



Child Safeguarding Statement

Bruce College is a post-primary school providing post-primary education to students from 5th 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 and Tusla Guidance on the preparation of Child Safeguarding Statements. In addition, the policy also incorporates the updated 2023 procedures as published by the DOE to take account of legislative and policy developments. The Governing Body has agreed the Child Safeguarding Statement set out in this document.

1. The Designated Liaison Person (DLP) is Micheál Landers.
2. The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is Tara Jones.
3. The Managing Director (Colleges), Jonathn Cuff, acts as Safeguarding Governor and the Compliance Director (Colleges) supports the MD in this role.

4. The Governors and Dukes Education supports the school in its safeguarding duties by monitoring the effectiveness of safeguarding through a range of processes including an annual safeguarding audit.

5. Dukes Education 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:

6. 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 students; 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 student.

7. The following procedures/measures are in place:

- The School and the Governors will seek legal advice in instances where such advice is deemed as necessary.
- 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.
- In relation to the provision of information and, where necessary, instruction to staff in respect of the identification of the occurrence of harm (as defined in the 2015 Act)

The school:

- 1.Has provided each member of staff with a copy of the school’s Child Safeguarding Statement.
 - 2.Ensures all new staff are provided with a copy of the school’s Child Safeguarding Statement.
- In relation to reporting of child protection concerns to Tusla, all school personnel are required to adhere to the Children First Act 2015.
 - The school has appointed the abovenamed DLP as the “relevant person” (as defined in the Children First Act 2015) to be the first point of contact in respect of the school’s child safeguarding statement.
 - All staff 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 school 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 will be made available on request by the school.
 - This statement is readily accessible to parents and guardians on request. A copy of this Statement will be made available to Tusla if requested.
 - 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 Bruce College on 19th August 2024 This Child Safeguarding Statement was reviewed by Dukes Education on 27th August 2024.

Signed: *Michael Landers*

School Principal

Date: _____

Signed:

Date: _____

Safeguarding Governor, MD (Colleges), Dukes Education

August 2024