

POLICY NO.35 GARDA VETTING POLICY**REV: 05 DATE: 16/08/2021**

The Organisation is a member of the Early Childhood Ireland Garda Vetting Consortium through which we can avail of Garda vetting. The Early Childhood Ireland Garda Vetting Consortium acts as our Authorised Signatory.

What is Garda vetting?

Garda Vetting is a procedure through which An Garda Síochána is asked, with a person's permission, to disclose any information held on Garda file.

Within current disclosure policy, details of all convictions and/or prosecutions, successful or not, pending or completed, in the State or elsewhere as the case may be are disclosed to the authorised liaison person (the Authorised Signatory) in the registered organisation.

What staff will be vetted?

It is based in legislation that Garda vetting be conducted in respect of any personnel working with the children in our care and/or in a fulltime, part-time or voluntary or student placement capacity in a position in the Organisation, through which they may have unsupervised access to children.

This centre carries out garda vetting on all staff who will be operating in any role within this childcare setting. A delayed return of garda vetting may require your role to be modified where no direct unsupervised access is permitted with children. This can be modified on return of your garda vetting from the vetting office.

All existing staff/volunteers will be re-vetted in general, after a period of 3 years. The Organisation may also carry out random re-vetting of staff/volunteers at times that it deems appropriate.

Nominated Garda Vetting Contact Person

The Nominated Garda Vetting Contact Person is employed by Early Childhood Ireland. The. It is their role to manage all Garda vetting applications submitted by our Organisation.

Garda Vetting Procedure

The Manager or Deputy Manager will distribute Garda vetting forms to applicants. Once completed the forms will be checked for completeness by the Manager or Deputy Manager. In the event of an incomplete form, the form will be returned to the applicant to complete.

The forms are then sent to the Authorised Signatory in Early Childhood Ireland for processing. The candidate will utilise e-vetting which allows for the vetting office to engage directly with the candidate via an emailed / online system. The final vetting will be then sent to the employing organisation via email from the garda vetting office.

Please note that it is necessary to enclose proof of address and photo proof of ID with the garda vetting application.

Does the organisation make copies of forms? Where are they stored?

Once vetted, the original Garda Vetting application forms together with any disclosures are held in the person's personnel file as required by the childcare regulations. These forms will be retained for the person's full duration of employment and 7 years thereafter.

Disputes

Where an applicant disputes the accuracy of any detail contained in their Garda vetting disclosure, the following procedure should be followed:

The vetting Subject should outline in writing to the Manager or Deputy Manager the exact basis on their dispute. The Manager or Deputy Manager should submit this along with the original application form to the Authorised Signatory / Early Childhood Ireland.

In any case where there has been an error in completing the original application form, the Vetting subject should complete a new form and both the new and original forms should be submitted to the Authorised Signatory / Early Childhood Ireland.

The Authorised Signatory will submit the Vetting Subject's report along with the original application form to the GCVU for further checks.

If following further checks, the Vetting Subject still disputes the accuracy of any detail contained in their disclosure, arrangements will be made for further enquiries to be conducted as appropriate.

Decision making

The Decision Maker/Decision Making Committee (Manager, Deputy Manager and /or Board member(s)) will assess the suitability of applicants for positions within the Organisation regarding any Garda vetting disclosures that may be received in respect of them.

Any conviction in relation to the following will disqualify the individual from being employed, volunteering or gaining work experience in the organisation:

- Any form of child abuse or concerns
- Any form of vulnerable person abuse conviction
- Any listing of the person on the sex offender's list
- Any conviction for a violent crime

Further areas for Consideration after a negative disclosure

The disclosure needs to be assessed in relation to the applicant's intended role within the organisation/setting. The following further points will be considered:

- The seriousness or nature of any offence and its relevance to being an employee or volunteer.
- The length of time since the offence occurred.
- The number and frequency of any convictions.
- Any relevant information offered by the applicant about the circumstances, for example influence of domestic or financial difficulties.
- The self-disclosure of the conviction/prosecution or pending conviction or prosecution by the applicant.
- Whether the offence was a one-off or part of a history of offending.
- Whether the applicant's circumstances have changed since the offence took place.
- Serious road traffic offences such as drunk driving, dangerous driving, hit and run, no insurance and car theft.
- The degree of remorse, and motivation for change, expressed by the individual, if this information is provided
- The references received.
- Any other relevant information

The details of the disclosure will be verified with the vetting subject, who may be requested to provide further details relating to the incident(s) pertaining. If further information is required the Manager or Deputy Manager will request same from the Authorised Signatory who will make enquiries with the Garda Central Vetting Unit. The Vetting Subject will be informed.

Assessing Disclosures

The decision maker/makers will assess the information provided by the disclosure process, and will make a recommendation on whether or not the applicant should be appointed. If disclosures have been received, the decision maker will request in writing that the applicant furnish further information on these disclosures or attend a meeting to discuss these disclosures and the circumstances surrounding them.

The function of this meeting is to gain more information from the applicant for the decision maker in order to assess the disclosures. Where such a meeting or written statement is not provided, the decision maker will assess the application on the information available to them. The decision maker will have three options open to them:

Appointment Approved: If after reviewing all the available information the decision maker is confident that the applicant is able to work within the organisation/setting, then the remainder of the recruitment process should be followed in the usual way and the appointment confirmed.

Restricted Appointment: After reviewing all the available information, the decision maker may feel that the applicant is suitable to work with the organisation, but should avoid any areas where there may be an opportunity to re-offend. For example, a person with a recent conviction involving drink driving could be issued with a restricted appointment excluding them from driving children on trips or school collections. If an application for the applicant position is accepted subject to any restrictions, the acceptance and terms of the restrictions should be confirmed in writing to the employee.

Appointment Denied: If after reviewing all the available information, the decision maker/makers may feel that the application should be denied, the applicant should be informed of this in writing.

Throughout the procedure it is important that the applicant is kept informed and that the information provided is kept confidential to those directly involved in the process. The applicant will then be notified in writing on the final decision made by the decision maker.

Commitment to Fairness: All decision makers must in all cases behave without malice, and in every event must act fairly. They are entitled to reach a decision on the basis of the information before them, but may ask the prospective employee for additional information.

Data Protection

Confidentiality is paramount. Any personal information relating to an applicant will be treated with the utmost care. Applicants will be treated with dignity and respect at all times.

The Organisation is committed to protect the rights and privacy of individuals and is in compliance with the Data Protection Acts 1988 and 2003.

The Data Protection Acts 1988 and 2003 (the "Data Protection Acts") lay down strict rules about the way in which personal data is collected, accessed, used and disclosed.

The Data Protection Acts permit individuals to access their personal data on request, and gives individuals the right to have their personal data amended if found to be incorrect.

Any data received from the Garda Central Vetting Unit via Early Childhood Ireland, in respect of any individual is for the sole use of the Organisation. All data disclosed will be managed and protected within the statutory provision of the Data Protection Act and any other legislation that may be enacted in respect of Data Protection.

Re-vetting

Scamps & Scholars are committed inline with the Early Years and Regulatory Framework once every 3 years.

APPROVAL DATE: _____

IMPLEMENTATION DATE: _____

SIGNED: _____
(On behalf of the Board of Directors)



Guidelines for completing Vetting Invitation Form (NVB 1)

The NVB 1 form can be typed, printed and signed. If hand-written, it should be completed in ball point pen, using block capitals. It needs to be clear and legible.

Key points:

- email address must be provided
- current address is the address where you reside now, please provide your full address including postcode
- Northern Ireland addresses must include a postcode
- If you are under 18, please complete the Under18 Vetting Invitation form and your parent/ guardian must complete the parent/ guardian consent form
- Role Being Vetted for must be a Relevant Work Activity that involves having regular contact with children or vulnerable adults under the National Vetting Bureau (Children and Vulnerable Persons) Acts 2012-2016
- Declaration of Application Section 2 must be completed in full. Please read the statement in full, then tick the box, sign and date the form to give your consent to be vetted.

All applicants will have to provide documents to their employer to prove their identity, both photo identification and proof of address. If you are the registered provider/ owner please have another senior member of staff verify your identification documents.

Documents that can be used for Photo Identification:	Documents that can be used to verify address:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Irish Driving Licence or learner permit (new credit card format with photo) • Irish Medical Card (with photograph) • Passport • Irish certificate of naturalisation • Garda National Immigration Bureau (GNIB) card • National Identity Card for EU/ EEA/ Swiss citizens • National age card issued by An Garda Síochána • Employment ID card issued by employer (name and photograph) • Membership card from a Union or Trade, Professional body or Educational Institution (with photo) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Driving Licence • PS0, P45 or Payslip (with home address) • Bank/Building Society/Credit Union statement • Utility bill e.g. gas, electricity, television, broadband (must not be more than 6 months old. Mobile phone bills are not acceptable). • Bank /Building Society/ Credit Card statement • Letter from employer (within last two years) confirming name and address • Correspondence from any of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - an educational institution - an insurance company regarding an active policy - a bank/credit union or government body or state agency

Types of documents that can be used to verify both photo id and address:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Irish Driving Licence (new credit card format) • Employment ID card issued by employer (name, address and photo)

Early Childhood Ireland,
 Hainault House,
 Belgard Square South,
 Tallaght,
 D24 RFV0



Vetting Invitation

Section 1 Personal Information

Under Sec 26(b) of the National Vetting Bureau (Children and Vulnerable Persons) Acts 2012 to 2016, it is an offence to make a false statement for the purpose of obtaining a vetting disclosure.

Forename(s): _____

Middle Name: _____

Surname: _____

Date Of Birth: / / Please enter this date in dd/mm/yyyy format

Email Address: _____

Contact Number: _____

Role Being Vetted For: _____

Current Address

Line 1: _____

Line 2: _____

Line 3: _____

Line 4: _____

Line 5: _____

Eircode/Postcode: _____

Section 2 Additional Information

Name of organisation being vetted for: _____ ECI Membership Number: _____

I have provided documentation to validate my identity as required and I consent to the making of this application and to the disclosure of information by the National Vetting Bureau to the Liaison Person pursuant to Section 13(d)(e) National Vetting Bureau (Children and Vulnerable Persons) Acts 2012 to 2016. Please tick box

Signature: _____ Date: / /

Note: Please return this form to the owner / manager of the above named organisation. They will then input your details into the Early Childhood Ireland online vetting portal. An invitation to the e-vetting website will then be sent to your Email address.