

RCSI CHILD SAFEGUARDING STATEMENT

1. INTRODUCTION

Royal College of Surgeons Ireland (hereinafter “RCSI”) is committed to the safeguarding and wellbeing of children with whom we come in to contact.

This statement has been prepared in accordance with the Children First, Act 2015 as RCSI is an operator of a relevant service being a service which provides educational, research and training activities to children. As this statement sets out, RCSI has undertaken an assessment of any potential for harm to a child while availing of the service. The statement also appoints relevant persons to act as Safeguarding Officers and sets out the procedures for dealing with child safeguarding concerns.

It is essential that all staff have an understanding of the issues relating to the children and an awareness of the legislative framework which address these.

This policy is designed to support this and to provide guidance on best practice in dealing with children through our procedures. RCSI expects that all contact between our staff and children will be guided by the principles of best practices provided in the RCSI Child Safeguarding Statement.

2. LEGISLATION

This statement, and associated procedures, has been prepared in the context of a variety of legislative instruments and best practice documents. In Ireland, provisions exist across a number of separate pieces of legislation for the protection of children, and a number of best practice guides have been produced by statutory bodies. Relevant legislation and best practice reference guides are 1) UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, adopted by the UN in 1989; 2) Child Care Act, 1991; 3) Sexual Offences Act, 2003; 4) Our Duty to Care, Department of Health and Children 2002; 4) National Vetting Bureau (Children and Vulnerable Adults) Act, 2012-2016; 5) Children First Act, 2015 6) Child First National Guidelines for the Protection and Welfare of Children, Department of Health and Children, 2017; and 7) Article 42A of the Irish Constitution.

3. DEFINITIONS

For the purposes of the policy, the term “child” refers to any child or young person under the age of 18 as defined by the Child Care Act, 1991.

4. COMMITMENT TO SAFEGUARD CHILDREN FROM HARM

RCSI is fully committed to safeguarding the wellbeing and safety of children with whom we come in to contact through our work.

RCSI will not tolerate any form of abuse or harm wherever it occurs or whoever is responsible. The organisation is committed to promoting an atmosphere of inclusion, transparency and openness and welcomes feedback from people who use our services, facilities and our staff with a view to how we may continuously improve our services and activities.

Through this policy, RCSI aims to uphold these commitments by:

- (a) Adhering to the Child Safeguarding Statement and ensuring that it is supported by robust procedures;

- (b) Creating and maintaining an environment which aims to ensure, as far as possible, that children who take part in our activities or work in our premises are safe from abuse and exploitation;
- (c) Adopting best practice standards for dealing with children in the work environment;
- (d) Implementing clear procedures to deal with concerns and complaints;
- (e) Providing clear guidance for staff in the application of these procedures and practices.

The statement applies to all staff (including permanent, fixed term and short term temporary appointments, people on work experience and work placements) and all others whose work with RCSI brings them in to contact with children e.g. contractors, volunteer workers.

Everyone has a duty to do everything reasonable in their power to ensure the safety and welfare of children while they are in contact with RCSI, and to act in accordance with the Procedures in this document.

5. WRITTEN ASSESSMENT OF RISK

This Child Safeguarding Statement is informed by a risk assessment which was carried out by the Child Safeguarding Officer and RCSI Human Resources to assess any potential for harm to a child while availing of RCSI's service.

Harm is defined by the Children First Act, 2015 as (a) Assault, ill-treatment or neglect of a child in a manner that seriously affects or is likely to seriously affect the child's health, development or welfare; (b) Sexual abuse of the child; whether caused by a single act, omission or circumstance or a series or combination of act, omissions or circumstances, or otherwise.

	RISK IDENTIFIED	PROCEDURE IN PLACE TO MANAGE IDENTIFIED RISK
1.	Potential of harm to child (student) by staff member while availing of RCSI service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Follow guidelines in RCSI Child Welfare and Protection Policy • Follow RCSI disciplinary procedures and Garda vetting requirements
2.	Potential of harm to child (student) by another student while availing of RCSI service	Follow guidelines in RCSI Child Welfare and Protection Policy
3.	Potential of harm to visiting child by staff member or student while availing of RCSI service	Follow guidelines in RCSI Child Welfare and Protection Policy
4.	Potential of harm to visiting or student child outside of RCSI activity and brought to attention of staff while availing of RCSI service	Follow guidelines in RCSI Child Welfare and Protection Policy
5.	Potential of harm to visiting or student child due to inappropriate accessing of computers, social media etc while availing of RCSI	Follow guidelines in RCSI Child Welfare and Protection Policy

	service	
6.	Potential of harm to visiting of student child in sporting activity while availing of RCSI service	Follow guidelines in RCSI Child Welfare and Protection Policy and "Code of Ethics and Good Practice for Children's Sport"

8. PROCEDURES IN PLACE IN RESPECT OF STAFF SUBJECT OF INVESTIGATION & FOR SELECTION/RECRUITMENT OF STAFF

- RCSI Recruitment policy (*Appendix 1*)
- Garda vetting policy (*Appendix 2*)
- Disciplinary policy

9. PROCEDURES IN PLACE FOR PROVISION OF INFORMATION AND/OR INSTRUCTION AND TRAINING

The Child Safeguarding Statement will be displayed in a prominent place in the foyer of all RCSI buildings and will be made available, on request, to a parent/guardian, Child and Family Agency or members of the public.

The Child Safeguarding Statement and procedures will be introduced to all new staff during the induction process and a copy of the Child Welfare and Protection Policy and associated procedures will be included in all employee handbooks and information security documentation. The statement will be provided to all existing members of staff.

RCSI will ensure the Designated Liaison Persons receive relevant training to ensure that their knowledge and RCSI's policy, procedures and training events, in relation to children, are kept up to date in line with changes in legislation and best practice.

RCSI will review this statement, procedures and practice at regular intervals, at least once every 24 months, and will update the statement as and when required in line with current legislation. RCSI will review this policy as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which the policy refers.

10. APPOINTMENT OF RELEVANT PERSON AND REPORTING TO THE AGENCY

Role of the Safeguarding Officer and Assistant Safeguarding Officer

RCSI has appointed a Safeguarding Officer and an Assistant Safeguarding Officer, responsible for the promotion and implementation of this policy. They are the contact persons for any child protection concerns in respect of any RCSI staff and are responsible for ensuring reporting procedures within RCSI are followed so that concerns are reported promptly.

Contact details for the Child Safeguarding Officers are:

[Child Safeguarding Officer](#)

Name: Yvette Moffatt

Contact address: RCSI, 121 St. Stephens Green, Dublin 2

Telephone: 01-4022107

Email: yvettemoffatt@rcsi.ie

Deputy Child Safeguarding Officer

Name: Collette Power

Contact address: RCSI, 121 St. Stephens Green, Dublin 2

Telephone: 01-4022268

Email: collettepower@rcsi.ie

11. MAINTENANCE OF LIST OF MANDATED PERSONS

The RCSI Human Resources Department will maintain a register of staff identified as Mandated Persons as per Schedule 2 of the Child First Act, 2015.

12. IMPLEMENTATION

We recognise that implementation is an ongoing process. RCSI is committed to the implementation of this Child Safeguarding Statement and the procedures that support our intention to keep children safe from harm while availing of our service. This Child Safeguarding Statement will be reviewed on 1st February 2020, or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which the statement refers.

Signed:

(for RCSI)