



Child Safeguarding Statement & Risk Assessment

Good Counsel College

New Ross

An Augustinian School

September 21st 2021

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PART 1: Child Safeguarding Statement

Good Counsel College, New Ross is a school providing post-primary education to boys from 1st 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 Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools 2017 and Tusla Guidance on the preparation of Student Safeguarding Statements, the Board of Management of Good Counsel College, New Ross has agreed the Student 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 2017 as part of this overall Student Safeguarding Statement.
2. The Designated Liaison Person (DLP) is Mr Mark O'Brien (Principal).
3. The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is Mr Aidan O'Brien (Deputy Principal).
4. The Board of Management recognises that student protection and welfare considerations permeate all aspects of College life and must be reflected in all of the College's policies, procedures, practices and activities. In its policies, procedures, practices and activities, the College will adhere to the following principles of best practice in student protection and welfare:

The College will:

- i. recognise that the protection and welfare of students is of paramount importance, regardless of all other considerations;

- ii. fully comply with its statutory obligations under the Children First Act 2015 and other relevant legislation relating to the protection and welfare of students;
- iii. fully co-operate with the relevant statutory authorities in relation to student protection and welfare matters;
- iv. adopt safe practices to minimise the possibility of harm or accidents happening to students and protect workers from the necessity to take unnecessary risks that may leave themselves open to accusations of abuse or neglect;
- v. develop a practice of openness with parents and encourage parental involvement in the education of their children; and
- vi. fully respect confidentiality requirements in dealing with student protection matters.

The College will also adhere to the above principles in relation to any adult student with a special vulnerability.

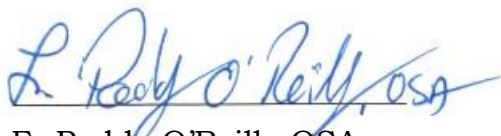
5. The following procedures/measures are in place:

- i. 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 student attending the College, the College adheres to the relevant procedures set out in Chapter 7 of the Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017 and to the relevant agreed disciplinary procedures for College staff which are published on the DES website.
- ii. In relation to the selection or recruitment of staff and their suitability to work with children, the College 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 DES and available on the DES website.

- iii. 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 College-
 - a. has provided each member of staff with a copy of the College's Student Safeguarding Statement
 - b. ensures all new staff are provided with a copy of the College's Student Safeguarding Statement
 - c. encourages staff to avail of relevant training
 - d. encourages Board of Management members to avail of relevant training
 - e. the Board of Management maintains records of all staff and Board member training
- iv. In relation to reporting of student protection concerns to Tusla, all College personnel are required to adhere to the procedures set out in the Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017, including in the case of registered teachers, those in relation to mandated reporting under the Children First Act 2015.
- v. In this College the Board has appointed the above-named DLP as the "relevant person" (as defined in the Children First Act 2015) to be the first point of contact in respect of the student safeguarding statement.

- vi. All registered teachers employed by the College are mandated persons under the Children First Act 2015.
 - vii. In accordance with the Children First Act 2015, the Board has carried out an assessment of any potential for harm to a student while attending the College or participating in College activities. A written assessment setting out the areas of risk identified and the College's procedures for managing those risks is attached as Part 2 to these procedures.
 - viii. The various procedures referred to in this Statement can be accessed via the College's website, the DES website or will be made available on request by the College.
6. This statement has been published on the College's website and has been provided to all members of College personnel, the Parents' Association 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.
 7. This Student Safeguarding Statement, adopted by the Board of Management on **September 21st 2021**, will be reviewed annually or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which this statement refers.



Fr Paddy O'Reilly OSA
Chairperson BOM



Mr Mark O'Brien
Principal, Secretary BOM

PART 2: Student Safeguarding Written Risk Assessment

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 following is the Student Safeguarding Written Risk Assessment of Good Counsel College, New Ross.

1. List of school activities

- ✓ Daily arrival and dismissal of students
- ✓ Recreation breaks for students
- ✓ Classroom teaching
- ✓ One-to-one teaching
- ✓ One-to-one counselling
- ✓ Outdoor teaching activities
- ✓ Sporting activities
- ✓ College outings
- ✓ College trips involving overnight stay
- ✓ College trips involving foreign travel
- ✓ Use of toilet/changing/shower areas in schools
- ✓ Annual Sports Day and BBQ
- ✓ Fundraising events involving students
- ✓ Use of off-site facilities for school activities
- ✓ College transport arrangements including use of bus escorts
- ✓ Care of students with special educational needs, including intimate care where needed,
- ✓ Care of any vulnerable adult students, including intimate care where needed

- ✓ Management of challenging behaviour amongst students, including appropriate use of restraint where required
- ✓ Administration of Medicine
- ✓ Administration of First Aid
- ✓ Curricular provision in respect of Wellbeing
- ✓ Curricular provision in Relationships and Sexuality Education (RSE)
- ✓ Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst students
- ✓ Training of college personnel in child protection matters
- ✓ Use of external personnel to supplement curriculum
- ✓ Use of external personnel to support sports and other extra-curricular activities
- ✓ Care of students with specific vulnerabilities/ needs such as:
 - ✗ students from ethnic minorities/migrants
 - ✗ members of the Traveller community
 - ✗ lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender (LGBT) children
 - ✗ students perceived to be LGBT
 - ✗ students of minority religious faiths
 - ✗ students in care
 - ✗ students on the Child Protection Notification System (CPNS)
- ✓ Recruitment of school personnel including
 - ✗ Teachers/ Special Needs Assistants (SNAs)
 - ✗ caretaker/secretary/cleaners
 - ✗ 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
- ✓ Participation by students in religious ceremonies/religious instruction/retreats external to the college
- ✓ Use of Information and Communication Technology by students in school

- ✓ Application of sanctions under the school's Code of Behaviour including detention of students, confiscation of phones etc.
- ✓ Students participating in work experience in the college
- ✓ Students from the college participating in work experience elsewhere
- ✓ Student teachers undertaking training placement in college
- ✓ Use of video/photography/other media to record college events
- ✓ After school use of college premises by other organisations
- ✓ Use of college premises by other organisations during school day
- ✓ Provision of canteen facilities to students
- ✓ Supervised Study and Homework Club.
- ✓ Student Car Parking

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

- ✓ Risk of harm not being recognised by college personnel
- ✓ Risk of harm not being reported properly and promptly by college personnel
- ✓ Risk of student being harmed in the college by a member of college personnel
- ✓ Risk of student being harmed in the college by another student
- ✓ Risk of student being harmed in the college by volunteer or visitor to the college
- ✓ Risk of student being harmed by a member of college personnel, a member of staff of another organisation or other person while student participating in out of college activities e.g. college trip, swimming lessons
- ✓ Risk of harm due to bullying of student
- ✓ Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of students in college

- ✓ Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of students while attending out of school activities
- ✓ Risk of harm due to inappropriate relationship/communications between student and another student or adult
- ✓ Risk of harm due to students inappropriately accessing/using computers, social media, phones and other devices while at school
- ✓ Risk of harm to students with Special Educational Needs (SEN) who have particular vulnerabilities
- ✓ Risk of harm to student while a student is receiving intimate care
- ✓ Risk of harm due to inadequate code of behaviour
- ✓ Risk of harm in one-to-one teaching, counselling, coaching situation
- ✓ Risk of harm caused by member of college personnel communicating with students in appropriate manner via social media, texting, digital device or other manner
- ✓ Risk of harm caused by member of college personnel accessing/circulating inappropriate material via social media, texting, digital device or other manner

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

- ✓ The Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017 are made available to all college personnel
- ✓ College 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
- ✓ The college implements in full the Social, Personal and Health Education (SPHE) and RSE curricula
- ✓ The college implements in full the Wellbeing Programme at Junior Cycle

- ✓ The college 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 college has a supervision policy to ensure appropriate supervision of students during, assembly, dismissal and breaks and in respect of specific areas such as toilets, changing rooms etc.
- ✓ The college has in place a policy and clear procedures in respect of school outings
- ✓ The college has a caretaker and cleaners
- ✓ The college has a Health and Safety Manager
- ✓ The college adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation and relevant Department of Education and Skills (DES) circulars in relation to recruitment and Garda vetting
- ✓ The college has a code of conduct for school personnel (teaching and non-teaching staff)
- ✓ The college complies with the agreed disciplinary procedures for teaching staff
- ✓ The college has a Special Educational Needs policy
- ✓ The college has a Whole School Guidance Policy
- ✓ The college has an intimate care policy/plan in respect of students who require such care
- ✓ The college has in place a policy and procedures for the administration of medication to pupils
- ✓ The school
 - ✗ has provided each member of college staff, including PME students, with a copy of the school's Student Safeguarding Statement
 - ✗ Ensures all new staff are provided with a copy of the college's Student 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
- ✓ The college has in place a policy and procedures for the administration of First Aid
- ✓ The college has in place a Code of Behaviour for students
- ✓ The college has in place an Acceptable Use Policy in respect of usage of ICT by students
- ✓ The college has in place a mobile phone policy in respect of usage of mobile phones by students
- ✓ The College has in place a Parking Permit system to monitor student parking.
- ✓ The college has a Pastoral Care Team in place to oversee the care of students
- ✓ The college has in place a Critical Incident Management Policy
- ✓ The college has in place a policy and procedures in respect of student teacher placements

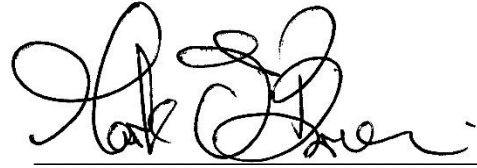
Important Note: It should be noted that risk in the context of this risk assessment is the risk of “harm” as defined in the Children First Act 2015 and not general health and safety risk. The definition of harm is set out in Chapter 4 of the Student Protection Procedures for Primary and Post- Primary Schools 2017

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 college 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 **September 21st 2021**. It shall be reviewed as part of the college's annual review of its Student Safeguarding Statement.



Fr Paddy O'Reilly OSA
Chairperson BOM



Mr Mark O'Brien
Principal, Secretary BOM

A copy of the TUSLA Children First can be found at www.TUSLA.ie

All observations regarding the Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment for the College should be addressed in writing to:

Mr Mark O'Brien

Principal, Secretary to the Board of Management

Good Counsel College

New Ross

Co Wexford

Email: mark.obrien@goodcounselcollege.ie