



## Child Safeguarding Statement

Deansrath Community College is a post-primary school providing post-primary education to students 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 Deansrath Community College 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 Helen Taylor
- 3 The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is Frances McNicholas
- 4 The Relevant Person is Helen Taylor  
*(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. This person can also be the DLP)*
- 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 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 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 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 16<sup>th</sup> November 2023.

This Child Safeguarding Statement was reviewed by the Board of Management on 12<sup>th</sup> March 2024.

Signed:   
Chairperson of Board of Management

Signed:   
Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Date: 12/3/24

Date: 12/03/2024



## Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment

### Written Assessment of Risk of Deansrath Community College

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 [name of school].

#### 1. List of school activities

**Supervision of students**

(Arrival & dismissal; breaks; use of toilets /showers/ changing areas)

**Recruitment of Teaching & other Staff**

(Teachers; SNAs; Trainee Teachers; Ancillary Staff; Contractors)

**Teaching**

(Classroom; outdoor; one-to-one teaching; one-to-one counselling)

**Dual-Provision**

(2<sup>nd</sup> Level & Further Education sharing campus)

**ICT**

(Access to and use by students; **online activity**; using media to record student activity; communication between school personnel and students)

**Remote Teaching & Learning**

The remote operation of the school, either partially or fully, should it be required

**External Visitors/Volunteers/Tutors**

(Activities to supplement curriculum/extra-curricular activities; inside/outside school hours)

**Off-site Activities**

(Sports; school outings; overnight trips; foreign trips; fundraising events)

**Work Experience**

(In-school experience; outside school experience)

**Other School Activities**

(Extra-curricular/SCP/Evening Study)

**Students with SEN or other vulnerable students**

(Transport- bus escorts; care of students with SEN (including intimate care);

Students on CPNS

Traveller Community

Ethnic Minorities;

LGBT students

**ASD Class**

(Students with specific vulnerabilities)

**Health & Safety**

(Administration of Medicine; Administration of First Aid)

**Behaviour Management**

(Challenging behaviour; application of sanctions; preventing and dealing with bullying)

**Awareness Raising**

(SPHE/RSE/Training of school personnel in Child Protection matters)



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

Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision;  
Risk of harm due to bullying of student  
Risk of harm due to untrained staff in respect of Child Protection  
Risk of harm due to appointment of non-vetted staff  
Risk of student being harmed by member of school personnel;  
Risk of harm in one-to-one teaching, counselling, coaching situation;  
Risk of harm not being recognised;  
Risk of harm not being reported promptly by school personnel;  
Risk of harm to 2<sup>nd</sup> Level student by FE student  
Risk of harm due to inappropriate relationship/communications between student and another child or adult;  
Risk of harm due to student inappropriately accessing/using computers, social media, phones and other devices while at school  
Risk of harm caused by member of school personnel communicating with students in inappropriate manner via social media, texting, digital service or other manner;  
Risk of harm caused by member of school personnel accessing/circulating inappropriate material via social media, texting, digital service or other manner  
Risk of harm to student not being recognised by school personnel  
Risk of harm to student through inappropriate online activity  
Risk of harm through unauthorised access to online classroom  
Risk of harm due to extensive periods of unsupervised activity in break-out rooms  
Risk of student being harmed by visitor or volunteer to the school  
Risk of student being harmed by a member of school personnel, a member of staff of another organisation or other person while student is participating in out of school activities  
Risk of harm to students with SEN who have particular vulnerabilities  
Risk of harm to students on CPNS  
Risk of harm while a student is receiving intimate care  
Risk of harm to students on grounds of racism  
Risk of harm to students on grounds of homophobia  
Risk of harm due to students' needs not being met  
Risk of harm through untrained personnel attending to students  
Risk of harm through non-compliance with school policies  
Risk of staff member not being aware of Child Protection obligations



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

Supervision Roster  
Anti-bullying policy  
Induction of new staff (including trainee teachers)  
Child Protection training for all staff  
Vetting of staff (ETB)  
Teaching Council Registration  
SEN/Resource Timetables  
Record-keeping by SEN/NBSS/Guidance/Chaplain  
Guidelines on 1-1 sessions  
Code of Behaviour  
FE Timetable  
Dedicated toilets and social spaces for FE students  
AUP policies to safeguard online activities  
Devices monitored by ETB/school checks  
Student Personal Device Policy  
Informed Parental Consent (ICT)  
GDPR  
SPHE/Wellbeing  
Care team/pastoral support systems fully operational during lockdown periods  
Targeted students linked with member of care team  
Care plans for individual students  
School Trips/Work experience: oversight by lead teachers/programme coordinators  
School Completion Programme: SCP own policies and procedures in line with relevant school policy. SCP Child Safeguarding Statement. CPOR conducted at each SCP Executive meeting  
AEN policy  
Critical Incident policy  
Pastoral System  
Care Team  
Home School Community Liaison  
Chaplain  
NBSS – Behaviour for Learning



Specific training for designated staff  
Full utilisation of allocated resources  
Initial Whole-staff CPD on Special Class  
Needs-driven ongoing CPD  
AEN Policy  
Health & Safety policy including Dignity in the Workplace  
  
Staff trained in First Aid  
  
PBST – implementation of whole-school strategies to support positive school environment  
Staff Child Protection Training  
  
CPD in RSE/SPHE  
  
SPHE policy  
  
RSE policy  
  
Guidance Plan

**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 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.