



Professional Certificate in Children and Loss

(Level 9)



**Educate,
Nurture &
Discover**

2020/2021

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.

Welcome

At the Irish Hospice Foundation we strive for better end-of-life and bereavement care for everyone. That extends to those grieving for people who have died. Grief and bereavement are amongst the most challenging experiences we will ever have as human beings and experiencing grief in childhood is especially difficult. With that in mind, it makes me so happy to learn of your interest in the Professional Certificate in Children and Loss programme.

We know that children are resilient, but because they might not show the same outward signs of grief as adults who experience the death of a loved one, we run the risk of misunderstanding them. We might not recognise all of their needs, or provide them with answers to their questions. We might be unsure of when extra support is required by a bereaved child, or of the best type of support to provide.

If you are a professional working with children in your day-to-day life and career, the Professional Certificate in Children and Loss is a Level 9 qualification, accredited by the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland (RCSI), that will inform you with an understanding of bereavement and loss in children and adolescents. It will enable you to evaluate the different types of loss issues

children experience at different stages in their development and to consider the appropriate response.

A postgraduate course taught in monthly modules over a 7-month period in the Irish Hospice Foundation itself, here on Nassau Street in Dublin 2, this programme analyses and assesses support systems for working with children and loss, integrating new knowledge and an evidence-based approach to supporting bereaved children.

I do hope the course information you find on these pages will help you decide to apply, and I wish you luck in your further studies and career.

Sharon Foley
CEO Irish Hospice Foundation.





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The depth of knowledge and, at times, heart-wrenching experiential learning stimulated by guest speakers facilitated a journey of self-reflection that helped me re-adjust my lens to the myriad of influences that can impact upon the bereaved child.

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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.

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 and accredited at Level 9 in 2012.

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,
- > 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 integrative sessions. Registration will take place in the RCSI on a date in September/October to be confirmed.

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, 3rd
September 2020**

ORIENTATION

Brid Carroll, Course Co-ordinator

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

**Friday, 4th
September 2020**

AN OVERVIEW OF CHILD DEVELOPMENT AND LOSS THEORY

Conor Mc Guckin

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

**Thursday, 1st
October 2020**

SELF-CARE FOR CARERS

Kay Buttimer, Senior Facilitator

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.

CHILDREN'S GRIEF IN THE FAMILY CONTEXT

Estelle McGinley

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.

**Friday, 2nd
October 2020**

YOUNGER CHILDREN AND LOSS

Anne Marie Jones

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

**Thursday, 5th
November 2020**

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, 6th
November 2020**

WHEN CHANGES OCCUR IN FAMILIES

Diane Hanly

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, 4th
December 2020**

INTEGRATIVE SESSION

A small group session with facilitators to integrate the learning from course material.

Module 2

Addressing Loss Issues with Children

**Thursday, 7th
January 2021**

THERAPEUTIC INTERVENTIONS WITH YOUNG CHILDREN

Anne Marie Jones

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, 8th
January 2021**

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, 4th
February 2021**

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 traumatic grief are explored.

**Friday, 5th
February 2021**

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, 4th
March 2021**

INTEGRATIVE SESSION

A small group session with facilitators to integrate the learning from course material.

**Friday, 5th
March 2021**

BEREAVEMENT SERVICES AND RESOURCES

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

ALL CLASSES WILL RUN FROM 9.15AM – 4.15PM.

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I had previously attended short workshops run by the IHF, and was struck by the warmth of their staff, the efficiency of their work... the year-long Professional Certificate in Children and Loss confirmed these earlier impressions.

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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 of your **Level 8 degree** (or higher if applicable) will be requested. An academic transcript lists your academic history: programme 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. Applications will be processed through the Irish Hospice Foundation. Closing date for receipt of completed applications is **Friday, 1st May 2020**.

Location

All classes 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.

For general enquiries contact:

Iris Murray
Course Administrator

The Irish Hospice Foundation,
Morrison Chambers
32 Nassau Street, Dublin 2, D02 YE06.

Tel: (01) 679 3188

Email: iris.murray@hospicefoundation.ie

**On line applications
will be accepted until
Friday, 1st May 2020.**

**Access the online
application form through
the following link:
[www.rcsi.ie/
pgchildrenandloss](http://www.rcsi.ie/pgchildrenandloss)**



CHY 6830
Registered Charity Number 20013554

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.

Current education and training programmes

- > 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
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Information on all our training is available on hospicefoundation.ie bereaved.ie

The Irish Hospice Foundation
Morrison Chambers
32 Nassau Street
Dublin 2, D02 YE06