

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 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 of 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; and 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; and
- fully respect confidentiality requirements in dealing with child and vulnerable students protection matters.

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 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, Governing Body has appointed the DLP, **John McGarrigle**, as the "relevant person" (as defined in the Children First Act 2015) to be the first point of contact in respect of the child safeguarding statement.

NCI is committed to the implementation of 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 on 16th March 2018, 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: 
Chairperson of Governing Body

Signed: 
Secretary to Governing Body/DLP

Date: 5 March 2018

Date: 7 March 2018

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

John McGarrigle, DLP and Relevant Person under the Children First Act 2015, National College of Ireland on 01 4498639 or john.mcgarrigle@ncirl.ie

Josephine Bleach, Deputy DLP and Director, Early Learning Initiative, National College of Ireland on 01 4498639 or josephine.bleach@ncirl.ie

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

Gardaí, Store Street Garda Station: Tel: 016668000; Confidential Line - 1800 666111