

MIDLETON COLLEGE



Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment

Version 4.0

Child Safeguarding Statement

Middleton College is a post-primary co-educational day and boarding 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 2017, the Child Protection and Safeguarding Procedures for Boarding Facilities associated with Recognised Schools 2023 and Tusla Guidance on the preparation of Child Safeguarding Statements, the Board of Management of Middleton College has agreed the Child Safeguarding Statement set out in this document.

- 1 The Board of Management of Middleton College has adopted and will implement fully and without modification the Department's Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools 2017 and the Child Protection and Safeguarding Procedures for Boarding Facilities associated with Recognised Schools 2023 as part of this overall Child Safeguarding Statement
- 2 The Designated Liaison Person (DLP) for the school and boarding is **Dr Edward Gash**
- 3 The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (DDLDP) for the school and boarding is **Mr Kevin Stanley**
- 4 The Relevant Person is **Dr Edward Gash**
- 5 The Board of Management of Middleton College recognises that child protection and welfare considerations permeate all aspects of school and boarding school life and must be reflected in all of the school's/management authority's policies, procedures, practices and activities. In its policies, procedures, practices and activities, the Board of Management will adhere to the following principles of best practice in child protection and welfare:

The Board of Management 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 and care of their children; and
- fully respect confidentiality requirements in dealing with child protection matters.

The Board of Management facility 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 Midleton, the Board of Management adheres to the relevant procedures set out in Chapter 7 of the Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017, the relevant procedures set out in the Child Protection and Safeguarding Procedures for Boarding Facilities associated with Recognised Schools 2023 and to the relevant agreed disciplinary procedures for Midleton College staff which are published on the DE website.
- In relation to the selection or recruitment of staff and their suitability to work with children, the Board of Management 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 DE 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 Board of Management authority-
 - o Has provided each member of staff with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement
 - o Ensures all new staff are provided with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement
 - o Encourages staff to avail of relevant training
 - o Encourages Board of Management authority members to avail of relevant training
 - o The Board of Management authority maintains records of all staff and board member training
- In relation to reporting of child protection concerns to Tusla, all school & boarding facility personnel are required to adhere to the procedures set out in the Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017 and the Child Protection and Safeguarding Procedures for Boarding Facilities associated with Recognised Schools 2023 including, in the case of registered teachers and any boarding facility staff who are mandated persons, those in relation to mandated reporting under the Children First Act 2015.
- There is a procedure in place for maintaining a list of mandated persons. All registered teachers employed by the school/management authority are mandated persons under the Children First Act 2015 as are Nurses, the College Chaplain, the Manager of the Boarding Facility, the DLP and the DDLP.

- In accordance with the Children First Act 2015 and the Addendum to Children First (2019), the Board of Management has carried out an assessment of any potential for harm to a child while attending the school/boarding facility or participating in school/boarding facility activities. A written assessment setting out the areas of risk identified and the school/boarding facility'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 DE website or will be made available on request by the school.
- 7 This statement has been published on the school's website and has been provided to all members of school/boarding facility 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.
- 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 26/04/2023.

Signed: _____

Chairperson of Board of Management

Signed: _____

Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Date: _____

Date: _____

For information in respect of how the child safeguarding statement was developed or to request a copy of the statement, please contact the relevant person noted at the beginning of this child safeguarding statement

Phone: 021-4631146

or

email: office@midletoncollege.ie



Appendix 1: Written Assessment of Risk of Midleton College (623701)

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 2017* and the *Child Protection and Safeguarding Procedures for Boarding Facilities* associated with Recognised Schools 2023, the following is the Written Risk Assessment of Midleton College.

1. List of school activities

School Day

Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils
 Assembly
 Application of sanctions under the school's Code of Behaviour including detention of pupils, confiscation of phones etc.
 Use of Information and Communication Technology by pupils in school
 Use of toilet/changing/shower areas in schools
 School transport arrangements including use of bus escorts
 Recruitment of school personnel
 Student teachers undertaking training placement in school
 External Tutors/Guest Speakers
 Volunteers/Parents in school activities
 Visitors/contractors present in school
 Recreation breaks for pupils
 Form Assembly
 Management of sensitive materials
 Fundraising events – Christmas fair, India night etc.
 PTA organised events
 School events – Gobs, Sports Day, Prize Day etc.
 Visits of primary school children to the school
 Pre-school coming to the school for lunch
 Online activities & programs

Classroom Activities

Science Experiments
 Art projects
 Home Economics practicals
 Physical Education classes
 Classroom Debates & Discussions
 Group work
 Viewing classroom materials
 Music & Drama activities
 Sharing personal stories
 Teacher/student interactions
 Student interaction

RSE, SPHE classes
One-to-one teaching
Small group teaching
Outdoor teaching activities inc. Horticulture

Extracurricular Activities

Sports – training, home & away matches
Use of external personnel to support sports and other extra-curricular activities
Drama
Community Service
Debating
Coding club
Other ECA
Field trips & excursions

Co-curricular Activities

External speakers
Fundraising events involving pupils
In-school co-curricular activities – Choir, Orchestra etc.
One-to-one Music lessons
Participation by pupils in religious ceremonies/religious instruction external to the school
Outdoor education programs that may involve unfamiliar environments
School trips involving foreign travel
School trips involving overnight stay
Student council meetings
Students from the school participating in work experience elsewhere
Students participating in work experience in the school
Use of external personnel to supplement curriculum
Use of off-site facilities for school activities
Tutoring

Student support & care

Recruitment of Nurses
Pastoral Care meetings
Administration of First Aid
Administration of Medicine
Care of any vulnerable adult students, including intimate care where needed
Care of children with special educational needs, including intimate care where needed
Career guidance
Curricular provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Guidance
Discipline meetings
EDI program
Lunch-time clubs
Management of challenging behaviour amongst pupils
Management of ill students
Management of students with mental health/emotional health issues
One-to-one counselling
Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst pupils
Restorative justice and other conflict resolution meetings
Training of school personnel in child protection matters
Use of video/photography/other media to record school events

Care of pupils with specific vulnerabilities/ needs such as

- Pupils from ethnic minorities/migrants
- Members of the Traveller community
- Lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender (LGBT) children
- Pupils perceived to be LGBT
- Pupils of minority religious faiths
- Children in care

School Premises

After school use of school premises by other organisations

Use of contract cleaning company

Use of on-site facilities by external groups

1.1 List of boarding facility activities

Boarding

All of the above and also:

Induction program

Attendance at community events inc. Church

Boarder only social events

Boarder overnight with other student

Boarder sign-out

Cinema visits

Fire drills outside of school hours

Managing visits of parents/guardians or agents

Dining facilities

Supervised study

Hosting for boarding students

International student travel

Mealtime activities

Offsite weekend program – cultural trips, adventure trips etc.

Onsite weekend programs

Provision of residential facilities for boarders

Residence life activities – sleeping arrangements, socialising

Use of toilet and shower facilities

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

Risk of harm not being recognised by school personnel

Risk of harm not being reported properly and promptly by school personnel

Risk of child being harmed in the school by a member of school personnel

Risk of child being harmed in the school by another child

Risk of child being harmed in the school by volunteer or visitor to the school

Risk of child being harmed by a member of school personnel, a member of staff of another organisation or other person while child participating in out of school activities e.g. school trip

Risk of child being harmed by overcrowding

Risk of child being harmed by equipment malfunction

Risk of child being harmed by a fire
 Risk of child being harmed by lack of awareness of SEN requirements
 Risk of a child being harmed by discrimination
 Risk of harm due to stress or burnout
 Risk of harm due to a physical altercation
 Risk of harm due to bullying of child
 Risk of harm due to not coming to school
 Risk of harm due to exposure to hazardous materials
 Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children in school
 Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children while attending out of school activities
 Risk of harm due to conflict with peers
 Risk of harm due to conflict with a staff member
 Risk of harm due to racism
 Risk of harm due to inappropriate relationship/communications between child and another child
 Risk of harm due to inappropriate relationship/communications between child and another adult
 Risk of harm due to inappropriate communications to the school community regarding child
 Risk of harm due to children inappropriately accessing/using computers, social media, phones and other devices while at school
 Risk of harm to children with SEN who have particular vulnerabilities
 Risk of harm to child while a child is receiving intimate care
 Risk of harm to child due to inappropriate medicinal care or self-care
 Risk of harm to child due to indigestion of inappropriate foods
 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 school personnel communicating with pupils in appropriate manner via social media, texting, digital device or other manner
 Risk of harm caused by member of school personnel accessing/circulating inappropriate material via social media, texting, digital device or other manner
 Risk of harm caused by member of school community accessing/circulating inappropriate material via social media, texting, digital device or other manner

2.1 The boarding facility has identified the following risk of harm in respect of its activities

All of the above and also:

Risk of harm due to children inappropriately accessing/using computers, social media, phones and other devices while in boarding facility
 Risk of child being harmed while in the care of a host family
 Risk of child being harmed by another student in a residential setting
 Risk of child being harmed by school personnel in a residential setting
 Risk of child being harmed by an external person in a residential setting
 Risk of child being harmed due to inappropriate relationship with another student
 Risk of child being harmed by bullying in a residential setting
 Risk of child being harmed by inappropriate use of technology in a residential setting
 Risk of child being harmed by inadequate supervision in a residential setting
 Risk of child being harmed when in the care of the family of another student
 Risk of child harming themselves due to emotional or psychological difficulties

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

All school personnel undertake training in Child Protection - non-teaching staff, including boarding, get a briefing on first day of school year from Principal.

All school personnel (including boarding) get a copy of the child safeguarding statement.

All school personnel are aware of the reporting structures as part of CP training. All school personnel are vetted.

The Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017 and the Child Protection and Safeguarding Procedures for Boarding Facilities associated with Recognised Schools 2023 are made available to all school/boarding facility personnel.

Developing and implementing clear behaviour policies to address issues of bullying or exclusion which adhere to the requirements of the Department's Anti-bullying procedures for Post-Primary Schools.

Regularly monitoring student behaviour and well-being to proactively address any concerns.

Providing teacher training on identifying and responding to signs of emotional or physical harm.

Regularly monitoring student behaviour and well-being to proactively address any concerns.

Developing a system for students to report concerns.

Ensuring that classrooms are equipped with appropriate safety measures and resources.

Ensuring equipment is regularly maintained.

Having a designated Safety Officer and Fire Marshal.

Speed limits and warning signs for drivers in the school.

Developing and implementing clear policies and procedures for lab safety, such as guidelines for proper use of equipment and chemicals.

Providing proper training and resources to students and teachers to ensure their understanding of lab safety.

Regularly monitoring and maintaining lab equipment to ensure its proper function and safety.

Clear communication of students SEN to staff as appropriate.

Clear anti-bullying policy in place including exclusion.

Pastoral care team and guidance counsellor in place to support students.

Attendance monitoring system in place.

Supervision & Substitution rosters in place for the school day.

Students are always supervised in class and appropriately at break-times.

Trips are staffed according to the Trips & Tours policy.

Conducting thorough risk assessments of all activities and locations before each trip.

Developing and implementing clear policies on physical activity and safety, such as guidelines for concussion.

Providing proper training and equipment to students and coaches.

Ensuring that all students have access to adequate medical resources and support.

Medical and Allergy status recorded for each student.

Kitchen clearly identifies allergens in the food and knows the students' allergies.

Policy in place for the dispensing of medicine.

Nurse employed by the school.

Suitable rooms available for counselling and 1-to-1 teaching.

Policy in place for the use of mobile phones in school.

RSE classes in each year group.

The school implements in full the SPHE curriculum.

The school implements in full the Wellbeing Programme at Junior Cycle.

The school has anti-racism initiatives.

Students are given training on appropriate communication in SPHE and by Form teachers.
Policies and procedures are developed for bus safety and transport.
Safe cycling and pedestrian access to the school developed.
Areas secured to prevent unauthorised access.
Internet access is filtered using the PDST firewall.

3.1 The boarding facility has the following procedures in place to address the risks of harm identified in this assessment

All of above and also:

Guidelines for behaviour in place for Boarding students.
Key pads to prevent unauthorised access to the Boarding areas.
Residential staff at all times in Boarding school.
Garda vetting by agent of all host families.
Emergency contact details held for all boarding students.
Medical information securely stored for all boarding students.
A list of all mandated persons in the boarding school is retained by the school.
Policies and procedures in place for students signing-in and out of the boarding school.
Policies and procedures are in place for all boarder sign-outs and visits to other students.
Adequate supervision is maintained in the boarding school at all times, including a teacher on duty residing in each boarding area overnight.
Policy is present for the use of mobile phone and other devices in the boarding school.

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 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 school/boarding facility 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/boarding facility 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 April 26th, 2023. It shall be reviewed as part of the school’s annual review of its Child Safeguarding Statement.

Signed _____ Date _____

Chairperson, Board of Management

Signed _____ Date _____

Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management