

# AVONDALE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

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Rathdrum,  
Co. Wicklow.

## *Avondale Community College Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment*

### **Written Assessment of Risk for Avondale Community College**

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 Avondale Community College.

#### **Section 1 - List of School Activities:**

1. Daily arrival and departure of students to/from school
2. Breakfast Club in Canteen
3. Recreational breaks for students
4. Classroom teaching
5. One-to-one teaching
6. One-to-one counselling
7. Care of children with special educational needs
8. Homework club
9. Supervised evening study
10. Use of toilet/changing/shower areas in schools
11. School transport arrangements including use of bus/taxi escorts
12. Outdoor teaching activities/ extra-curricular activities
13. School outings
14. School trips involving overnight stay
15. Fundraising events involving students - Sponsored Walk
16. Use of off-site facilities for school activities eg Trip to Killary, ERC Baltinglass
17. Management of challenging behaviour amongst students
18. Application of sanctions under the school's Code of Behaviour including detention of students, confiscation of phones etc.
19. Administration of Medicine – e.g. Epi-Pens
20. Administration of First Aid
21. Curricular provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Guidance and Wellbeing
22. Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst students
23. Training of school personnel in Child Protection matters – Legal Island online training/ Tusla
24. Use of external expertise to supplement the curriculum

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25. Use of external expertise to supplement co-curricular and extra curricular activities
26. Care of students with specific needs such as
  - students from ethnic minorities
  - members of the travelling community
  - students who are lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender LGBT
  - children in care
  - children in the Child Protection Notification System
27. Recruitment of school personnel including –
  - Sports coaches
  - External Tutors/Guest Speakers
  - Volunteers/Parents in school activities
  - Visitors/contractors present in school during school hours
  - Visitors/contractors present during after school activities
28. Use of Information and Communication Technology by students in school
29. Use of video/photography/other media to record school events
30. Students participating in work experience in the school
31. Students from the school participating in work experience elsewhere
32. Student teachers undertaking training placement in school

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## **Section 2 - Avondale Community College has identified the following risk of harm in respect of its activities:**

**Important Note:** It should be noted that risk in the context of this risk assessment is the risk of "harm" as defined in the Children First Act 2015 and not general health and safety risk. The definition of harm is set out in Chapter 4 of the *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017*.

1. Risk of harm not being recognised by school personnel
2. Risk of harm not being reported properly and promptly by school personnel
3. Risk of child being harmed in the school by a member of school personnel
4. Risk of child being harmed in the school by another child
5. Risk of child being harmed in the school by volunteer or visitor to the school
6. Risk of child being harmed by a member of school personnel, a member of staff of another organisation or other person while child participating in out of school activities e.g. school trip.
7. Risk of harm due to bullying of child.
8. Risk of the impact of social media and its possible detrimental effect on the wellbeing of students and school personnel.
9. Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children in school.
10. Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children while attending out of school activities.
11. Risk of harm due to inappropriate relationship/communications between child and another child or adult.
12. Risk of harm due to children inappropriately accessing/using computers, social media, phones and other devices while at school.
13. Risk of harm to children with SEN who have particular vulnerabilities.
14. Risk of harm in one-to-one teaching/counselling/coaching situation.
15. Risk of harm caused by member of school personnel communicating with students in an inappropriate manner via social media, texting, digital device or other manner.
16. Risk of harm caused by member of school personnel accessing and/or circulating inappropriate material via social media, texting, digital device or other manner.
17. Risk of harm caused by students accessing and/or circulating inappropriate material via social media, texting, digital device or other manner.
18. Risk of harm by visitors who have not scheduled a meeting with school personnel.
19. Risk of harm by intruders into the school while the school premises is open.

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## **Section 3 - Avondale Community College has the following procedures in place to address the risks of harm identified in this assessment:**

1. All school staff as mandated persons is provided with a copy of the school's *Child Safeguarding Statement*.
2. *The Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017* are made available to all school personnel (via email).
3. School Personnel are required to adhere to the *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017* and all registered teaching staff are required to adhere to the *Children First Act 2015*.
4. The Whole School Guidance Plan outlines how Avondale Community College supports students in the school.
5. The school implements the SPHE curriculum.
6. The school implements the Wellbeing Programme at Junior Cycle.
7. The school has an Anti-Bullying Policy which fully adheres to the requirements of the Department's *Anti-Bullying Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools*.
8. The school has in place a policy and clear procedures in respect of school trips.
9. The school has in place a Critical Incident Management Plan.
10. The school has a Health and Safety policy.
11. The school has a Code of Behaviour in place.
12. The school has a code of conduct for school personnel – See KWETB professional code of conduct.
13. The school complies with the agreed disciplinary procedures for teaching staff.
14. The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation and relevant DES circulars in relation to recruitment and Garda vetting.
15. The school has a Special Educational Needs policy.
16. The school has a Care Policy/Plan in respect of students who require such care.
17. The school has in place a policy and procedures for the administration of First Aid.
18. The school has in place an ICT/Appropriate Usage Policy in respect of usage of ICT by students.
19. The school has in place a mobile phone policy in respect of usage of mobile phones by students.
20. The school has in place a policy and procedures for the administration of medication to students.
21. The school –
  - i. Has provided each member of school staff with a copy of the

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school's Child Safeguarding Statement.

- ii. Ensures all new staff members are provided with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement.
  - iii. Facilitates staff to avail of relevant training – TUSLA/ PDST
  - iv. Maintains records of all staff training.
22. The school has in place a policy and clear procedures for one-to-one teaching activities.
  23. The school has in place a policy and procedures for one-to-one counselling.
  24. The school has in place a policy and procedures in respect of student - teacher placements.
  25. The school has in place a policy and procedures in respect of students undertaking work experience in the school.
  26. The school has in place a policy and procedures in respect of students of the school undertaking work experience in external organisations.

In undertaking this risk assessment, the Board of Management has endeavoured to identify as far as possible the risks of harm that are relevant to Avondale Community College and to ensure that adequate procedures are in place to manage all risks identified. While it is not possible to foresee and remove all risk of harm, the school has put in place the procedures listed in this risk assessment to manage and reduce risk to the greatest possible extent.

It shall be reviewed as part of the school's annual review of its Child Safeguarding Statement.

This risk assessment has been reviewed by the Board of Management of Avondale Community College on Monday 31 August 2020.

Signed *[Signature]*  
Chairperson, Board of Management

Date 31/8/2020

Signed *[Signature]*  
Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Date 31/8/2020

- 1 The Designated Liaison Person (DLP) is: Elaine Fitzgerald Principal
- 2 The Deputy Designated Liaison Person is Patricia Gahan Deputy Principal