



St. Colman's College



Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment Child Safeguarding Statement

St. Colman's College 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 Board of Management of St. Colman's 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 **Suzanne Lohan**
3. The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is **Susan Carney**
4. The Relevant Person is **Suzanne Lohan**
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.



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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](https://www.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](https://www.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.



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- 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.

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.

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

This Child Safeguarding Statement was reviewed by the Board of Management on 21-10-2025. [most recent review date].

Signed: _____
Chairperson of Board of Management

Date: 21-10-2025

Signed: _____
Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Date: 21-10-2025



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Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment

Written Assessment of Risk of St. Colman's College

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 St. Colman's College

General Daily Activities		
Activity	The school has identified the following risk of harm in respect of its activities	The school has the following procedures in place to address the risks of harm identified in this assessment
Arrival and Departure	Harm not being reported correctly and promptly; risk of a student being harmed by school personnel	Health and Safety policy; Garda vetting of all staff; corridor/grounds supervision protocol
Mid-morning Break	Harm due to inadequate supervision	Rostered staff presence and corridor/grounds supervision
Lunchtime (on premises)	Bullying or harm due to inadequate supervision	Anti-bullying policy and procedures; supervised lunch areas
Lunchtime (leaving premises)	Harm due to inadequate supervision off-site	Code of Behaviour for students; supervision protocol for leaving the premises
Use of Toilet Facilities	Harm in unsupervised areas	Supervision protocol in place for specific areas outside toilets doors
School Transport	Harm on school transport	Health and Safety policy; supervision on school transport
Use of Technology (outside classroom)	Harm due to misuse of technology	Code of Behaviour includes technology use; supervision in technology areas
Congregation in Locker Areas	Harm in unsupervised or crowded areas	Supervision during peak times; clear behavioural expectations
Supervised After-School Study	Harm due to inadequate supervision	Supervised study sessions; staff trained in safeguarding
'Empty' School (beginning/end of day)	Harm when the school is less supervised	Rostered staff presence during these times for supervision



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Teaching and Learning Activities		
Activity	The school has identified the following risk of harm in respect of its activities	The school has the following procedures in place to address the risks of harm identified in this assessment
Classroom Interactions	Risk of a student being harmed in the classroom by another student; Risk of harm due to the bullying of a student in the classroom	The school implements the SPHE curriculum; Code of Behaviour for students; School has an RSE policy
One-to-one Teaching	Risk of harm in one-to-one teaching; Risk of a student being harmed by a teacher or substitute teacher	Codes of conduct for school personnel; School Personnel adhere to Child Protection Procedures; Garda vetting legislation compliance
Guidance/Counselling Sessions	Risk of harm not being recognised or reported correctly and promptly by school personnel	Child Protection Procedures available to all personnel; Training in recognition and reporting of harm
SPHE/RSE/Wellbeing Curriculum	Risk of harm due to inappropriate curricular content or presentation	Wellbeing Programme at Junior Cycle; RSE policy catering to all students; Acceptable Use Policy for digital content
Use of Substitute Teachers	Risk of a student being harmed by a substitute teacher	Garda vetting for all staff; Policy and procedures for the use of external persons; Compliance with DES circulars
Meetings with Senior Leadership	Risk of harm not being recognised or reported in one-to-one settings	Codes of conduct for school personnel; Adherence to Child Protection Procedures
Education Technology in Classroom	Risk of harm caused by inappropriate use of technology	Acceptable Use Policy for Computers, Internet and Social Media; Mobile phone policy; Teacher training in digital safety
Work Experience	Risk of harm while carrying out work experience	Protocols in place for work experience in an external organisation; Monitoring and vetting of work placement locations
Students with Special Needs	Risk of harm caused by not addressing the needs of students with Special Needs	Special Educational Needs policy; Professional development in differentiation; Inclusive teaching practices



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Student Teacher Training Placement	Risk of a student being harmed in the classroom by student teachers	Teaching council guidelines for student-teacher placements; Supervision and training for student teachers
Graduation and Affirmation Ceremonies	Risk of harm in large gatherings or events	Policy and procedures for graduation and affirmation ceremonies; Event-specific risk assessments and supervision plans

Pastoral Care Activities		
Activity	The school has identified the following risk of harm in respect of its activities	The school has the following procedures in place to address the risks of harm identified in this assessment
One-to-one Counselling	Risk of harm in a one-to-one engagement	One-One-Engagement Policy; Guidance department and staff training
School Outings	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision	Health and Safety policy; Supervision protocols; External trip policy
School Trips (Overnight)	Risk of harm to students when away from home	External trip policy covering overnight stays; Supervision and safety protocols
School Trips (Foreign Travel)	Risk of harm to students in foreign environments	External trip policy for foreign travel; Health and Safety policy; Staff training
Care of Students with Special Educational Needs	Risk of mishandling of students with challenging behaviour; Risk due to lack of understanding of specific needs	Special Educational Needs policy; Qualified SNAs; Pastoral Care Coordination Team
Administration of Medicine	Risk of harm in medication administration	Procedures for administration of medicines; Trained personnel
Administration of First Aid	Risk of harm due to inadequate first aid response	Health and Safety policy; First Aid trained staff
SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe Curriculum	Risk of harm through bullying; Lack of understanding of specific needs	Anti-bullying policy; Pastoral Care Policy; Inclusive curriculum design



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Prevention and Dealing with Bullying	Risk of harm through bullying; Inappropriate sanctioning for bullying	Anti-bullying policy; Code of Behaviour; Review of sanctioning policies
Training in Child Protection Matters	Risk of harm not being recognised or reported	Child Protection Procedures training; Adherence to Children First Act 2015
Care of Vulnerable Students	Risk of harm to students from diverse backgrounds	Pastoral Care Coordination Team; Policies addressing diversity; Training in cultural competence
Misuse of Social Media	Risk of harm caused by inappropriate social media contact; Over-harsh sanctions for misuse	Mobile phone policy; Drafting of Social Media Policy; Acceptable Use Policy for Internet

Recruitment Activities		
Activity	The school has identified the following risk of harm in respect of its activities	The school has the following procedures in place to address the risks of harm identified in this assessment
Recruitment of Principal, Deputy Principal(s), Teachers, Special Needs Assistants (SNAs), Administration Staff, Caretaking Staff, Housekeeping Staff, Cleaning Staff, Short or Long Term Contractors	Risk of harm to students by unqualified or inappropriate personnel	The BoM adheres to Garda vetting; Detailed references sought; Rigorous interview process
As above	Risk of harm to students from personnel with a history of unacceptable practices	The BoM Garda vetting; Employee Handbook; Induction programme; Detailed reference checks
As above	Risk of harm to students from personnel with a history of abuse	Garda vetting legislation compliance; Induction and training; Reference checks
As above	Risk of harm to students by personnel unwilling to commit to expected standards	The BoM induction programme; Employee Handbook; Vigilant recruitment process
As above	Risk of harm to students by unqualified or inappropriate personnel	Adherence to Garda vetting; Employee Handbook; Thorough reference and background checks
As above	Risk of harm to students from personnel with unacceptable previous practices	Garda vetting; Induction and training; Detailed reference checks



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As above	Risk of harm to students from personnel with a history of abuse	Compliance with Garda vetting requirements; Training in school policies; Reference verification
As above	Risk of harm to students by contractors unwilling to adhere to school standards	Contractor vetting; Clear contractual terms reflecting school standards; Regular monitoring

Sporting Activities		
Activity	The school has identified the following risk of harm in respect of its activities	The school has the following procedures in place to address the risks of harm identified in this assessment
Travelling to Matches	Risk of harm during transportation	Supervision protocol for transport; Garda Vetted staff and volunteers
Changing in School's/Other Schools' Changing Rooms	Risk of harm in changing room environments	Supervision protocols; Child Safeguarding Statement; Code of Behaviour
Annual Sports Day	Risk of harm in large-scale events	Comprehensive supervision protocol; First Aid trained coaching staff
School Trips Involving an Overnight Stay	Risk of harm during overnight stays	External Trips policy covering overnight stays; Supervision and safety protocols
Administration of First Aid Following a Sports Injury	Risk of harm while receiving First Aid	Comprehensive first aid response team; Training for coaches in First Aid
Use of External Personnel for Sports/Extra-curricular Activities	Risk of harm in a one-to-one coaching situation	Garda vetting for all external personnel; Adherence to Child Protection Procedures
Sports Coaches	Risk of harm due to inadequate code of behaviour	Code of Behaviour; Training in Child Protection Procedures and Children First Act 2015
Volunteers/Parents in Sports Activities	Risk of a student being harmed by volunteers/parents	Garda vetting; Child Safeguarding training; Supervision protocols
Student PE Teachers	Risk of harm due to lack of experience	Policy and procedures for student-teacher placements; Teaching Council Guidelines
Use of Social Media for Sporting Events	Risk of inappropriate communication or content circulation	Acceptable Use Policy for digital media; Mobile phone policy; Code of Behaviour



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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.

Signed: _____
Chairperson of Board of Management

Date: 21-10-2025

Signed: _____
Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Date: 21-10-2025