

An Roinn Oideachais agus Scileanna
Department of Education and Skills

Child Protection and Safeguarding Initial Inspection

INITIAL REPORT

School name	Royal School Cavan
School address	College Street Cavan Co. Cavan
Roll number	61080S

Date of inspection: 18-10-2019



An Roinn Oideachais
agus Scileanna
Department of
Education and Skills

WHAT IS A CHILD PROTECTION AND SAFEGUARDING INSPECTION?

A Child Protection and Safeguarding Inspection (CPSI) is a focused inspection of the implementation of the *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary schools 2017*. These procedures provide direction and guidance to school authorities and to school personnel in relation to meeting their statutory obligations under the Children First Act 2015. They also provide direction and guidance in relation to the continued implementation of the best practice, non-statutory guidance set out in Children First National Guidance 2017. The CPSI inspection model examines the implementation of the *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary schools 2017* in schools through conducting ten checks based on the procedures.

The CPSI inspection process consists of two inspections: an **Initial Child Protection and Safeguarding Inspection** and a **Final Child Protection and Safeguarding Inspection**. The two inspections are typically carried out in a school within a relatively short timeframe. This is a report on an Initial Child Protection and Safeguarding Inspection.

WHAT HAPPENS DURING AN INITIAL CHILD PROTECTION AND SAFEGUARDING INSPECTION?

During an initial CPSI, inspectors:

- Engage with learners about their learning in Social Personal and Health Education (SPHE) and Relationship and Sexuality Education (RSE)
- Invite all parents to complete an online parent survey that explores issues relevant to school climate and parents' awareness of the school's child protection procedures, including the school's anti-bullying procedures
- Hold meetings with:
 - Designated Liaison Person (DLP) / Deputy DLP
 - Chairperson of board of management
 - A sample of school personnel
 - The SPHE coordinator
- Review the following documents:
 - Board of management minutes
 - Child safeguarding statement and risk assessment
 - Relevant school plans
- Review child protection records, where these have been created.

The board of management of the school was given an opportunity to comment on the findings and recommendations of the report; the board chose to accept the report without response.

HOW TO READ THIS REPORT

The checks conducted during this inspection are based on the *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017*.

The first section of the report indicates the extent to which the school was compliant with each of the checks conducted by indicating, in respect of each of the stated checks, whether the school was:

- Fully compliant
- Substantially compliant
- Partially compliant
- Not compliant

Some of the checks may not be relevant to a particular school, for example a school that has never had a concern in relation to child protection will not have any child protection records. In such cases, the report indicates that the check does not apply to the school by stating *Not Applicable* after that particular check.

It should be noted that the term 'school personnel' as referred to in this inspection report is used as a generic term to cover all adults who are involved in the operation of the school. It covers employees and voluntary workers and includes parent association members when they are working in the school. These personnel include, for example, teachers, special needs assistants, caretakers, secretaries, cleaners, voluntary workers in the school, paid or voluntary tutors, and parent association members helping with aspects of the work of the school.

Where a school is less than fully compliant with a particular requirement, the report provides some additional evaluative comment on the check. It also advises actions that the school should take in order to comply more fully with the *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017*.

The report also provides an evaluative comment on the school's planning for and implementation of the Social Personal and Health Education Curriculum and the Stay Safe Programme/ Relationships and Sexuality Education Programme as evident during the inspection. In providing this overview, reference is made to the appropriate quality level of the Inspectorate's Quality Continuum:

- Very good
- Good
- Satisfactory
- Fair
- Weak

A *Guide to Child Protection and Safeguarding Inspections* was published on the website of the Department of Education and Skills in January 2019 and can be accessed at www.education.ie. This Guide details how CPSIs are carried out and also provides the framework used by inspectors in arriving at judgements about a school's compliance with the aspects of the *Child Protection Procedures 2017* that are checked during the inspection.

Child Protection and Safeguarding Inspection Report

The checks detailed below derive from the *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017*. These procedures are designed to ensure that schools provide a safe and secure environment for all our children and through appropriate curriculum provision, provide for the incremental development of the life skills that will empower students to keep themselves safe.

In order to meet these aims, the procedures set out a number of requirements on schools relating to communicating with members of the school community about child protection matters; training of school personnel and board members in respect of child protection; reporting about child protection to the board of management; and fulfilling certain reporting and record keeping obligations in relation to child protection matters. They also detail the mandatory aspects of the curriculum that are designed to develop students' knowledge, skills, attitudes and behaviours through Social Personal and Health Education (SPHE) and the Relationship and Sexuality Education (RSE) programme.

The inspection visit **did not include inspection of the school's boarding facilities**, their management or their compliance with the *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017*.

Aspects of the <i>Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017</i> checked	Fully Compliant Substantially Compliant Partially Compliant Not compliant Not applicable
1. The school has communicated the required aspects of the <i>Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017</i> to relevant stakeholders.	Substantially Compliant
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additional Information: A copy of the child safeguarding statement was provided to all of the teaching staff and the vast majority of the non-teaching staff. However, one member of the non-teaching staff had not received a copy. • Action Advised: School management should ensure that the child safeguarding statement is provided to all school personnel. 	
2. A Designated Liaison Person (DLP) and a deputy DLP have been appointed in line with the requirements of the <i>Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017</i> .	Fully Compliant
3. The board of management reports that it is aware of and discharges its responsibilities to provide information to all school personnel relevant to child protection and to ensure that available training is undertaken by all or some members of staff as required.	Fully Compliant
4. The board of management reports that it is aware of its responsibilities in relation to vetting of all school personnel and report that they discharge these responsibilities.	Fully Compliant

5. A child safeguarding statement and risk assessment have been prepared in line with the template and requirements of the <i>Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017</i> .	Fully Compliant
6. The minutes of the board meetings that were checked contained a record of a child protection oversight report being provided in line with the requirements of the <i>Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017</i> .	Fully Compliant
7. Correct record keeping procedures were found in the child protection cases examined.	Not Applicable
8. The procedures to report child protection concerns were fully implemented in the records examined.	Not Applicable
9. The procedures to report allegations or suspicions of abuse against school personnel were fully implemented in the records examined. <i>(These personnel include, for example, teachers, special needs assistants, caretakers, secretaries, cleaners, voluntary workers in the school, paid or voluntary tutors, and parent association members helping with aspects of the work of the school.)</i>	Not Applicable

10. Curriculum Check	
There is a Social Personal and Health Education Programme for all students in Junior Cycle.	Yes
There is a Relationships and Sexuality Education Programme (RSE) for all students in the school.	Yes
<p>The overall quality of planning for and implementation of the SPHE curriculum and the RSE programme, as evidenced during the inspection, is good. Timetabling for SPHE and RSE is appropriate and detailed programmes of work are in place.</p> <p>During the meetings with student focus groups, students expressed satisfaction with many aspects of the SPHE/RSE programmes in the school, including the lessons that dealt with human relationships, positive mental health and wellbeing. Transition Year students described as “comprehensive” their Relationships and Sexuality Education (RSE) they received at junior cycle. Other students in the senior cycle focus group expressed the view that there was scope for more detailed treatment and exploration of some aspects of RSE relating to sexual health. The school provided evidence that sexual health lessons at senior cycle are delivered in the Spring term of sixth year, and that the topics covered follow the RSE curriculum. The SPHE department should consider surveying the senior cycle students after the delivery of the sexual health module to capture their thoughts on the prescribed depth of treatment of, and the topics covered, within the sexual health module.</p> <p>In their responses to questionnaires which were administered as part of the evaluation, parents agreed that they were informed of the school’s Child Safeguarding Statement and were aware of the SPHE/ RSE programmes in the school. Parents also agreed that their children were safe and well cared for in the school.</p>	