CHILD SAFEGUARDING STATEMENT

GRIFFITH INSTITUTE OF LANGUAGE

FEBRUARY 2025

GRIFFITH COLLEGE CORK
Wellington Rd, Cork, Ireland

Nature of Service and Principles to Safeguard Children from Harm

Griffith Institute of Language (GIL) is a fully owned constituent school of Griffith College. Griffith Institute of Language provides English Language tuition, Foundation Studies programmes and assessment to children (i.e. under the age of 18 years) and young adults (i.e. over the age of 18 years).

In accordance with the requirements of the Children First Act 2015, Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children 2017, the Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools 2017 and Tusla Guidance on the preparation of Child Safeguarding Statements, the Board of Management has agreed the Child Safeguarding Statement set out in this document.

1 The Griffith College Management Board has adopted and will implement fully and without modification the Department's Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools 2017 as part of this overall Child Safeguarding Statement

2 The Mandated Person is Deputy Head of Cork campus, Noel Daly

3 The Mandated Person can be contacted at: Email: noel.daly@griffith.ie
Phone: 021 2379263

4 The Management Board recognises that child protection and welfare considerations permeate all aspects of school life and must be reflected in all of Griffith Institute of Language policies, procedures, practices and activities. In its policies, procedures, practices and activities, Griffith Institute of Language will adhere to the following principles of best practice in child protection and welfare:

The school will:

- recognise that the protection and welfare of children is of paramount importance, regardless of all other considerations;
- fully comply with its statutory obligations under the Children First Act 2015 and other relevant legislation relating to the protection and welfare of children;
- fully co-operate with the relevant statutory authorities in relation to child protection and welfare matters;
- adopt safe practices to minimise the possibility of harm or accidents happening to children and protect workers from the necessity to take unnecessary risks that may leave themselves open to accusations of abuse or neglect;
- develop a practice of openness with parents / guardians and encourage parental involvement in the education of their children; and
- fully respect confidentiality requirements in dealing with child protection matters.

Griffith Institute of Language will also adhere to the above principles in relation to any adult pupil with a special vulnerability.

5 The following procedures/measures are in place

- In relation to any member of staff who is the subject of any investigation (howsoever described) in respect of any act, omission or circumstance in respect of a child attending the school, Griffith Institute of Language adheres to the relevant procedures set out in Chapter 7 of the Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017 and to the relevant agreed disciplinary procedures for school staff which are published on the Department of Education & Skills (DES) website.

- In relation to the selection or recruitment of staff and their suitability to work with children, Griffith Institute of Language adheres to the statutory vetting requirements of the National Vetting Bureau (Children and Vulnerable Persons) Acts 2012 to 2016 and to the wider duty of care guidance set out in relevant Garda vetting and recruitment circulars published by the DES and available on the DES website.

- In relation to the provision of information and, where necessary, instruction and training, to staff in respect of the identification of the occurrence of harm (as defined in the 2015 Act) Griffith Institute of Language: -

    - Has provided each member of staff (existing and new) with a copy of *Griffith Institute of Language Child Safeguarding Statement available here*
    - Has provided each member of staff (existing and new) with a copy of *Griffith Institute of Language Child Risk Assessment available here*
    - Has provided each member of staff (existing and new) with a copy of *Griffith Institute of Language Child Protection Guidelines for teachers available here*
    - Has provided each member of staff (existing and new) with a copy of *Griffith College Staff code of conduct – available from Griffith College HR department.*
    - Requires staff to avail of relevant training – TULSA eLearning Children First programme – and to provide confirmation of completion of this programme.
    - Encourages Management members and staff to avail of relevant training
    - GIL maintains records of all staff and management member training
    - The Mandated person named above must complete and confirm completion of relevant *Designated Liaison Person* training.

- In relation to reporting of child protection concerns to Tusla, all personnel are required to adhere to the procedures set out in the Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017, including in the case of registered teachers, those in relation to mandated reporting under the Children First Act 2015.

- GIL has appointed the above-named Mandated Person as the "relevant person" (as defined in the Children First Act 2015) to be the first point of contact in respect of the child safeguarding statement.

- All registered teachers employed by the school are mandated persons under the Children First Act 2015.

- In accordance with the Children First Act 2015, the management has carried out an assessment of any potential for harm to a child while attending the school or participating in school activities. A written assessment setting out the areas of risk identified and the school's procedures for managing those risks is attached as an appendix to this statement.

- The various procedures referred to in this Statement can be accessed individually here ; further details on child protection government procedures can be found here or will be made available on request to the school.

6 This statement has been published has been provided to all members of school personnel. It is readily accessible to parents and guardians on request. A copy of this Statement will be made available to Tusla and the Department if requested.

7 This Child Safeguarding Statement will be reviewed annually or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which this statement refers.

This Child Safeguarding Statement was adopted by the Board of Management on **05 February 2025**

Signed: *Kevin Geoghegan* Signed: *Ronan Fenelon*

Management Board Management Board

Date: 05/02/2025 Date: 05/02/2025

CHILD SAFEGUARDING STATEMENT

GRIFFITH INSTITUTE OF LANGUAGE

FEBRUARY 2025

GRIFFITH COLLEGE CORK
Wellington Rd, Cork, Ireland

Nature of Service and Principles to Safeguard Children from Harm

Griffith Institute of Language (GIL) is a fully owned constituent school of Griffith College. Griffith Institute of Language provides English Language tuition, Foundation Studies programmes and assessment to children (i.e. under the age of 18 years) and young adults (i.e. over the age of 18 years).

In accordance with the requirements of the Children First Act 2015, Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children 2017, the Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools 2017 and Tusla Guidance on the preparation of Child Safeguarding Statements, the Board of Management has agreed the Child Safeguarding Statement set out in this document.

1 The Griffith College Management Board has adopted and will implement fully and without modification the Department's Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools 2017 as part of this overall Child Safeguarding Statement

2 The Mandated Person is Deputy Head of Cork campus, Noel Daly

3 The Mandated Person can be contacted at: Email: noel.daly@griffith.ie
Phone: 021 2379263

4 The Management Board recognises that child protection and welfare considerations permeate all aspects of school life and must be reflected in all of Griffith Institute of Language policies, procedures, practices and activities. In its policies, procedures, practices and activities, Griffith Institute of Language will adhere to the following principles of best practice in child protection and welfare:

The school will:

- recognise that the protection and welfare of children is of paramount importance, regardless of all other considerations;
- fully comply with its statutory obligations under the Children First Act 2015 and other relevant legislation relating to the protection and welfare of children;
- fully co-operate with the relevant statutory authorities in relation to child protection and welfare matters;
- adopt safe practices to minimise the possibility of harm or accidents happening to children and protect workers from the necessity to take unnecessary risks that may leave themselves open to accusations of abuse or neglect;
- develop a practice of openness with parents / guardians and encourage parental involvement in the education of their children; and
- fully respect confidentiality requirements in dealing with child protection matters.

Griffith Institute of Language will also adhere to the above principles in relation to any adult pupil with a special vulnerability.

5 The following procedures/measures are in place

- In relation to any member of staff who is the subject of any investigation (howsoever described) in respect of any act, omission or circumstance in respect of a child attending the school, Griffith Institute of Language adheres to the relevant procedures set out in Chapter 7 of the Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017 and to the relevant agreed disciplinary procedures for school staff which are published on the Department of Education & Skills (DES) website.

- In relation to the selection or recruitment of staff and their suitability to work with children, Griffith Institute of Language adheres to the statutory vetting requirements of the National Vetting Bureau (Children and Vulnerable Persons) Acts 2012 to 2016 and to the wider duty of care guidance set out in relevant Garda vetting and recruitment circulars published by the DES and available on the DES website.

- In relation to the provision of information and, where necessary, instruction and training, to staff in respect of the identification of the occurrence of harm (as defined in the 2015 Act) Griffith Institute of Language: -

  - Has provided each member of staff (existing and new) with a copy of *Griffith Institute of Language Child Safeguarding Statement available here*
  - Has provided each member of staff (existing and new) with a copy of *Griffith Institute of Language Child Risk Assessment available here*
  - Has provided each member of staff (existing and new) with a copy of *Griffith Institute of Language Child Protection Guidelines for teachers available here*
  - Has provided each member of staff (existing and new) with a copy of *Griffith College Staff code of conduct – available from Griffith College HR department.*
  - Requires staff to avail of relevant training – TULSA eLearning Children First programme – and to provide confirmation of completion of this programme.
  - Encourages Management members and staff to avail of relevant training
  - GIL maintains records of all staff and management member training
  - The Mandated person named above must complete and confirm completion of relevant *Designated Liaison Person* training.

- In relation to reporting of child protection concerns to Tusla, all personnel are required to adhere to the procedures set out in the Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017, including in the case of registered teachers, those in relation to mandated reporting under the Children First Act 2015.

- GIL has appointed the above-named Mandated Person as the "relevant person" (as defined in the Children First Act 2015) to be the first point of contact in respect of the child safeguarding statement.

- All registered teachers employed by the school are mandated persons under the Children First Act 2015.

- In accordance with the Children First Act 2015, the management has carried out an assessment of any potential for harm to a child while attending the school or participating in school activities. A written assessment setting out the areas of risk identified and the school's procedures for managing those risks is attached as an appendix to this statement.

- The various procedures referred to in this Statement can be accessed individually here ; further details on child protection government procedures can be found here or will be made available on request to the school.

6 This statement has been published has been provided to all members of school personnel. It is readily accessible to parents and guardians on request. A copy of this Statement will be made available to Tusla and the Department if requested.

7 This Child Safeguarding Statement will be reviewed annually or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which this statement refers.

This Child Safeguarding Statement was adopted by the Board of Management on **5th of February 2025**

Signed: _____ Signed: _____

Management Board Management Board

Date: 5th February 2025 - Date: 05/Feb/25