

# Child Safety Statement

## **1. Name of college: Coláiste UISCE**

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## **2. Type of service and principals to protect people from harm**

*(A brief summary about our services, what we do and our commitment to protecting children):*

Coláiste UISCE is an outdoor pursuits centre and an Irish college where Irish is taught in a vibrant, professional and safe manner through both land and water activities. We strive to create a positive Irish learning environment. We show respect for the rights of others and for their safety and make every effort to conduct ourselves in a positive and cooperative manner.

Coláiste UISCE recognises the importance of the 'Children First: A National Guide to the Protection and Welfare of Children' published by the Department of Children and Affairs, a copy of which is provided in the office.

Coláiste UISCE management believe that sports, activities and accommodation must be provided in an environment that is safe and positive for everyone. Child protection must be at the forefront of Coláiste UISCE policies. Training courses are provided for relevant staff members at the beginning of each season.

Child protection is at the forefront of the college's policies and procedures and along with relevant training of all staff members. A synopsis of the main points from Children First are included in all employee handbooks. Child Protection training is provided to all staff members; teachers, bean an tís, instructors, prefects, kitchen staff, housekeeping staff, administrative staff and bus drivers.

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## **3. Risk Assessment**

We have assessed any potential for harm to your child while using our services, including the area of online safety in the case of internet access. Below is a list of the areas of risk identified and a list of procedures for managing those risks.

	<b>Identified Risk</b>	<b>Procedure in place to manage the identified risk</b>
1	Risk of harm to a child due to inappropriate access / use between a child and another child or adult	The college has a comprehensive policy and risk assessment in place to prevent incidents of this nature. There is a strong emphasis placed on active supervision and a supervisory rota is maintained for all breaks on both UISCE sites. In addition, we have implemented a specific programme called 'Inis Dúinn' (Tell Us) in the college. As part of this programme students are introduced to staff members and encouraged to "Tell Us" if they are experiencing any problems or encounter anything that makes them feel uncomfortable. The children are introduced to the system on the first night in the college and again in the accommodation. 'Inis Dúinn' posters are displayed in the centre and in the guest houses.
2	Risk of harm to a child staying in the centre accommodation	The college has a yard/area supervision policy to ensure that children are properly supervised while arriving to and leaving sessions, during breaks and in relation to specific areas such as toilets, changing rooms etc. Anti-bullying, child protection, fire procedures, illness & accident procedures, safety & first aid courses are provided for staff. Notices are posted around the centre and in the guest houses regarding our 'Inis Dúinn' policy. The college has a code of conduct in place for all staff and implements a positive behaviour policy for students called 'MEAS'(Respect). The college also operates a discipline system for students to deal with any behaviour issues that may arise.
3	Risk of harm due to bullying	The college has a comprehensive anti-bullying policy which is regularly updated. The college has a positive behaviour policy for students called 'MEAS'(Respect) where students are encouraged to show positive behaviour towards their peers. Also 'Inis Dúinn' notices posted around the centre and the guest houses. Students are also asked to complete a questionnaire regarding bullying during a two-week course. One of the teaching staff has a daily meeting with the senior leaders and a daily report is received from the bean an tís.
4	Risk of harm in accommodation/mealtimes	A supervisor training course is held each year. The bean an tís have a training night before the start of the season. They receive a handbook and posters regarding: Child Protection, MEAS, 'Inis Dúinn' and the college rules. There are 'Inis Dúinn' notices in the accommodation and dining areas. One of the teaching staff has a daily meeting with the prefects and a daily report is received from the bean an tís.
5	Risk of harm during travel/movement	A supervisor travels on the big bus before dinner and after the céilí. The prefects travel on the bus and on the road to and from the houses.
6	Risk of harm to vulnerable children or children with specific needs	Parents are requested to inform the college in advance if their son/daughter has a specific need. The course principal and the relevant supervisors are made aware of any vulnerable student or

		students with special needs. An individual mentoring plan is devised where necessary and staff are asked to assist in ensuring the child settles in and is happy. Daily meetings take place with prefects and the bean an tís daily reports daily.
7	Risk of harm due to inappropriate access/use by a child of computers, social media, phones and other digital devices while at the college.	Student phones are collected from students on the day of arrival. They are returned daily for a period of 20 minutes after dinner. They must be used in the dining room/ living area and in sight of staff/bean an tí. Telephones are not permitted in the bedrooms or changing areas or anywhere else in the centre or in the guesthouse. Students are not allowed the wifi on Gaeltacht courses. (They are permitted during group seasons depending of the school.) Other technological appliances are not allowed.
8	Risk of harm to a child by a member of staff	The college complies with the requirements of Garda vetting legislation to relevant DES circulars in relation to Garda vetting and recruitment. In addition, induction training regarding child protection is provided to all staff members.

#### 4. Procedure

Coláiste UISCE's Child Protection Statement has been developed in accordance with the requirements of the Children First Act, 2015 Children First: National Guidance, and Child Protection: A guide to Tusla's Policy, Procedures and Practice. In addition to the procedures listed in our risk assessment, the following procedures support our endeavours to protect children using our services from harm.

- Procedure for managing allegations of abuse or misconduct against workers/volunteers in respect of a child attending the college;
- Procedure for recruiting and selecting suitable employees and volunteers to work with children ;
- Procedure for the provision of and access to child protection training and information, including the identification of incidents of harm;
- Procedures for reporting child protection or welfare concerns to Tusla;
- Procedures for maintaining a list of persons (if any) in appropriate service who are mandated persons;
- Procedures for appointing an appropriate person for the role of Designated Liaison Person (DLP);
- A copy of the Coláiste UISCE's Child Protection Statement has been made available to all staff, new members and local host families;

All procedures listed are available on request.

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#### 5. Implementation

We recognise that implementation is an ongoing process. Coláiste UISCE is committed to the implementation of this Child Protection Statement and the procedures that support our intention to keep children safe from harm while using our service. This Child Protection Statement will be reviewed on **1/6/2024** or as practicable as possible following any material change in relation to anything to which the statement refers.

**Síniú:** Ciarán Ó Murchú  
(Bainisteoir Stiúrtha an Choláiste)

**Ainm agus Sonraí Teagmhála an Bhainisteora:** \_\_  
Ciarán Ó Murchú, Coláiste UISCE, Cuan Eilí, O.P. an Chlochair

**For inquiries, please contact the Designated liaison Person**

**Designated Person:** Ciarán Ó Murchú

**Phone:** 09782111

**Email:** \_\_ ciaran@uisce.ie

**Contact details for the Designated Liaison Person and Deputy Designated Liaison Person:-**

**Designated Liaison Person**

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**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_ 09782111 \_\_\_\_\_

**Email:** \_\_ ciaran@uisce.ie \_\_\_\_\_

**Deputy-Designated Liaison**

**Name:** \_\_ Róisín Nic Grianna \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_ 09782111 \_\_\_\_\_

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*(Amended 1/6/2021. To be reviewed 1/6/2024)*

# RÁITEAS CAOMHNAITHE LEANAÍ

1. Ainm an Choláiste: Coláiste UISCE

2. Cineál na seirbhíse agus prionsabail chun daoine a chaomhnú ó dhíobháil (achóimre ghearr ar an méid atá i gceist lenár seirbhís, an méid a dhéanann muid agus ár ngealltanais chun leanaí a chosaint):

Is Coláiste Gaeilge agus Ionad Eachtraíochta é Coláiste UISCE ina múintear Gaeilge bheo bhríomhar go hanamúil, go proifisiúnta agus go sábháilte tríd eachtraí ar muir is ar tír. Déanann muid sár-iarracht suíomh dearfach foghlama Gaelach a chothú. Léirímid meas ar chearta agus ar shábháilteacht a chéile agus déanaimid gach iarracht muid féin a iompar ar bhealach dearfach comhoibritheach.

Aithníonn Coláiste UISCE tábhacht an achta Tús Áite do Leanáí 2015 agus dearadh an polasaí caomhnaithe leanaí UISCE ag teacht le 'Tús Áite do Leanáí: Treoir Náisiúnta um Chosaint agus Leas Leanáí' atá foilsithe ag An Roinn Leanáí agus Gnóthaí. Tá cóip ar fáil san oifig.

Tá cosaint an pháiste chun tosaigh i bpolasaithe an choláiste agus reáchtáiltear cúrsaí insealbhuíthe chun an oiliúint chuí a chur ar fáil don fhoireann ar fad chomh maith le hachóimre & na príomhphointí a bheith curtha sna lámhleabhar éagsúla. Déantar insealbhú leis na baill fhoirne ar fad; múinteoirí, mná tí, teagascóirí, cinnirí, lucht na cistine, lucht tí, an fhoireann riaracháin, tiománaithe bus an choláiste ina measc.

## 3. Measúnú Riosca

Tá measúnú déanta againn ar aon phoitéinseal do dhíobháil do leanbh agus iad ag baint leas as ár seirbhísí, lena n-áirítear i réimse na sábháilteachta ar líne i gcás rochtain ar an idirlíon. Tá liosta thíos de na réimsí riosca sainaitheanta agus liosta de na nósanna imeachta chun na rioscaí sin a bhainistiú.

	Riosca Sainaitheanta	Nós imeachta i bhfeidhm chun an riosca sainaitheanta a bhainistiú
1	Riosca díobhála leanaí mar gheall ar rochtain/úsáid neamhoiriúnach idir leanbh agus leanbh nó duine fásta eile	Tá polasaí agus measúnú riosca cuimsitheach curtha i bhfeidhm ag an gcoláiste chun eachtraí cúram leanaí a sheachaint. Tá an-bhéim curtha ar fheitheoireacht ghníomhach sa choláiste agus rota feitheoireachta do na sosanna ar fad don dá suíomh. Anuas air sin, tá córas "Inis Dúinn" i bhfeidhm sa choláiste. Cuirtear na páistí ar an eolas faoin gcóras ar an gcéad oíche sa choláiste agus arís sa lóistín. Tá fógraí Inis Dúinn crochta san ionad chomh maith le na tithe lóistín.
2	Riosca díobhála do pháiste faoi chúram an bhrú	Tá polasaí maoirsithe don chlós/áit súgartha ag an gcoláiste le cinntiú go ndéantar maoirsiú cuí ar leanaí le linn an teacht le chéile, scor agus sosanna eile agus i ndáil limistéir shonracha amhail na leithris, seomraí feistis srl. Reáchtáiltear cúrsaí traenála don fhoireann ar fad, mar chuid den traenáil sin clúdaítear na polasaithe; bulaíochta, cúram leanaí, dóiteáin,

		tinneas & timpistí, sábháilteacht & céadchabhair. Tá fógraí crochta timpeall an ionaid agus sna tithe lóistín maidir lenár bpolasaí “Inis Dúinn”.
3	Riosca díobhála de bharr bulaíochta	Tá polasaí cuimsitheach frithbhulaíochta ag an gcoláiste & déantar uasghrádú rialta air. Tá polasaí ag an gcoláiste maidir le dea-iompar dearfach ar a dtugtar MEAS chun tacú leis an scoláirí meas a léiriú dá chéile. Tá fógraí crochta maidir lenár gcóras “Inis Dúinn”. Bíonn ar a laghad dhá cheistiúchán bulaíochta curtha ar na daltaí le linn cúrsa coicise. Bíonn cruinniú laethúil ag duine den fhoireann teagaisc le na hardchinnirí agus faightear tuairisc lae ó na mná tí gach uile lá.
4	Riosca díobhála de bharr lóistín agus beathú na bpáistí	Reáchtáiltear cúrsa traenála don lucht feitheoireachta gach uile bhliain. Bíonn oíche thraenála ag na mná tí. Faigheann siad lámhleabhar agus fógraí; Cúram Leanaí, MEAS, Inis Dúinn, Rialacha an Choláiste. Tá fógraí crochta maidir lenár gcóras Inis Dúinn. Bíonn cruinniú laethúil ag duine den fhoireann teagaisc le na hardchinnirí agus faightear tuairisc lae ó na mná tí gach uile lá.
5	Riosca díobhála de bharr taisteal agus gluaiseacht na bpáistí	Bíonn ar mhaoirseoir taisteal ar an mbus mór roimh dinnéar agus tar éis an chéilí agus bíonn cinnirí ar an mbus agus ag siúl le gach grúpa sna tithe.
6	Riosca díobhála do pháistí a bhfuil leochaileacht/riachtanais shonracha acu	Iarann muid ar thuismitheoirí muid a chur ar an eolas roimh ré má tá riachtanas faoi leith ag a mac/iníon. Leagtar amach plean meantóireachta faoi leith nuair is gá, cuirtear an fhoireann ar an eolas a bheith ar an airdeall ag cinntiú go bhfuil na daoine faoi leith sin socraithe síos agus sásta. Bíonn cruinnithe laethúla le na hardchinnirí agus tuairisc lae ó na mná tí.
7	Riosca díobhála mar gheall ar rochtain/úsáid neamh oiriúnach ag leanbh ar ríomhairí, meáin shóisialta, fóin agus gléas digiteach eile agus iad ag an gColáiste	Bailítear na gutháin agus tugtar ar ais iad ar feadh 20 nóiméad tar éis an dinnéir. Caithfear iad a úsáid sa bhialann/seomra suí, i radharc. Níl cead aon ghuthán aon áit eile san ionad ná sa teach cónaithe. Níl cead wifi a thabhairt do na scoláirí ar na cúrsaí Gaeilge. (Bíonn cead le linn séasúr na ngrúpaí ag brath ar an scoil). Cosc ar fhearais teicneolaíochta eile.
8	Riosca díobhála do leanbh ag duine de phearsanra an Choláiste	Cloíonn an Coláiste le riachtanais reachtaíocht ghrinnfhiosrúcháin an Gharda Síochána agus le ciorcláin cuí an ROS i ndáil le hearcaíocht agus grinnfhiosrúchán an Gharda Síochána. Anuas air sin, déantar oiliúint ionductaithe le na baill fhoirne ar fad maidir le caomhnú leanaí.

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#### 4. Nósanna Imeachta

Forbraíodh ár Ráiteas Caomhnaithe Leanaí de réir na riachtanas faoin Acht um Thús Áite do Leanaí, 2015, faoi *Tús Áite do Leanaí: Treoir Náisiúnta*, agus faoi *Cosaint Leanaí: Treoir do Pholasaí, Nósanna Imeachta agus Cleachtas* le Tusla. Chomh maith leis na nósanna imeachta a bhfuil liosta díobh inár measúnú riosca, tá na nósanna imeachta seo a leanas mar thacaíocht dár rún chun leanaí a chosaint agus iad ag baint leas as ár seirbhís:-

- Nós imeachta chun bainistiú a dhéanamh ar líomhaintí drochúsáide nó mí-iompair in aghaidh oibríthe/oibríthe deonacha i leith linbh ag freastal ar an gColáiste;
- Nós imeachta chun oibríthe agus oibríthe deonacha a earcú agus a roghnú ar bhealach slán chun obair a dhéanamh le leanaí;
- Nós imeachta le haghaidh soláthar agus rochtain ar oiliúint agus eolas caomhnaithe leanaí, lena n-áirítear sainathint ar eachtraí díobhála;
- Nósanna imeachta chun ábhair imní cosanta nó leasa leanaí a thuairisciú do Tusla;
- Nósanna imeachta chun liosta a choinneáil de dhaoine (más ann dóibh) sa tseirbhís chuí ar daoine sainordaithe iad;
- Nósanna imeachta chun duine cuí a cheapadh agus tá Duine Idirchaidrimh Ainmnithe (DIA) ceaptha ag coiste stiúrtha an choláiste;
- Tá cóip de Ráiteas an Choláiste maidir le Cumhdach Leanaí curtha ar fáil do gach ball den fhoireann, do gach ball nua agus do na teaghlaigh áitiúla;

Tá na nósanna imeachta uile sa liosta ar fáil ach iad a iarraidh.

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## 5. Feidhmiú

Aithnímid gur próiseas leanúnach é an feidhmiú. Tá ár seirbhís tiomanta d'fheidhmiú an Ráitis Caomhnaithe Leanaí seo agus do na nósanna imeachta a thacaíonn lenár rún leanaí a choinneáil slán ó dhíobháil agus iad ag baint leas as ár seirbhís. Déanfar an Ráiteas Caomhnaithe Leanaí seo a athbhreithniú ar 1/6/2024, é sin nó chomh praiticiúil agus is féidir tar éis aon athrú ábhartha teacht aníos i ndáil le haon rud dá dtagraíonn an ráiteas.

**Síniú:** \_\_\_\_\_ Ciarán Ó Murchú \_\_\_\_\_  
(Stiúrthóir an Choláiste)

**Ainm agus Sonraí Teagmhála an Stiúrthóra:** \_\_

Ciarán Ó Murchú

Coláiste UISCE

Cuan Eilí

O.P. an Chlochair

I gcás fiosruithe, déan teagmháil leis an Duine Cuí faoin Acht um Thús Áite do Leanaí, 2015

Ainm an Duine Chuí:     Ciarán Ó Murchú    

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Tá sonraí teagmhála an Teagmhálaí Ainmnithe agus an Leas-Teagmhálaí Ainmnithe ar fáil thíos:-

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*(Leasaithe 1/6/2021. Athbhreithniú 1/6/2024)*