

# Coláiste Chiaráin Child Safeguarding Statement

## 1. Name of service being provided: Coláiste Chiaráin

## 2. Nature of service and principles to safeguard children from harm

Coláiste Samhradh: We provide residential courses for secondary level students who come to the Gaeltacht to learn Irish. They partake in classes, sporting and cultural activities and are immersed in the language and the Gaeltacht environment for two weeks, staying with local households for the duration. Our aim is that they have an enjoyable stay in a beautiful part of the country and in every activity undertaken we endeavour to ensure their safety from harm.

## 3. Risk Assessment

We have carried out an assessment of any potential for harm to a child while availing of our services including the area of online safety when accessing the internet. Below is a list of the areas of risk identified and the list of procedures for managing these risks.

	<b>Risk identified</b>	<b>Procedure in place to manage identified risk</b>
1	Risk associated with bullying	Anti-bullying policy
2	Risk associated with provision of accommodation	Every Teach Lóistín is approved by the Department of the Gaeltacht + Code of Behaviour is in place
3	Risk associated with use of Social Media	Procedures for use of phones while on the course – Terms and Conditions
4	Risk associated with travel/movement of students	Procedures for travel to and from An Cheathrú Rua and during the course to and from the College – Terms and Conditions
5	Risk associated with illness/allergies	Medical Form to be completed prior to arrival – relevant information communicated to teachers and mná tigh/Safety Officer employed for every course
6	Risk associated with illegal substances – alcohol/drugs	Illegal Substances Policy
8	Risk associated with Covid 19	Covid 19 Plan
9	Risk associated with indoor and outdoor activities	Health and Safety Policy and Terms and Conditions

## 4. Procedures

Our Child Safeguarding Statement has been developed in line with requirements under the Children First Act 2015, *Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children* (2017), and Tusla's *Child Safeguarding: A Guide for Policy, Procedure and Practice*. In addition to the procedures listed in our risk assessment, the following procedures support our intention to safeguard children while they are availing of our service:

- Procedure for the management of allegations of abuse or misconduct against workers/volunteers of a child availing of our service;
- Procedure for the safe recruitment and selection of workers and volunteers to work with children;
- Procedure for provision of and access to child safeguarding training and information, including the identification of the occurrence of harm;
- Procedure for the reporting of child protection or welfare concerns to Tusla;
- Procedure for maintaining a list of the persons in the relevant service who are mandated persons;
- Procedure for appointing a relevant person.

All procedures listed are available upon request.

## **5. Implementation**

We recognise that implementation is an on-going process. Our service is committed to the implementation of this Child Safeguarding Statement and the procedures that support our intention to keep children safe from harm while availing of our service.

This Child Safeguarding Statement will be reviewed on **August 31<sup>st</sup> 2022**, or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which the statement refers.

Signed:        *Sean de Paor* [eolas@colaistechiarain.ie](mailto:eolas@colaistechiarain.ie)  
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### Procedure for the management of allegations of abuse or misconduct against workers/volunteers of a child availing of our service;

- In the case of allegations of abuse the relevant agency/authorities will be informed and appropriate steps taken as mandated.
- Any allegation of misconduct will be investigated thoroughly. The subject of the allegation will be interviewed by the Principal Teacher and/or the Directors of the College and a comprehensive written report of the event will be provided.
- The complainant may provide a report of the incident and this will be thoroughly reviewed.
- Any third party witness statement may be sought.
- At all times in the case of interviews with any minor they will be accompanied by the Safety Officer employed by the College.
- The parents/guardians of the child will be kept up to date with every step in the process and if appropriate will be provided with all written documentation.
- All efforts will be made to reach a satisfactory resolution between both parties and next steps will be agreed.
- Any written complaint will be reviewed and a response will be furnished within \* days. Legal advice may be required in some cases.

### Procedure for the safe recruitment and selection of workers and volunteers to work with children;

- All staff must complete a comprehensive written application and provide references
- All staff over 16 years of age are garda vetted.
- All staff over 16 years of age undergo the Children First E-Learning Programme.

### Procedure for provision of and access to child safeguarding training and information, including the identification of the occurrence of harm;

- A comprehensive risk assessment is carried out at the end of every Summer and policies and procedures updated accordingly
- All policies are communicated to staff
- Every employee over 16 years of age is provided with information about appropriate training relating to child safety and welfare prior to their employment and relevant training must be completed

### Procedure for the reporting of child protection or welfare concerns to Tusla;

- The PO as the DLP will report any child protection or welfare concerns to Tusla as mandated
- <https://www.tusla.ie/children-first/individuals-working-with-children-and-young-people/how-do-i-report-a-concern-about-a-child/>
- <https://www.tusla.ie/children-first/mandated-persons/how-do-i-report-a-concern-about-a-child/>

**Procedure for maintaining a list of the persons in the relevant service who are mandated persons;**

- All teachers are mandated persons in the College
- <https://www.tusla.ie/children-first/mandated-persons/>

**Procedure for appointing a relevant person.**

- The relevant person is the first point of contact in relation to the Child Safeguarding Statement; the relevant person in the College is the Principal Teacher and they are contactable at all times by phone and email.