



**St Cuthbert's  
Catholic High School**  
*Live life in all its fullness*

# **Critical Incident Policy**

**2022 – 2024**

<b>Person responsible for Policy:</b>	Business Manager/Senior Leadership Team
<b>Committee responsible for Policy:</b>	Finance, HR & Premises
<b>Date To Governors:</b>	May 2023
<b>Date Agreed:</b>	April 2023
<b>Review Due:</b>	September 2024 and annually thereafter
<b>Is this Policy to appear on school website:</b>	Yes

# Critical Incident Policy

The Governing Body is committed to ensuring staff, students, volunteers, visitors and contractors enjoy a safe working and learning environment. The aim of this guidance is to lessen the impact of critical incidents on staff and reduce the likelihood of long term detriment by means of a consistent, coordinated and effective support mechanism.

A critical incident is any situation faced by an individual that causes them to experience unusually strong reactions that can interfere with life at work and home. It is something a person experiences which is outside the range of usual human experience and that would be markedly distressing to anyone.

This guidance supports the organisation in meeting the requirements of health and safety Legislation as stated in the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 and the Management of Health and Safety Regulations 1992. These place a 'duty of care' on organisations, with an onus on assessing all risks to staff and putting in place measures to reduce them insofar as is reasonably practicable in the circumstances.

This document has also been drafted to comply with the principles of the Human Rights Act.

## Definition of Critical Incident

The definition of a Critical Incident is;

***“any incident where the effectiveness of the school’s response is likely to have a significant impact on the confidence of the victim, their family, staff, students and/or the Community”***

## Categories of Critical Incident

(This is a list of examples and is not exhaustive as the definition is all about a person’s perspective)

### Internal

- An assault by a student on a teacher, member of support staff or visitor. The nature of the attack and level of injury to be considered
- An assault by a member of staff on another member of staff
- An assault by a member of staff or visitor on a student
- Inappropriate behaviour between students
- Inappropriate behaviour between staff that if students, parents or the press were made aware could have a negative impact for the school
- Students with weapons or drugs
- Closure of the school due to accidents or criminality
- Anything that could cause an adverse press report

## **External**

- A member of staff being arrested
- A student being arrested
- Forced marriage or honour based violence
- Pregnancy of a student
- The death, or more precisely the circumstances of the death of a member of staff or a student
- Radicalisation
- Press articles

## **Roles and Responsibilities**

### **Head Teacher**

The Head Teacher has responsibility and oversight in critical incidents

### **SLT**

- Providing access to staff for education or support to be delivered
- Providing defusing information to line managers
- Ensuring that a debrief takes place following a critical incident
- Ensure some staff are trained in critical incident debriefing, or can access this through the Council and can assist in the process
- To support and provide flexibility to ensure their necessary release of appropriate personnel to assist in post-traumatic de-brief

### **Members of Staff**

- To identify a critical incident at an early stage.
- To partake in an incident if appropriate
- To provide a verbal or written account and any supporting documents
- To participate in a debrief
- To maintain confidentiality

### **Procedure**

Identification of a Critical Incident and its investigation will follow the flow chart shown in **Appendix A**.

**Staff to be mindful of accurate recording as any document may become 'disclosable' at a later date due to the very nature of the incident.**

**APPENDIX A CRITICAL INCIDENT**

