Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment

Child Safeguarding Statement

Coláiste Iósaef 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 Coláiste Iósaef 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 **NOEL KELLY**

3 The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is **MARITA HERBERT**

4 The Relevant Person is **NOEL KELLY**
(*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 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.

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 the 18th August 2025

This Child Safeguarding Statement was reviewed by the Board of Management on the 18th August 2025.

Signed: Rev William Fitzmaurice

Chairperson of Board of Management

Date: 18th August 2025

Signed: Noel Kelly

Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Date: 18th August 2025

Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment

Written Assessment of Risk of Coláiste Iósaef

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 Post Primary Schools (revised 2023), the following is the Written Risk Assessment of Coláiste Iósaef.

1. List of school activities	2. The school has identified the following risk of harm in respect of its activities –	3. The school has the following procedures in place to address the risks of harm identified in this assessment -
Interactions between teachers and students including but not limited to: **Classroom teaching** **Homework club/evening study** **Outdoor teaching activities** **Sporting activities**	Risk of student being harmed in the school by a member of school personnel. Risk of harm due to inappropriate relationship/communications between a student and an adult. Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of students. Risk of harm not being recognised by school personnel. Risk of harm not being reported properly and promptly by a member of school personnel.	The school has provided each member of school staff with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement The *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2023* are made available to all school personnel School Personnel are required to adhere to the *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2023*and all registered teaching staff are required to adhere to the *Children First Act 2015.* School personnel are encouraged to avail of relevant training. School personnel are expected to adhere to the Teaching Council's Code of Conduct and the schools Code of Professional Conduct. The school has a Dignity Charter. The school has in place a Supervision Policy. The school has a Sporting Guidelines and Extra Curricular Activities Policy which outlines clear

		procedures in respect of changing rooms, school outings and sporting activities.
Interaction between students including but not limited to: **Recreation breaks for students** **Movement between classes** **Use of toilets** **Use of changing rooms** **Outdoor teaching activities** **Sporting Activities**	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of students Risk of harm due to bullying of student. Risk of student being harmed in the school by another student. Risk of harm due to inappropriate relationship/communications between a student and another student. Risk of harm not being recognised by school personnel. Risk of harm not being reported properly and promptly by a member of school personnel.	The school has a yard/playground supervision policy to ensure appropriate supervision of children during, assemblies, dismissal and breaks and in respect of specific areas such as toilets etc. 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* The school has in place a Code of Behaviour Policy for students. The school has in place a Pastoral Care Policy. The school has a Sporting Guidelines and Extra Curricular Activities Policy which outlines clear procedures in respect of changing rooms, school outings and sporting activities. The school has in place an ICT policy (AUP Policy) in respect of usage of ICT by pupils. The school has in place a policy on personal electronic devices which includes the use of mobile phones by students. The school has provided each member of school staff with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement The *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2023* are made available to all school personnel. School Personnel are required to adhere to the *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2023* and all registered teaching staff are required to adhere to the *Children First Act 2015.*

		School personnel are encouraged to avail of relevant training.
Daily arrival and dismissal of students	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of students entering and leaving school. Risk of harm not being recognised by school personnel. Risk of harm not being reported properly and promptly by a member of school personnel.	The school ensures appropriate supervision of students for daily arrival and dismissal as per the allocation provided under the Supervision and Substitution Scheme of the Department of Education and Skills The school has in place a Home School Liaison policy and related procedures. The school has in place a Code of Behaviour Policy for students. The school has in place a Pastoral Care Policy. The school has provided each member of school staff with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement The *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2023* are made available to all school personnel School Personnel are required to adhere to the *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2023* and all registered teaching staff are required to adhere to the *Children First Act 2015.* School personnel are encouraged to avail of relevant training.
One-to-one teaching	Risk of harm in one-to-one teaching situation. Risk of harm to children with SEN who have particular vulnerabilities. Risk of harm due to inappropriate relationships/communications between child and another adult.	The school has in place procedures for one-to-one meetings with students The school has in place a Supervision Policy. The school has a Special Educational Needs Policy. The school has a Whole School Guidance Plan.
One-to-one counselling	Risk of harm in one-to-one counselling situation. Risk of harm to children with SEN who have particular vulnerabilities.	The school has in place procedures for one-to-one meetings with students. The school has a Special Educational Needs policy.

	Risk of harm due to inappropriate relationships/communications between child and another adult.	The school has a Whole School Guidance Plan. The school has in place a Pastoral Care Policy. The school has in place a Supervision Policy.
School outings	Risk of student being harmed by a member of school personnel, a member of staff of another organisation or other person Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of students while attending out of school activities	The school has in place a School Tours/Trips Policy in addition to a Sporting Guidelines and Extra Curricular Activities Policy. These policies outline clear procedures in relation to school outings. The school has in place a Code of Behaviour for students. School personnel are expected to adhere to the Teaching Council's Code of Conduct and the schools Code of Professional Conduct. The school complies with agreed disciplinary procedures for teaching staff. The school has in place a Pastoral Care Policy. The school has in place a policy and procedures for the administration of medication to pupils. The school has in place a policy and procedures for the administration of First Aid. The school has in place a Critical Incident Management Plan.
School trips involving overnight stays	Risk of student being harmed by a member of school personnel, a member of staff of another organisation or other person Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of students while attending out of school activities Risk of harm due to bullying of child	The school has in place a Code of Behaviour for students. School personnel are expected to adhere to the Teaching Council's Code of Conduct. The school has in place a School Tours/Trips Policy in addition to a Sporting Guidelines and Extra Curricular Activities Policy and clear procedures in respect of same. The school has in place a Pastoral Care Policy. The school has in place a policy and procedures for the administration of medication to pupils.

		The school has in place a policy and procedures for the administration of First Aid. The school has in place a Critical Incident Management Plan.
School trips involving foreign travel	Risk of student being harmed by a member of school personnel, a member of staff of another organisation or other person. Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of students while attending out of school activities.	The school has in place a School Tours/Trips Policy in addition to a Sporting Guidelines Policy and clear procedures in respect of same. The school has in place a Code of Behaviour for students The school has in place a Pastoral Care Policy. School personnel are expected to adhere to the Teaching Council's Code of Conduct and the schools Code of Professional Conduct. The school complies with agreed disciplinary procedures for teaching staff. The school has in place a policy and procedures for the administration of medication to pupils The school has in place a policy and procedures for the administration of First Aid. The school has in place a Critical Incident Management Plan.
Use of off-site facilities for school activities	Risk of student being harmed by a member of school personnel, a member of staff of another organisation or other person Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of students while attending an off-site facility	The school has in place a School Tours/Trips Policy in addition to a Sporting Guidelines and Extra Curricular Activities Policy and clear procedures in respect of same. The school has in place a Code of Behaviour for students. School personnel are expected to adhere to the Teaching Council's Code of Conduct and the schools Code of Professional Conduct. The school complies with agreed disciplinary procedures for teaching staff.

		The school has in place a policy and procedures for the administration of medication to pupils. The school has in place a policy and procedures for the administration of First Aid.
Annual Sports Day	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of students Risk of student being harmed by a member of school personnel, a member of staff of another organisation or other person	The school has in place a School Tours/Trips Policy in addition to a Sporting Guidelines and Extra Curricular Activities Policy and clear procedures in respect of same. The school has in place a Code of Behaviour for students The school has in place a Pastoral Care Policy. School personnel are expected to adhere to the Teaching Council's Code of Conduct and the schools Code of Professional Conduct. The school complies with agreed disciplinary procedures for teaching staff. The school has in place a policy and procedures for the administration of medication to pupils The school has in place a policy and procedures for the administration of First Aid
School transport arrangements	Risk of student being harmed while student is travelling to/from a school or school activity	The school has in place a Code of Behaviour for students School personnel are expected to adhere to the Teaching Council's Code of Conduct and the schools Code of Professional Conduct. The school complies with agreed disciplinary procedures for teaching staff. The school has in place a Critical Incident Management Plan
Management of challenging behaviour amongst students, including appropriate use of restraint where required	Risk of student being harmed in the school by a member of school personnel Risk of student being harmed in the school by another student	The school has in place a Code of Behaviour for students *(no restraint policy).*

Application of sanctions under the school's Code of Behaviour including detention of students, confiscation of phones etc.	Risk of harm due to inadequate Code of Behaviour Risk of harm due to children inappropriately accessing/using computers, social media, phones and other devices while at school	The school has in place a Code of Behaviour for students The school has in place an ICT policy (AUP Policy) in respect of usage of ICT by pupils The school has in place a policy on personal electronic devices which includes the use of mobile phones by students 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*
Care of students with special educational needs, including intimate care where needed	Risk of harm to students with SEN who have particular vulnerabilities Risk of harm to student while a student is receiving intimate care	The school has a Special Educational Needs policy. The school has a Whole School Guidance Plan The school has in place a Pastoral Care Policy.
Care of students with specific vulnerabilities/ needs including: **Students from ethnic minorities/migrants** **Members of the Traveller community** **Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex (LGBTI+) students and students perceived to be LGBTI+** **Students of minority religions** **Children in care** **Children on CPNS**	Risk of student being harmed in the school by a member of school personnel Risk of student being harmed in the school by another student Risk of harm due to bullying of student	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.* The school has in place a Code of Behaviour for students. The school has in place a Home School Liaison policy and related procedures The school has in place a Dignity Charter. 'Being LGBT' in school resource is utilised in the school – https://www.education.ie/en/Publications/Education-Reports/Being-LGBT-in-School.pdf
Administration of Medicine	Risk of harm due to inadequately trained staff	The school has in place a policy and procedures for the administration of medication to students.
Administration of First Aid	Risk of harm due to inadequately trained staff	The school has in place a policy and procedures for the administration of First Aid.

		The school has a Health and Safety Policy.
Curricular provision in respect of SPHE, RSE and Wellbeing	Risk of harm due to inadequate education of students	The school implements in full the SPHE curriculum and has in place an SPHE policy. The school has an RSE Policy. The school implements in full the Wellbeing Programme at Junior Cycle and a TY Wellbeing Course.
Participation by students in religious ceremonies/religious instruction external to the school	Risk of student being harmed in the school by a member of school personnel Risk of student being harmed in the school by another student Risk of harm due to bullying of student	The school has a Religious Education Policy 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.* The school has in place a Code of Behaviour for students. The school has in place a Dignity Charter.
Use of Information and Communication Technology by students in school and at home for RL purposes.	Risk of harm due to students inappropriately accessing/using computers, social media, phones and other devices while at school	The school has in place an ICT policy (AUP Policy) in respect of usage of ICT by students. The school has in place a policy on personal electronic devices which includes the use of mobile phones and mobile devices by students.
Students participating in work experience in the school	Risk of student being harmed by a member of school personnel, a member of staff of another organisation or other person	The school has in place procedures in respect of students undertaking work experience in the school.
Students from the school participating in work experience elsewhere	Risk of student being harmed by a member of staff of another organisation or other person while student participating in work experience	The school has in place procedures in respect of students from the school undertaking work experience in an external organisation.
Recruitment of school personnel including - **Teachers** **SNAs** **Admin staff** **Caretaker** **Cleaners**	Risk of student being harmed in the school by a member of school personnel	The school/LCETB adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation and relevant DES circulars in relation to recruitment and Garda vetting The school/LCETB has procedures in place in relation to the recruitment of school personnel which adheres to the requirements in DES circulars.

		The *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2023* are made available to all school personnel. All new staff are provided with a copy of the school's Student Safeguarding Statement The school encourages staff to avail of relevant training The school/LCETB maintains records of all staff and Board member training. The school has in place a Teacher Induction Policy. This policy is currently being reviewed to reflect the schools engagement with the Droichead process.
Use of external personnel to supplement curriculum and / or support sports and other extra-curricular activities **External Tutors/Guest Speakers** **Volunteers/Parents in school activities**	Risk of student being harmed in the school by volunteer or visitor to the school	Visiting Speakers - The school has in place policy/procedures for the use of external persons to supplement delivery of the curriculum. Parents/Guardians who volunteer are required to undergo Garda Vetting through LCETB. The school has in place a policy and related procedures for the use of external sports coaches The school has in place a Home School Liaison policy and related procedures
Fundraising events involving students	Risk of student being harmed by a member of staff of another organisation or other person while student participating in fundraising	The school has in place an ICT policy (AUP Policy) in respect of usage of ICT by pupils The school has in place a policy on personal electronic devices which includes the use of mobile phones by students The school has in place a Pastoral Care Policy. The school has in place a Supervision Policy. The school has a Sporting Guidelines Policy which outlines clear procedures in respect of school outings. School personnel are expected to adhere to the Teaching Council's Code of Conduct and the schools Code of Professional Conduct.

		The school has in place a policy and procedures for the administration of medication to pupils. The school has in place a policy and procedures for the administration of First Aid. The school has in place a Code of Behaviour for students.
Use of video/photography/other media to record at school events	Risk of harm due to bullying of the child. Risk of harm due to disregarding the wishes of the students parent/guardian.	Parents/guardians are requested annually to indicate their preferences regarding the use of their child's image on school related activities and events. School personnel are expected to adhere to the Teaching Council's Code of Conduct and the schools Code of Professional Conduct. The school complies with agreed disciplinary procedures for teaching staff. The school has in place an ICT policy (AUP Policy) in respect of usage of ICT by students The school has in place a policy on personal electronic devices which includes the use of mobile phones and mobile devices by students The school has in place a Code of Behaviour for students
Use of student images for PR purposes	Risk of harm due to bullying of the child Risk of harm due to disregarding the wishes of the students parent/guardian	Permission is sought at the beginning of each school year from parents/guardians in relation to the utilisation of their children's images on school related events and/or activities.
Student teachers undertaking training placement in school	Risk of student being harmed by a member of school personnel, a member of staff of another organisation or other person	The school has in place a policy and procedures in respect of student teacher placements.
After school use of school premises by other organisations	Risk of student being harmed in the school by a visitor to the school	The school has a document regarding terms and conditions of the use of the school's bulidings and requires insurance and child protection details to be in place by the visiting organisation.

		The school has in place a Home School Liaison policy and related procedures.
Use of school premises by other organisations during the school day	Risk of student being harmed in the school by a visitor to the school	N/A
Non-curricular related visitors / contractors present in school during school hours	Risk of student being harmed in the school by a visitor/contractor to the school	All visitors are required to report to and sign in at reception. The school has a Health & Safety Policy.
Non-curricular related visitors / contractors present during after school activities	Risk of student being harmed in the school by a visitor/contractor to the school	The school has a Health & Safety Policy.
Use of Information and Communication Technology by staff	Risk of harm caused by member of school personnel communicating with students in an inappropriate manner via social media, texting, digital device or other manner Risk of harm caused by member of school personnel accessing/circulating inappropriate material via social media, texting, digital device or other manner	The school has provided each member of school staff with a copy of the school's Student Safeguarding Statement. The *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017* are made available to all school personnel. School Personnel are required to adhere to the *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2023* and all registered teaching staff are required to adhere to the *Children First Act 2015.* School personnel are expected to adhere to the Teaching Council's Code of Conduct and the schools Code of Professional Conduct. The school complies with agreed disciplinary procedures for teaching staff. Staff and students are required to use official school accounts for email, etc. The school has in place an ICT policy (AUP Policy) in respect of usage of ICT by pupils The school has in place a policy on personal electronic devices which includes the use of mobile phones by students.

Reporting	Risk of harm not being recognised by school personnel Risk of harm not being reported properly and promptly by school personnel	The school has provided each member of school staff with a copy of the school's Student Safeguarding Statement The *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2023* are made available to all school personnel School Personnel are required to adhere to the *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2023* and all registered teaching staff are required to adhere to the *Children First Act 2015.* The school encourages staff to avail of relevant training. The school encourages Board of Management members to avail of relevant training. The school complies with the agreed disciplinary procedures for teaching staff. The school/LCETB maintains a record of all staff and board member training.

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.