

Crana College

Coláiste Cranncha

Buncrana, Co. Donegal

Child Safeguarding Statement

1. Name of Service

Crana College is a second level vocational school operating under the aegis of Donegal ETB. The school is a recognised school as defined by the Education Act 1998.

1. Nature of service provided

Crana College provides a high quality inclusive co-educational service to young people from the Buncrana catchment area. Students include mainstream second level students and students that are assigned to our Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) classrooms.

As a child-centred school Crana College is committed to safeguarding the welfare of all children under its care. The school is committed to implementing in full all relevant sections of Children First Act 2015 and to complying fully with all regulations and requirements as laid down by the Department of Education and Skills in relation to child protection and welfare.

1. Risk Assessment

Risks identified

- Crana College provides an education service to students ranging on average from 12 years of age to 19 years of age. Students of these ages are by virtue of their age more vulnerable than adults and therefore require increased support to ensure their protection and welfare.
- In addition the school also provides an education service to a small number of students with special education needs who are more vulnerable than their peers and who therefore carry a greater duty of care and by extension require more supports than other children might reasonably require.

1. Risk Management

In managing the risk associated with a school Crana College has in place a number of structures, systems, policies and procedures to ensure the safety and welfare of students in its care. These include:

A. Adoption and Implementation of relevant procedures

The board of management of Crana College has adopted unamended the Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017. These procedures have been developed by the Department of Education & Skills in accordance with the Children First Act 2015 and the the National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children 2017.

B. Vetting

- a. Staff - All teaching staff are vetted by the Teaching Council and this is a requirement for registration and employment purposes. In addition newly appointed teaching staff are also vetted by Donegal

ETB prior to appointment. Special Needs Assistants and ancillary or administrative staff are also vetted by Donegal ETB

b. Non-staff -

Regular service providers such as canteen operators, bus drivers are vetted by Donegal ETB.

All volunteers, guest speakers or facilitators who will be interacting with students are vetted by Donegal ETB.

C. Mandated Persons

All teachers are now mandated persons under the terms of the Children First Act 2015. This means that teachers are now required to report concerns disclosed to them by students or parents / guardians directly to Tusla.

D. Building Layout

Crana College has in place a system which keeps younger and older students separate for some key times. Junior and senior students have lockers on different areas of the school while there are separate toilet facilities for senior and junior students. Students with special education needs may have special lockers assigned to safeguard these children. There are also separate toileting facilities for students with disabilities and / or special education needs where the use of a common toilet might compromise their dignity or welfare. Separate toilets are available for transgender students also.

E. Guidance Counsellors

Crana College has one fully trained Guidance Counsellors and a teacher trained in counselling who link in with students on a regular basis to check on their wellbeing and to offer support for students in crisis.

F. Home School Community Liaison (HSCL)

Our school has a full time HSCL teacher who links in with students and parents to offer support particularly in the area of welfare. He liaises with various agencies to support the most vulnerable children who may be in crisis.

G. Student Support & Wellbeing Teams

Crana College has a *Student Support Team* comprising senior management, the Guidance Counsellor, the HSCL, the JCSP Coordinator and the LS coordinator. The core team has a scheduled meeting each week which reviews significant welfare developments in the welfare to identified students who may be at risk. Interventions are discussed and actions implemented where appropriate.

The Wellbeing Team comprises of senior management, the Guidance Counsellor and the HSCL teacher. This team meets once every week and their work is focused on identifying and supporting students who have difficulties that are of a more sensitive nature.

H. Inter-agency cooperation

The school cooperates with a number of agencies to ensure that child welfare is safeguarded for all children under its care. Such cooperation includes liaising with Tusla, CAMHS, Springboard, HSE, An Garda Síochana, Foróige, Donegal Youth Services etc.

I. Staff Supports

- Staff CPD - Staff are encouraged and facilitated in attending appropriate CPD to support them in their role safeguarding the welfare of all children under their care.
- Induction of new staff - All new staff are inducted in the school providing them with the staff handbook and an overview of child protection procedures. Additionally, the school is part of Droichead, the national induction programme for new teachers.

J. Membership of SCP

Crana College is part of the South Inishowen School Completion Programme, a collaborative partnership of local schools which seeks to support students at risk of early leaving. All interventions in the SCP seek to protect children and improve their welfare.

L. Pastoral Care System

Crana College operates an effective Pastoral Care system comprising Year Heads and Class teachers who have daily contact with their appointed class or year groups. These staff members are available to students who may be undergoing a welfare or child protection crisis and to whom they may feel comfortable disclosing information.

M. Managing allegations against members of the public

Where a Child Protection / Welfare allegation is made against a member of the public (including parents / guardians of the student) the Designated Liaison Person, or Deputy Designated Liaison Person in his absence, will make a report (or joint report where the disclosure was made to a teacher) to the Social Work Intake team of Tusla. If Tusla cannot be contacted then a report will be made to the Garda Síochána in matters of Child Protection.

N. Managing allegations against members of staff

In accordance with the Child Protection Procedures developed by the Department of Education & Skills where an allegation is made against a member of staff the principal will meet with the member of staff and ask him/her to remove himself/herself from the school immediately as a precautionary measure to protect the child and to ensure Donegal ETB is in a position to deal with the allegation.. The staff member will remain on full pay. The action taken by the principal is precautionary and not disciplinary and the employee's right to a presumption of innocence remains.

In addition to the measures outlined above separate extra measures are put in place to support the most vulnerable students and manage any risk in respect of their welfare.

A. The school has an ASD classroom to support students with autism. The room are fully staffed with a teacher and SNAs on hand throughout the day to support students who are vulnerable. This core staff work very closely with the students to ensure they are fully protected while in the school.

B. Specialised programmes are run for students with additional and / or special education needs. These programmes are delivered by staff who are trained in the delivery of special education supports.

C. Students with assessed special education needs have access to SNA support to ensure their care needs and welfare is safeguarded.

D. Special arrangements are put in place at social times to support students with complex special education needs. A separate room is available for vulnerable students which is always supervised.

E. A section of the canteen is reserved for students with complex special education needs and this is monitored by SNAs.

F. Separate changing and toilet facilities are used for students with complex learning needs in order to safeguard their dignity.

1. Policies and Procedures

Our Child Safeguarding Statement has been developed in line with requirements under the Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017, the Children First Act 2015, the Children First: National Guidance, and Tusla's Child Safeguarding: A Guide for Policy, Procedure and Practice. In addition to the procedures listed in our risk assessment, the following policies and procedures support our intention to safeguard children while they are availing of our service:

- Child Protection Policy
- Pastoral Care Policy
- Critical Incident Policy
- Anti-bullying Policy
- Inclusion and Additional Needs Policy
- Donegal ETB Recruitment Policy
- Child Protection Guidelines for Post-Primary Schools
- DES Circular Letter 65/2011 - Child Protection Procedures for Primary & Post-primary schools
- 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

All procedures listed are available upon request.

1. Designated Liaison Person(s)

While all teaching staff in the school are mandated persons as defined and described in the legislation the school also has in place a Designated Liaison Person (DLP) and a Deputy Designated Liaison Person (DDLDP).

- The Designated Liaison Person is Mr. Kevin Cooley
- The Deputy Designated Liaison Person is Mrs Sinead Anderson

1. Implementation

Crana College recognises that implementation is an ongoing process. Our school 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 _____, or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which the statement refers.

Signed: _____

Date _____

Chairperson (Board of Management)

Signed: _____
Principal

Date _____

For queries please contact the principal (relevant person as defined in the Children First Act 2015).