



Institúid Bhreisoideachais  
na Carraige Duibhe

Blackrock Further  
Education Institute

# **Child Safeguarding Statement**

**May 2024**

# Child Safeguarding Statement

Blackrock Further Education Institute (BFEI) provides further education and training to a wide range of students from a diverse range of backgrounds. Further Education Institutes are governed by Primary and Post Primary Schools regulations. BFEI is a constituent College of the Dublin and Dún Laoghaire Education and Training Board (DDLETB).

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, the Addendum to Children First (2019), Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools (revised 2023) and Tusla Guidance on the preparation of Child Safeguarding Statements, the Board of Management of BFEI has agreed the Child 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 (revised 2023) as part of this overall Child Safeguarding Statement.
2. The Designated Liaison Person (DLP) is **Tina Reddin, Principal**.
3. The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (DDLDP) is **Lucy Tierney, Deputy Principal**.
4. The Board of Management recognises that child protection and welfare considerations permeate all aspects of Institute life and must be reflected in all of the Institute's policies, procedures, practices and activities. In its policies, procedures, practices and activities, the Institute will adhere to the following principles of best practice in child protection and welfare:  
The Institute 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, when relevant in the education of their children.
  - fully respect confidentiality requirements in dealing with child protection matters.

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

5. 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 Institute, the Institute 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 Institute staff which are published on the Department of Education and Skills (DES) website.

- In relation to the selection or recruitment of staff and their suitability to work with children, the Institute 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 Institute

- has provided each member of staff with a copy of the Institute's Child Safeguarding Statement
- ensures all new staff are provided with a copy of the Institute's Child Safeguarding Statement
- encourages staff to avail of relevant training
- encourages Board of Management members to avail of relevant training
- The Board of Management maintains a record of all staff and Board members training

- In relation to reporting of child protection concerns to Tusla, all Institute 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.

- In this Institute 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 Child Safeguarding Statement.

- All registered teachers employed by the Institute are mandated persons under the Children First Act 2015.

- In accordance with the Children First Act 2015, the Board has carried out an assessment of any potential for harm to a child while attending



## **Written Assessment of Risk for Blackrock Further Education Institute (BFEI)**

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 Written Risk Assessment of BFEI.

### **1. List of BFEI Activities**

#### **General Activities include:**

- Access to building and facilities (to include classroom, toilets and specialist rooms) during building opening and closing hours
- Classroom teaching which is conducted as per agreed maximum class sizes
- Administration of First Aid
- Unsupervised study during Institute's opening hours
- Use of information and communication technology by staff and/or students
- Use of video/photography/other media to record Institute events

#### **Other Activities which are facilitated include:**

- Outdoor teaching activities from time to time
- Sports activities
- Fundraising for Charity
- Out of College Activities (OCAs), including overnight stay/s, foreign travel and Erasmus Work Experience
- Guest speakers and external training
- Seminars, exhibitions and conferences
- Open days, registration/induction days and advisory meetings
- Clients for the practice of treatments in the Beauty Department
- Work experience

#### **To support Out of College Activities (OCAs) the following may be used:**

- Off-site facilities
- Public or private transport

#### **Support provided to students include:**

- Promotion of an environment which upholds the dignity and respect of the student and which supports every individual's right to study and/or work in an environment which is free of any form of harassment, intimidation or bullying.
- Provision of a pastoral care structure
- Implementation of the Code of Conduct
- Provision of guidance and counselling
- Provision of disability support (including making specific arrangements, where necessary, for students with disabilities while participating in an OCA).

#### **Staff Recruitment/Training**

- Recruitment of Institute personnel including
- Teachers/Tutors
- Educational Support Workers
- Student Teachers
- Caretakers/Administrators/Cleaners
- External Tutors/Guest Speakers/Trainers
- External Authenticators/Examiners
- Visitors/Contractors present in Institute during Institute hours
- Training of Institute personnel in child protection matters

