



JMB

JOINT MANAGERIAL BODY
For Voluntary Secondary Schools

The Role of Chairperson in Child Protection and Safeguarding



The Chairperson as DLP

In what circumstances must the chairperson act as DLP?

Allegation against the DLP: brought to chairperson by:

A mandated person

Other staff member

Parent of student

Tusla

An Garda Síochána

Department of Education

A complainant

Other



Contact Tusla

Does concern reach threshold for report to Tusla?

Is administrative leave necessary?

Other steps for the protection of children advised by Tusla?



Legal Advice

Informed legal advice

Question to be addressed by legal advisor relates to the allegation/concern, not to the person against the allegation is made



Report to Tusla

- Log on to the Tusla secure portal
- Complete report form
- Print copy of report
- Keep copy report secure in school CP file
- Chairperson and DDLP must have access to file in absence of DLP



Administrative Leave

Criteria to warrant administrative leave

Advice from Tusla and legal advice crucial

**Should Protocol be invoked?
(Appendix 3 of CPP 2023)**



Meeting with DLP

DLP may be accompanied

Details of complaint/concern/ allegation provided to DLP

Told if matter has been reported to Tusla

Told if being placed on administrative leave

Invited to board meeting

May be accompanied to board meeting



Meeting with DLP

Advised that if DLP chooses to make a written submission, this will be considered by the board but will also have to be forwarded to Tusla

Agenda for board meeting: continue administrative leave or place on admin leave

Presumption of innocence

DLP must leave school pending board meeting

Advise Tusla and DE if DLP has been placed on admin leave under protocol



After Board Decision

Department and Tusla advised if administrative leave has been approved by board



Acting principal/DLP

Acting principal/DLP appointed without delay

Appoint Acting DDLP if current DDLP is now Acting Principal



Child Protection Oversight

- Compliance – reporting and safeguarding obligations
- It is a review of information available to the DLP and any Tusla advice – *Were reporting requirements followed?*
- Other than zero report requires an in-person meeting
- Online/ conference call meetings – zero report only
- Single item agenda – no report
- Confidentiality is of paramount importance



Child Protection Oversight Report

- Oversight report appended in hard copy to the minutes or detail fully recorded in the minutes
- Anonymised documentation is viewed when there is other than zero in any category
- Documentation is circulated at the meeting and recorded in the minutes
- All copies of documentation recovered, filed securely



CPOR – Chairperson

9.5 Allegations against School Personnel –

- DLP has not sought Tusla advice and not reported
- DLP got Tusla advice to report but did not report!!!
- DLP required to inform the Chair immediately

9.6 Allegations against other than school personnel

- DLP got Tusla advice to report but did not report
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Chair seeks advice in advance of an emergency meeting

Patron to be informed when the Board does not report an allegation where Tusla advises to report



Retrospective Abuse Allegations

- Allegation from an adult of abuse they experienced in their childhood
- How to respond to a disclosure
- Could be an allegation concerning a current or former member of school personnel or another person associated with the school
- Mandated and non-mandated reporting
- Reporting to An Garda Síochána – Criminal Justice Act 2012
- New recording category in the revised CPOR



Child Protection inspections

CPSI

- CP inspections for schools
- CP inspections for schools with boarding facilities



Teaching Council

1.5 Requirement to report to TC in case of

- i. dismissal by the employer
- ii. resignation following the making of a complaint at local school level
- iii. resignation following the invoking of disciplinary procedures or other such procedures



Notification of CP concern from DE

- To chairperson
- To principal



Child Protection Procedures 2025

- Publication imminent; for implementation in September 2026
- Training- commencing September 2025 – Full school day for staff
- Full day for DLP and DDLP – Dedicated training for BoM members
- Mandated persons “shall attend training”
- Enhanced role for DDLP to support and assist the DLP
- Responding to retrospective abuse allegations
- Recruitment procedures and Garda vetting
- Dealing with reports from parents
- Detailed guidelines on reporting concerns to Tusla
- Record keeping
- Oversight Report will comprehend retrospective abuse allegations and more scenarios