NCI Child Safeguarding Statement

National College of Ireland (NCI) is a third-level learning, teaching and research institution. Its Early Learning Initiative (ELI) is a community-based educational initiative, which provides educational support to children, parents and professionals.

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*, NCI's Governing Body has agreed to the Child Safeguarding Statement set out in this document.

Governing Body recognises that child protection and welfare considerations permeate all aspects of college life, in particular ELI, and must be reflected in all the college's policies, procedures, practices and activities.

NCI will adhere to the following principles and practices in relation to children and any adult student with a special vulnerability:

- Recognise that the protection and welfare of children and vulnerable students 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 and vulnerable students
- Fully co-operate with the relevant statutory authorities in relation to child and vulnerable students' protection and welfare matters
- Adopt safe practices to minimise the possibility of harm or accidents happening to children and vulnerable students
- Protect employees 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
- Fully respect confidentiality requirements in dealing with child and vulnerable students protection matters

National College of Ireland Risk Assessment 2026-2028	
Risk identified	Procedure in place to manage risk identified
1. Risk of harm to a child or vulnerable adult by a member of staff or a volunteer	• NCI Employment recruitment and selection procedure • NCI reporting procedure • NCI Code of behaviour for staff working with children and vulnerable adults • Garda Vetting for all staff & volunteers

	• Procedure for the management of allegations of abuse or misconduct against employees/volunteers of child/vulnerable student availing of our services • Policies, procedures and guidelines regarding safe practice • Procedure for the reporting of child protection or welfare concerns to Tusla
2. Risk of harm or concern not being recognised or reported by staff or volunteers	• Induction training for all staff • Mandatory Child Protection & GDPR training for all staff • Safeguarding Statement on display for the staff, students and public
3. Risk of harm to a child from a service user (adult or child), student, visitor or member of the public	• Ensuring there is supervision of children at all times during service delivery • NCI has policies, protocols and guidelines to support safeguarding for children and vulnerable adults
4. Non-compliance with the Children First Act 2015 and Children First National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children	• Children First governance structures • NCI quality and risk policy • Garda Vetting Policy and procedures • Procedure for maintaining a list of mandated persons
5. Harm to children using ICT infrastructure and software	• ICT and social media guidance for staff working with parents and children, including online safety • Mandatory GDPR training for all staff

The following procedures/measures are in place and are available upon request:

- Procedure for the management of allegations of abuse or misconduct against employees/volunteers of a child/vulnerable student availing of our service
- Procedure for the safe recruitment and selection of employees and volunteers to work with children and vulnerable students
- Procedure for the 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 (if any) in the relevant service who are mandated persons
- Procedure for appointing a relevant person Designated Liaison Person (DLP)

In NCI, the Governing Body has appointed the DLP, **Dr Donnchadh Ó Madagáin,** as the "relevant person" (as defined in the Children First Act 2015) and the first point of contact for the child safeguarding statement.

NCI is committed to implementing this Child Safeguarding Statement and the procedures that support our intention to keep children and vulnerable students safe from harm while availing of our services.

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 the statement refers.

This Child Safeguarding Statement was adopted by NCI's Governing Body on 1st March 2018

Signed: 
Dr Donnchadh Ó Madagáin
Company Secretary/DLP

Signed: 
Rebecca Moore
Director, Early Learning Initiative/Deputy DLP

Date: 21st September 2026
Date to be reviewed: 1st of September 2028

If you have a safeguarding concern about a child or vulnerable adult, please contact:

Dr Donnchadh Ó Madagáin, DLP and Relevant Person under the Children First Act 2015, National College of Ireland on 01 449858 or donnchadh.omadagain@ncirl.ie

Rebecca Moore, Deputy DLP and Director, Early Learning Initiative, National College of Ireland on 01 4498639 or Rebecca.Moore@ncirl.ie

Tusla Child and Family Agency, 492 North Circular Rd, Tel: 01 8566856