



**Blackrock College**

**Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment**

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## **Section 1**

Name of service being provided:

Blackrock College, Rock Road, Blackrock, County Dublin.

## **Section 2**

Nature of service and principles to safeguard children from harm:

### **Secondary School**

Blackrock College School acknowledges the duty of care to safeguard and promote the welfare of our students and is committed to ensuring safeguarding practice that reflect statutory responsibilities, government guidance and complies with best practice. This policy recognises that the welfare and interests of the children are paramount in all circumstances. It aims to ensure that regardless of age, ability or disability, race, religion or belief, gender or sexual orientation, socio-economic background, all children have a positive and enjoyable learning experience in a safe and child centered environment. Blackrock College acknowledges that children, disabled children and those from ethnic minority communities a can be particularly vulnerable to abuse and we accept responsibility to take reasonable and appropriate steps to ensure their welfare. Blackrock College is especially conscious of its responsibilities to its boarding students and has put in place training and procedures to ensure their welfare. The Children's First Act 2015 places a legal obligation on teachers registered with the Teaching Council (referred to as mandated persons), to report child protection concerns at or above a defined threshold to Tusla – Child and Family Agency. These mandated persons must also assist Tusla, on request, in its assessment of child protection concerns about children who have been the subject of a mandated report.

### Section 3

Risk assessment:

Blackrock College has carried out an assessment of any potential for harm to a child while availing of our services. Below is a list of the areas of risk identified and the list of procedures for managing these risks.

	<b>Risk Identified</b>	<b>Procedure in place to manage risk identified</b>
1.	New staff not vetted	Safe recruitment procedures are in place and a vetting disclosure is obtained for new staff members.
2.	Parents vetted for volunteering	All parents are required to be Garda vetted in order to volunteer for any school activity be it themed weeks, school trips and sporting activities.
3.	New Staff unaware of procedures and policies	New staff are made aware of policies (especially; Child Protection Policy, Health and Safety Policy, Anti-Bullying Policy and Code of Behaviour Policy) procedures and receive training on the Children’s First Act 2015 through the school employee handbook and teacher’s handbook. New staff are aware the Designated Liaison Person is the Principal and their role.
4.	Playground accidents	Students are carefully supervised before and after school, during breaks and lunch times by teaching staff. If the playground is icy signs advising this are put up and salt is put on the ground.
5.	Parents unaware of Policies	Parents are aware of the Child Safeguarding Statement, Mission Statement, Anti-Bullying Policy, Code of Behaviour policy which all outline the procedures to follow if there is an issue within the school. These policies are available on the College website.
6.	Bullying	An Anti-bullying policy is in place and adhered to by students, staff and parents.
7.	Sports/ Clubs	All sports personnel are vetted and receive training on injury management and appropriate access to Child tog-out facilities.

8.	School Tours	Teaching personnel lead overseas tours and Day tours may be led by past pupils and parents all of whom are vetted and briefed on how to deal with difficult situations that may arise.
9.	Health and Safety	College policy in place.
10.	School Events	All personnel with access to Children are fully vetted.
11.	Guest Speakers	College policy in place.
12.	Parents	A parent should not be alone with a student unless he is their own.
13.	School Contractors/Visitors	All contractors/visitors should report to reception where they will be met and their business confirmed. At no time will a contractor be in the company of an individual student on his/her own.
14.	Boarding School	Boarding school staff are trained in best practice on Induction Day. Boarding Staff contracts emphasise their responsibilities to safeguard the children in their care. All parents of boarders are presented with the Programme for Boarding and the Code of Behaviour annually. All boarding students and parents contract to abiding by the Programme for Boarding and the Code of Behavior. All reports of bullying are investigated and the outcomes recorded. All bullying incidents are initially investigated following the No-Blame approach. The health of boarding students is monitored and recorded by medically trained personnel. All household risks are assessed by the Housekeeping manageress or the Maintenance manager. All year groups have peer and adult leaders who report welfare issues to the Co-ordinator of Care and / or Director or medical staff. The Co-ordinator of Care monitors the general welfare and well-being of the boarders with the Director.
15.	College Union	Students should not be in the College Union office on their own.
16.	Household Staff	Toilet areas should be closed to use when being cleaned
17.	Medical / Physiotherapy Centre	All visits must be logged and parents contacted.

## Section 4

### Procedures:

Our Child Safeguarding Statement has been developed in line with requirements under 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 procedures support our intention to safeguard children while they are attending our school:

1. Procedure for the management of allegations of abuse or misconduct against staff or volunteers in Blackrock College:

The Principal of the school shall privately inform the employee/volunteer of the allegations and whether it has been reported to the Tusla and the Gardaí.

- The Principal will give the employee a written record of the allegation.
- If the employee is required to absent him/herself – the Principal will inform Tusla and the Gardaí.
- When reported to Tusla the employee has an opportunity to respond.
- The Principal will pass this response to Tusla and the Gardaí.
- The Principal will maintain close contact with the Tusla and the Gardaí – ensure strict confidence.

2. Procedure for the safe recruitment and selection of workers and volunteers to work in the school

- Prevent the employment/deployment of unsuitable individuals and maintain a safe recruitment and vetting policy.
- New staff members and volunteers are required to obtain vetting disclosures through the school.
- All retrospective vetting to be completed by December 2017.
- Promote and prioritise the safety and wellbeing of our students.
- Ensure robust safeguarding arrangements and procedures are in operation.

3. Procedure for the provision of and access to child safeguarding training and information, including the identification of the occurrence of harm

- Provide Child Protection training for staff, facilitated by the JMB.

- Provide reviewed policies, ensure staff understand the policies and procedures in place. Ensure everyone understands their roles and responsibilities in respect of safeguarding and are provided with appropriate information and training to recognise, identify and respond to signs of abuse, neglect and other safeguarding concerns relating to children. Revisit these policies and procedures regularly at staff meetings.
4. Procedure for the reporting of a child protection or welfare concerns to Tusla
- Staff should seek advice and guidance from the designated liaison person (The Principal) or Tusla if they are unsure about whether or not to report a concern in the school.
  - Staff and volunteers have a responsibility to report to Tusla using the Report Form where there is reasonable grounds for concern.
  - Reporting concerns the concern is reported to Tusla (and the Gardaí if necessary), a written record is securely retained. The written record should have all of the information available; what they have observed and when, signs of physical injury described in detail, any comment by the child concerned, or any other person, about how an injury occurred. The record should be signed and dated and given to the DLP who securely retains it.
  - It is not advised to talk to parents/guardians before reporting, as it may further endanger the child or the person making the report.
  - The Principal will ensure appropriate action is taken in the event of incidents/concerns of abuse and support provided to the individuals who raise or disclose the concern.
  - The Principal will ensure the confidential, detailed and accurate records of all safeguarding concerns are maintained and securely stored

5. Procedure for maintaining a list of mandated persons in the school
  - Every teacher registered with the Teaching Council is a mandated person according to the Act. A list of mandated persons employed by the school will be maintained and updated by the Principal.
  
6. Procedure for appointing the relevant person
  - The Relevant Person in Blackrock College for the purposes of the Act will be the Designated Liaison Person who is the school Principal (Mr Alan MacGinty) and current acting DDLP (Mr Brian Herlihy).

## Section 5

### Implementation:

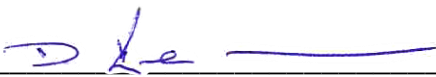
We recognise that implementation is an ongoing process. Blackrock College is committed to the implementation of this Child Safeguarding Statement and the procedures that support our intention to keep children safe from harm while attending our school. This Child Safeguarding Statement will be reviewed on

January 2020, or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which the statement refers.

This policy has been ratified by the Board of Management on

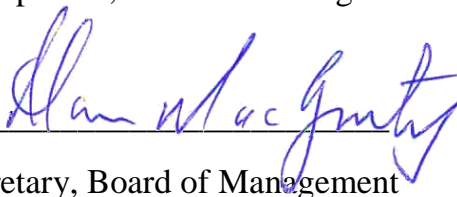
January 29<sup>th</sup>, 2019

Signed:



Chairperson, Board of Management

Signed:



Secretary, Board of Management



# **Appendices**

# Rugby



## COACHES PROTOCOL

It is very important that:

- The Coach is on time. He/She should be there before the students.
- When travelling with the team, each coach should maintain a high standard of dress. No hoodies or jeans.
- A Roll is taken and absentees are submitted to the Dean.
- Sessions are well prepared and structured.
- Sessions are managed authoritatively with primary importance given to health and safety. Coaches should be particularly vigilant in the contact situation – tackle, ruck, maul, scrum – that the boys are not in awkward positions which could result in injury. Every boy should have a gum shield. Any boy who does not have one should not be allowed to participate in a contact situation.
- Each Coach should have a watch, and whistle.
- For all matches, there should be a medical kit and water available.
- Injuries are reported to the Dean. Coaches should be particularly aware of any head injury and if there is any doubt remove the boy from the session/game.
- In the event of an injury to the head, neck, back or one requiring hospitalisation or a visit to Nurse, a phone call home should be made that evening.
- Pile-ups should be blown immediately. The boys must stay on their feet.
- All Coaches should familiarise themselves with the best practices relationships policy and the IRFU Concussion Protocol.
- In line with best practice in relationships policy, a coach should not be alone with a boy in his/her car.

# Sport at Blackrock



## COACHES PROTOCOL

It is very important that:

- The Coach is on time. He/She should be there before the students.
- When travelling with pupils, each coach should maintain a high standard of dress code. No hoodie or jeans.
- A Roll is taken and absentees are submitted to the Dean.
- Injuries are reported to the Dean. Coaches should be particularly aware of any head injury and if there is any doubt remove the boy from the session/game.
- In the event of an injury to the head, neck, back or one requiring hospitalisation or a visit to Nurse, a phone call home should be made that evening.
- If a boy is sent to the Nurse, it is best practice for the coach to check on him there at the end of the session/game.
- Sessions are well prepared and structured.
- Sessions are managed authoritatively with primary importance given to health and safety. Coaches should be particularly vigilant in contact or collision situations. Each boy should have the appropriate footwear, sport gear and equipment.
- Each Coach should have a watch, and whistle.
- For all matches, there should be a medical kit and water available.
- All Coaches should familiarise themselves with the best practices relationships policy.
- In line with best practice in relationships policy, a coach should not be alone with a boy in his/her car.