three years and ratified by the Board of Management
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**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*

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.