

# Professional Certificate in Children and Loss (Level 9)

*The Irish Hospice Foundation in association with the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland*

2018/2019



When a child experiences loss, either through death or a parental separation, their needs are often misunderstood or overlooked. Because children may express their grief in ways that are different to adults their reactions may go unrecognised. This Professional Certificate course seeks to equip practitioners with the necessary skills to understand and support children on their grief journey.



# Professional Certificate in Children and Loss

## Background

This course was originally set up by the late Thérèse Brady in 1994. Thérèse was the honorary Director of the Irish Hospice Foundation Bereavement Service. Thérèse believed that the needs of bereaved children, or “forgotten mourners” were not being adequately addressed and developed the course to upskill those who work with children experiencing loss. She taught the first course in 1994. Since its inception the course has been changed and upgraded several times. It has run at full capacity each year with over 400 participants completing the course so far.

## Aims and objectives of the course

This Professional Certificate in Children and Loss aims to equip professionals who work with children with an informed understanding of bereavement and loss in children and adolescents.

## Specific educational objectives

The programme aims to equip students with the knowledge, skills, attitudes and values to:

- Develop a critical understanding of the theory underpinning childhood loss and bereavement.
- Evaluate the different types of loss issues experienced by children at different stages in their development e.g. younger children and adolescents, loss through separation and divorce.
- Critically appraise therapeutic interventions – including art and clay and group work with children.
- Analyse the role of resilience in bereaved children and an ability to incorporate resilience into care plans.
- Assess support systems for working with children and loss.
- Integrate new knowledge and skill into professional practice.
- Exhibit an integrated value-based and evidence-based approach to the support of bereaved children.

## **Course structure**

This part-time course runs from September to March each year. It comprises of two modules:-

### **Module 1**

#### **Understanding Children and Loss**

### **Module 2**

#### **Addressing Loss Issues with Children**

Each module consists of approximately 200 hours of learning including lecture time, self-directed learning, assignment preparation and tutorials. Registration will take place in the RCSI on a date in September/October to be confirmed.

There will be a half day orientation at the start of the course. There are ten full day inputs (on Thursdays and Fridays) over a seven-month period. All the course presenters are skilled practitioners who work with bereaved children. The course also includes two integrative tutorial sessions. These tutorials facilitate the integration of course learning in a small group setting and are led by our senior tutors.

### **Learning outcomes**

*On successful completion of module 1 participants will be able to:-*

- Debate the merits of theoretical frameworks for children's loss experiences.
- Apply aspects of theories and models to explain individual children's grief experiences.
- Assess the moderators in responses to loss, including stage of development and nature of death and relationship lost.
- Critique contemporary understanding of bereavement and loss from a life-cycle perspective.
- Demonstrate critical, reflective practice and self-awareness.
- Locate and critique current knowledge on a loss related topic.

*On successful completion of module 2 participants will be able to:-*

- Evaluate appropriate interventions for working with children experiencing loss.
- Locate and appraise intervention strategies for working with children experiencing loss.
- Assess formal support services and resources available for children facing loss and bereavement.

## Course content

### Module 1

### Understanding Children and Loss

**Thursday, 6th September 2018**

**Orientation (9.15am – 1pm)**  
**Brid Carroll, Course Co-ordinator**

Participants will be oriented to the certificate course and the available resources.

**Friday, 7th September 2018**

**An Overview of Child Development and Loss Theory**  
**Aoife Lynam**

This input will provide a theoretical foundation to how children learn and develop and will present models of grief in children and adolescents.

**Thursday, 4th October 2018**

**Children's Grief in the Family Context**  
**Pat Wilson, Senior Tutor**

This input situates the child within the family of origin context and considers how different family systems impact on a child's experience of loss.

**Self-Care for Carers**  
**Kay Buttimer, Senior Tutor**

This input will address the importance of self-care when working with bereaved children. Strategies to strengthen personal self-care and avoid compassion fatigue will be addressed.

**Friday, 5th October 2018**

**Younger Children and Loss**  
**Nuala Harmey**

This input examines the issues that arise for young bereaved children and their carers.

**Thursday, 8th November 2018**

**Adolescents and Loss**  
**Brid Carroll**

This input explores change and loss in the life of the adolescent. Family and peer loss and the issue of teenage suicide are addressed.

**Friday, 9th November 2018**

**When Changes Occur in Families**  
**Réamonn O'Donnchadha**

This input considers the impact on children when loss occurs in the family, either through parental separation, the death of a family member or other significant changes. The link between attachment and loss in the life of a child will be explored.

**Friday, 7th December 2018**

**Tutorial**

A small group session with tutors to facilitate the integration of course material.

**The half day orientation on 6/9/18 will run from 9.15am – 1pm.**  
**All other sessions will run from 9.15am – 4.15pm.**

## **Module 2**

## **Addressing Loss Issues with Children**

**Thursday, 10th January 2019**

**Therapeutic Interventions with Young Children**  
**Nuala Harmey**

This input will focus on effective ways of working with young children. Participants will have an opportunity to familiarise themselves with available resources for working with young children.

**Friday, 11th January 2019**

**Working with Adolescents and Families**  
**Helen Culhane**

This input will focus on effective ways of working with older children/adolescents including the family context.

**Thursday, 7th February 2019**

**Working with Children Experiencing a Traumatic Loss**  
**Barnardos Children's Bereavement Service**

This input will focus on the effect of traumatic deaths on children and how this can complicate the grieving process. Therapeutic techniques to help children cope with complicated grief are explored.

**Friday, 8th February 2019**

**Using Creative Arts: An Introduction to Art and Clay**  
**Suzie Cahn**

Participants are given hands-on experiential practice in the therapeutic use of art and clay, and are introduced to the use of creative arts with bereaved children. *(Participants are advised to wear old comfortable clothes)*

**Thursday, 7th March 2019**

**Tutorial**

A small group session with tutors to facilitate the integration of course material.

**Friday, 8th March 2019**

**Bereavement Services and Resources**

Presentations from organisations that provide services for bereaved children and children experiencing other losses.

## **Eligibility and admission requirements**

Applications are invited from professionals whose work brings them into contact with children who are bereaved through a family death or parental separation. The course will be of interest to teachers, chaplains, social workers, social care workers, psychologists, counsellors, nurses and others who meet bereaved children in their work.

Participants must possess a **Level 8 degree** in a relevant area or equivalent demonstrated through a defined Recognition of Prior Learning Process (RPL). RPL requires demonstration of significant experience in working with children in a professional capacity or through formal volunteering; completion of CPD or other training in a relevant area and; relevance of course to career/opportunity to apply learning.

An academic transcript will be requested. An academic transcript lists your complete academic history: programmes attended, a breakdown of marks/grades achieved, the degree awarded, your overall grade and conferring date.

International degrees' equivalency are to be verified by using the NARIC service from QQI at the following link  
<http://qsearch.qqi.ie/WebPart/Search?searchtype=recognitions>

## **English Language Requirement**

Prospective students applying for the Professional Certificate in Children and Loss for whom English is not their native language may need to arrange a test to confirm proficiency in English with the International English Language Testing System (IELTS). For more detailed information on requirements, exceptions and test centres: <http://www.rcsi.ie/Englishreq>

## **Course Design**

This course design supports the European Credit Transfer System (ECTS) 20 credits. The programme is designed around Level 9 outcomes as identified in the National Framework of Qualifications.

## **Assessment**

Participants are asked to complete two take home assignments (1st assignment 2,000 words and 2nd assignment 2,500 words).

## **Fees**

The fee for the Professional Certificate is €1650. The fee may be paid by cheque/ postal order, EFT or credit/debit card. Cheques/postal orders should be made payable to the Irish Hospice Foundation and forwarded to Iris Murray, Irish Hospice Foundation, Morrison Chambers, 32 Nassau Street, Dublin 2, D02 YE06. A non-refundable deposit of €250 is required on acceptance of a course place. Fees are eligible for tax relief.

Fee will include morning tea/coffee break only. Lunch will not be provided.

## **Cancellation**

Cancellations up to three weeks prior to the course commencing will be given a full refund, minus a cancellation fee of €200. Thereafter no refunds will be made.

## **Application and Selection Procedure**

Applicants **MUST APPLY ON-LINE**. Application forms can be accessed and completed on the RCSI website through the following link: [www.rcsi.ie/pgchildrenandloss](http://www.rcsi.ie/pgchildrenandloss). Applications will be processed through the Irish Hospice Foundation. Closing date for receipt of completed applications is **Friday, 4th May 2018**.

## **Location**

All classes and tutorials are held in the training rooms of the Irish Hospice Foundation, 4th Floor, Morrison Chambers, 32 Nassau Street, Dublin 2, D02 YE06 and will run from 9.15am – 4.15pm, with the exception of the half day orientation which will run from 9.15am – 1pm.

### ***For general enquiries contact: –***

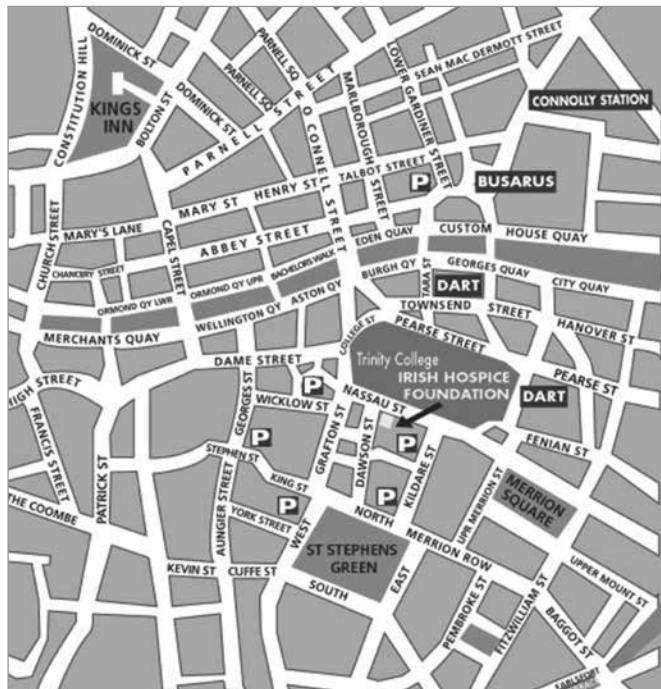
Iris Murray, Course Administrator  
Irish Hospice Foundation, Morrison Chambers, 32 Nassau Street,  
Dublin 2, D02 YE06.

**Tel:** (01) 679 3188 **Fax:** (01) 673 0040

**Email:** [iris.murray@hospicefoundation.ie](mailto:iris.murray@hospicefoundation.ie)

**Website:** [www.hospicefoundation.ie](http://www.hospicefoundation.ie) and [www.bereaved.ie](http://www.bereaved.ie)

## Location map



### Nearest car parks:

Dawson Car Park, School House Lane, Dublin 2  
Setanta Car Park, Frederick Lane South, Dublin 2

### Dart stations:

Pearse Station and Tara Street Station

### Buses:

Information on bus services for Nassau Street can be obtained by contacting Dublin Bus

**Tel.** (01) 872 0000

**[www.dublinbus.ie](http://www.dublinbus.ie)**

### Luas:

The nearest Luas stop to Nassau Street is Dawson Street (the green line)

**[www.luas.ie](http://www.luas.ie)**

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## Notes

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The Irish Hospice Foundation (IHF) is a national charity dedicated to all matters relating to dying, death and bereavement in Ireland. The IHF promotes the hospice philosophy and supports the development of hospice care and relies on public donations to support its initiatives.

Our vision is that no one should face death or bereavement without the care and support they need. This includes support for families and loved ones, extending into bereavement.

The Bereavement Education & Resource Centre of the IHF was established in 2003. It provides education and training as well as a public and professional information service on loss and bereavement.

**Bereavement Education & Resource Centre**  
**The Irish Hospice Foundation**  
**Morrison Chambers**  
**4th Floor, 32 Nassau Street**  
**Dublin 2, D02 YE06.**

**Tel: (01) 679 3188 Fax: (01) 673 0040**

[www.hospicefoundation.ie](http://www.hospicefoundation.ie) and [www.bereaved.ie](http://www.bereaved.ie)

**Our current education and training programmes are:-**

MSc Loss & Bereavement/MSc Loss & Bereavement (Counselling)

Professional Certificate in Children and Loss

Annual series of Workshops on Loss and Bereavement

E-Learning

Staff Development

**Information on all our training is available on**  
**[www.hospicefoundation.ie](http://www.hospicefoundation.ie) and [www.bereaved.ie](http://www.bereaved.ie)**