Threats to Schools – IPPN Guidance

11th November 2026

ippn Because leadership matters
The Network for Principals and Deputy Principals

This guidance is for school leaders dealing with serious threats to the safety of the school.

IPPN believes that it is important that school leaders are not seen to be making unilateral decisions in relation to such serious matters. School leaders are also employees and members of staff, and it is important to preserve relationships at school and local Board levels.

While the duty of care to children and staff are the primary concern of all school leaders, the ultimate responsibility for the health and safety of the school community - pupils and staff - lies with the Boards of Management. All communication with regard to these decisions should be delivered by the Board of Management and signed by the Chairperson.

Please review the DEY guidelines provided to schools today 11th November (included below).

IPPN suggests the following steps be taken in dealing with any serious threat.

1. Ring Gardai to inform and get advice
2. Note the advice received
3. Contact the chairperson of the school Board of Management and ask that s/he seek urgent advice from the Management Body – by phone and also by email
4. Note the advice received
5. Staff and parents should be informed - by the Chairperson - of the Board's decisions, again citing Management, DEY and Garda guidance.

Guidance from the Department of Education & Youth 11th November 2026

Dear Principal,

We are aware that a number of schools have received a threatening email this morning.

The department has liaised with An Garda Síochána at senior level in regard to this incident.

An Garda Síochána has received several hundred calls, and will liaise with each school in turn, noting that with the volume of calls this may take some time.

An Garda Siochana has advised the department and is advising schools that based on their review of the threat there is no need for schools to evacuate as these are generic email threats.

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If schools wish to do so they can conduct a short search of premises, gardai has advised this is not necessary and is precautionary only.

If your school has received this email please contact the emergency services at 999 and follow the advice of An Garda Síochána.

Yours faithfully

Cliodhna O'Neill

Rúnaí Cúnta / Assistant Secretary General