

Beaufort College Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment

Child Safeguarding Statement

Beaufort 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 Beaufort 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 Mr. Ken Flynn
- 3 The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is Ms. Karen Tobin
- 4 The Relevant Person is Mr. Ken Flynn
(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.

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 18/09/2023.

This Child Safeguarding Statement was reviewed by the Board of Management on 18/09/2023.

Signed: _____

Signed: _____

Chairperson of Board of Management

Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Date: _____

Date: _____

Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment

Written Assessment of Risk of Beaufort 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 Beaufort College.

1. List of school activities

• Daily arrival and dismissal of students
• Student Breaks – morning and lunchtime
• Classroom Teaching
• One to one teaching
• One to one counselling
• Outdoor teaching and learning activities
• School trips
• Extra and Co-Curricular Activities
• School trips involving overnight stay
• International school trips
• Fundraising events involving students
• The use of off-site facilities for school activities
• Care of students with AEN, including intimate care needs
• Care of vulnerable adult students with care needs including intimate care needs
• Administration of Medicine
• Administration of First Aid
• The management of challenging student behaviour
• Curricular provision of SPHE, RSE and Wellbeing Programme of learning
• Training of school personnel in child protection matters
• Use of external personnel to supplement the curriculum, co-curricular and extracurricular activities.
• Care of students with specific vulnerabilities <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Student members of The Travelling Community○ Student members of the Roma Community○ LGBTI+ Students○ Students perceived to be LGBTI+○ Students of minority religious faiths○ Students and families who are homeless○ Students in care○ Students on Child Protection Notification System
• Recruitment of school personnel <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Teachers○ Special Needs Assistants○ Admin Staff○ Caretaker○ Cleaning Staff○ Cleaning Contractors○ Guest Speakers

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Visitors/Contactors present during school time ○ Visitors/Contractors present during after school activities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The use of ICT by students in school and during remote learning
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The use of video/photography and other media to record student learning and school events
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The application of the Code of Behaviour – student detention and the confiscation of mobile phones
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Use of changing rooms for PE classes and sports teams
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Students participating in work experience off site as part of TY / LCA and LCVP Programmes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Students participating in work experience in Beaufort College
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Student teachers undertaking teaching practice in Beaufort College
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Breakfast club
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Homework club /Evening study
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● School Completion Programme
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● JCSP Demonstration Library

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

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Risk of harm not being recognised by school personnel.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Risk of harm not being properly and promptly reported by school personnel.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Risk of a student being harmed by a member of the school personnel.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Risk of a student being harmed by a visitor/contractor in the school.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Risk of a student being harmed by another student.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Risk of a student being harmed while participating in an out of school activity.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Risk of harm due to the bullying of a student.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Risk of harm due to racism.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Risk of harm to students due to inadequate supervision of students at the time of arrival, dismissal and break times.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Risk of harm to students due to inadequate supervision during out of school activities.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Risk of harm to a student due to inappropriate communication/ relationships between the student and another student or adult.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Risk of harm to students due to the inappropriate access and or use of computers, phones, devices and or social media while in school or during remote learning.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Risk of harm to students with AEN or other vulnerabilities.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Risk of harm to a student while receiving intimate care.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Risk of harm to student(s) due to the failure to meet expectations for behaviour, respect and dignity in Beaufort College.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Risk of harm in one to one teaching, counselling, or coaching situations.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Risk of harm to students in contracting COVID 19.

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

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All school personnel are provided with a copy of the school’s Child Safeguarding Statement
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Child protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools 2017 are made available to all school personnel
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School personnel are required to adhere to the Child Protection procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools 2017.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All registered teaching staff are required to adhere to the Children First Act 2015.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beaufort College adheres to Garda Vetting legislation requirements and relevant DES Circulars in relation to recruitment and Garda vetting.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beaufort College implements the SPHE and RSE Curriculum.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beaufort College implements in full The Wellbeing Programme at Junior Cycle
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beaufort College has an Anti-Bullying Policy which fully adheres to the requirements of the Department of Education Action Plan on Anti Bullying Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools, Cineáltas.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beaufort College implements a DEIS School Plan
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beaufort College has pastoral care structures comprising a Guidance Team, Tutors, Year heads, Student Care Team and the umbrella Student Service Support Team.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beaufort College provides supervision for students at the time of arrival, dispersal and during break times.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beaufort College has a Health & Safety Statement.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beaufort College implements a Code of Behaviour Policy for students.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teaching Staff abide by The Professional Code of Practice for Teachers.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beaufort College implements The LMETB policy for Educational Tours and Field Trips.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beaufort College implements The LMETB policy for the intimate care of students.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beaufort College implements The LMETB policy for Volunteering and Work Experience.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beaufort College implements The LMETB AUP policy for ICT usage.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beaufort College implements The LMETB Equality and Diversity Statement.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beaufort College implements the LMETB CCTV policy.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beaufort College implements the LMETB policy and procedure for the administration of medication in schools.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beaufort College implements an AEN Policy.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beaufort College provides clear communication to students, staff and parents/guardians/carers on policy and procedures.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beaufort College has in place mobile devices procedures and practices for student usage.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beaufort College has a Critical Incident Management Plan in place.

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.

This Risk Assessment has been completed by the Board of Management on

29th August 2024

This Risk Assessment shall be reviewed as part of the school’s Annual Review of its Child Safeguarding Statement.

Signed:	Chairperson Board of Management	Date: 29/08/2024
Signed:	Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management	Date: 29/08/2024