

Introduction

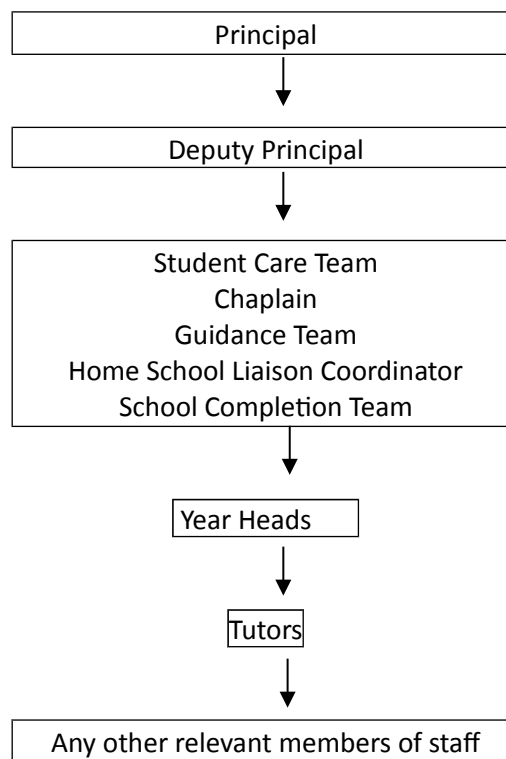
A clear framework which is purposeful and co-ordinated is required by a school in the aftermath of a crisis, involving a student or a member of staff.

These structures must be in line with clearly formatted procedures if we are to respond effectively and coherently to an unexpected critical incident.

This has the effect of containing the aftermath of the incident for the student or the member of staff.

The critical incident of the student or a member of staff is a serious matter for the whole school community, especially the student's/member of staff's close friends or peers in the school. It is important therefore that the school reacts to the incident in such a way that recognises what has happened, and deals sensitively with the aftermath. The school must support those most seriously affected by the incident.

On receipt of the notification of the critical incident with a student or member of staff, the Principal or Chaplain should be the first point of contact and he/she should notify the response team. The response team are as follows:



Immediate Tasks

1. Establish the facts:

-What is the nature of the critical incident?

-Who has been involved in the critical incident?

-How is he/she doing?

2. Convene a meeting of the key people: Principal, Deputy Principal, Chaplain, Guidance Counsellor, Home school Liaison Co-ordinator, Year Head and any other relevant members of staff.

3. Contact outside agencies for support should the need arise e.g. Counselling services e.g. NEPS. Advise the Chairperson of the Board of Management.

4. Make immediate contact with family.

5. Consult with family regarding appropriate support from school.

6. Staff/student briefing by Principal, Chaplain, Year Head, Guidance Counsellor.

What information? FACTS. Be sensitive to the family's wish for privacy.

7. Anticipate students/staff questions and responses.

8. Ensure that a quiet place can be made available for staff/students.

9. Media briefing.

- Designate a spokesperson
- Prepare a brief statement.
- protect the family's privacy.
- Principal/Care team involved.

Medium Term Tasks

1. Facilitation of students'/staff' responses, e.g. get well cards, flowers etc...
2. Monitoring of distressed students/staff.
3. Ensure counselling service is available to students/staff.
4. Check what other services are available/required e.g. Health Board, Accredited Counsellors from I.A.C.P and I.A.H.I.P.

Long Term Tasks

1. Review overall school response. Help the students/staff to acknowledge the critical incident.
2. Review the support structures available.
3. Be aware of the impact on the primary carers. Provide appropriate support.

Services and Organisations offering

support:

Irish Association for Counselling & Psychotherapy IACP: 01 272 3427

SOLAS (Bereavement counselling for children): 01 533 2500

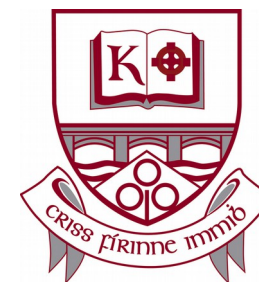
Compassionate Friends (Bereavement support): Nick Ryan 087 254 0355 or Mary Ryan 086-382 2624

Pieta House (Suicide & self-harm prevention): 01 623 5606

Aware – Supporting people through depression: 01 661 7211, supportmail@aware.ie

Anam Cara (Bereavement Counselling) 01 404 5378

Samaritans – 24 hours a day, 365 days a year: Freephone 116 123.



**St. Kilian's Community
School**

CRITICAL INCIDENT

Student/Member of Staff

**Involved in a Critical
Incident**

School Response

