



Coláiste Pobail Acla

Child Safeguarding Statement

DRAFT

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Child Safeguarding Statement

Coláiste Pobail Acla is a post-primary school under the auspices of Mayo, Sligo, Leitrim Education and Training Board, providing education to pupils from First Year to Leaving Certificate Year.

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 2017, the Board of Management of Coláiste Pobail Acla has agreed the Child Safeguarding Statement set out in this document.

Section 1: List of School Activities

(In brackets are procedure/s which corresponds to each activity these are in Section 3. Procedures 1, 2, 3, 10, 11 and 17 will apply to all school activities)

1. Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils (8)
2. Recreation breaks for pupils (8)
3. Classroom teaching (12,17)
4. One-to-one counselling (15,27)
5. Outdoor teaching activities (10, 21, supervision)
6. Sporting Activities (10, 25)
7. School outings (9, 10, 12, 19)
8. School trips involving overnight stay (9, 10, 12, 19)
9. School trips involving foreign travel (9, 10, 12, 19)
10. Use of toilet/changing/shower areas in schools (5, 6, 7, 8, 10, 19, 21)
11. Annual Sports Day (10, 19,)
12. Fundraising events involving pupils (19)
13. Use of off-site facilities for school activities (10, 19)
14. School transport arrangements including use of bus escorts (11, 19)
15. Care of children with special educational needs, including intimate care where needed, (10, 14, 15)
16. Care of any vulnerable adult students, including intimate care where needed (10, 14, 15)
17. Management of challenging behaviour amongst pupils, including appropriate use of restraint where required (19)
18. Administration of Medicine (16)

19. Administration of First Aid (18)
20. Curricular provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe (5, 6)
21. Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst pupils (6, 7, 19)
22. Training of school personnel in child protection matters (17)
23. Use of external personnel to supplement curriculum (24)
24. Use of external personnel to support sports and other extra-curricular activities (25)
25. Care of pupils with specific vulnerabilities/ needs such as (5, 6, 7, 19)
 - 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
26. Recruitment of school personnel including (1,10,11,12,13,17,19)
 - Teachers/SNA's (ETB HR)
 - Caretaker/Secretary/Cleaners (ETB HR)
 - Sports coaches
 - External Tutors/Guest Speakers
 - Volunteers/Parents in school activities
 - Visitors/contractors present in school during school hours
 - Visitors/contractors present during after school activities
27. Participation by pupils in religious ceremonies/religious instruction external to the school (19)
28. Use of Information and Communication Technology by pupils in school (20, 21)
29. Application of sanctions under the school's Code of Behaviour including detention of pupils, confiscation of phones etc. (19, 21)
30. Students participating in work experience in the school (19, 29)
31. Students from the school participating in work experience elsewhere (19, 30)
32. Student teachers undertaking training placement in school (28)
33. Use of video/photography/other media to record school events (20, 21)

34. After school use of school premises by other organisations (22)
35. Use of school premises by other organisation during school day (22)
36. Breakfast club
37. Homework club/evening study

Section 2: Identified Risks

The school has identified the following risk of harm in respect of its activities:

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, etc.
7. Risk of harm due to bullying of child.
8. Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children in school.
9. Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children while attending out of school activities.
10. Risk of harm due to inappropriate relationship/communications between child and another child or adult.
11. Risk of harm due to children inappropriately accessing/using computers, social media, phones and other devices while at school.
12. Risk of harm to children with SEN who have particular vulnerabilities.
13. Risk of harm to child while a child is receiving intimate care.
14. Risk of harm due to inadequate Code of Behaviour.
15. Risk of harm in one-to-one teaching, counselling, coaching situation.
16. Risk of harm caused by member of school personnel communicating with pupils in appropriate manner via social media, texting, digital device or other manner.
17. Risk of harm caused by member of school personnel accessing/circulating inappropriate material via social media, texting, digital device or other manner.

Section 3: Procedures

Coláiste Pobail Acla has the following procedures in place to address the risks of harm identified in this assessment – (The number of the suggested procedure is in brackets after each school activity in Section 1)

1. All school personnel are provided with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement.
2. The Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017 are made available to all school personnel.
3. School Personnel are required to adhere to the Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017 and all registered teaching staff are required to adhere to the Children First Act 2015.
4. The school implements in full the Stay Safe Programme.
5. The school implements in full the SPHE curriculum.
6. The school implements in full the Wellbeing Programme at Junior Cycle.
7. 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.
8. 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. **(Work in Progress)**
9. The school has in place a policy and clear procedures in respect of school outings.
10. The school has a Health and Safety policy.
11. The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation and relevant DES circulars in relation to recruitment and Garda vetting.
12. The school has a code of conduct for school personnel (teaching and non-teaching staff).
13. The school complies with the agreed disciplinary procedures for teaching staff.
14. The school has a Special Educational Needs policy.
15. The school has an intimate care policy/plan in respect of students who require such care. **(Work in Progress)**
16. The school has in place a policy and procedures for the administration of medication to pupils. **(Work in Progress)**
17. The school –
 - Has provided each member of school staff with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement.
 - Ensures all newly appointed 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.
 - Maintains records of all staff and board member training.
18. The school has in place a policy and procedures for the administration of First Aid. (**Work in Progress**)
 19. The school has in place a Code of Behaviour for pupils.
 20. The school has in place an ICT policy in respect of usage of ICT by pupils.
 21. The school has in place a mobile phone policy in respect of usage of mobile phones by pupils.
 22. The school has in place a Critical Incident Management Plan.
 23. The school has in place a Home School Liaison policy and related procedures. (**Work in Progress**)
 24. The school has in place a policy and procedures for the use of external persons to supplement delivery of the curriculum. (**Work in Progress**)
 25. The school has in place a policy and procedures for the use of external sports coaches. (**Work in Progress**)
 26. The school has in place a policy and clear procedures for one-to-one teaching activities. (**Work in Progress**)
 27. The school has in place a policy and procedures for one-to-one counselling. (**Work in Progress**)
 28. The school has in place a policy and procedures in respect of student teacher placements. (**Work in Progress**)
 29. The school has in place a policy and procedures in respect of students undertaking work experience in the school. (**Work in Progress**)
 30. The school has in place a policy and procedures in respect of pupils of the school undertaking work experience in external organisations. (**Work in Progress**)

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 2017

Section 4: Declaration

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.

This Coláiste Pobail Acla Child Safeguarding Statement was formed following consultation with staff, members of the Board of Management, Parents and the Student Council. It is recommended that this policy be reviewed every three years or whenever it is deemed necessary by School Management. It was adopted by the Board of Management of Coláiste Pobail Acla on:

Signed: _____

Mr. Pat Kilbane

Chairperson of the Board of Management

Date: _____

Signed: _____

Mr. Paul Fahy

Board Secretary & School Principal (Acting)

Date: _____

Appendix 1 – Abbreviations/Acronyms

Below is a list of abbreviations used across several Coláiste Pobail Acla policies and documents.

ACE	Autism Centre of Excellence
ASC	Autistic Spectrum Condition
BOM	Board of Management
BSP	Behaviour Support Plan
CAMHS	<i>Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services</i>
CAT	Cognitive Ability Test
CPNS	Child Protection Notification System
CSPE	Civic, Social and Political Education
DDLp	Deputy Designated Liaison Person
DEIS	Delivering Equality of Education in Schools
DES	Department of Education and Science
DLP	Designated Liaison Person
EP	Education Plan
EPSEN	Education for Persons with Special Educational Needs
ETB	Education and Training Board
GRT	Group Reading Test
HSCLO	Home School Community Liaison Officer
HSE	Health Service Executive
ICT	Information and Communication Technology
IEP	Individual Education Plan
JCSP	Junior Certificate Schools Programme
LCVP	Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme
LGBT	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender
MUGA	Multi Use Games Area
NBSS	National Behaviour Support Service
NCBI	National Centre for the Blind Ireland
NCSE	National Council for Special Education
NEPS	National Educational Psychological Service
NEWB	National Education and Welfare Board
NLN	National Learning Network
OT	Occupational Therapy
PC	Pastoral Care

PE	Physical Education
RACE	Reasonable Accomodations at Certificate Examinations
RE	Religious Education
RSE	Relationships and Sexuality Education
SCP	School Completion Programme
SEN	Special Educational Needs
SENO	Special Educational Needs Officer
SESS	Special Education Support Service
SETS	Special Education Teacher Support
SNA	Special Needs Assistant
SPHE	Social, Personal and Health Education
SSE	School Self Evaluation
TUSLA	Child and Family Agency
TY	Transition Year