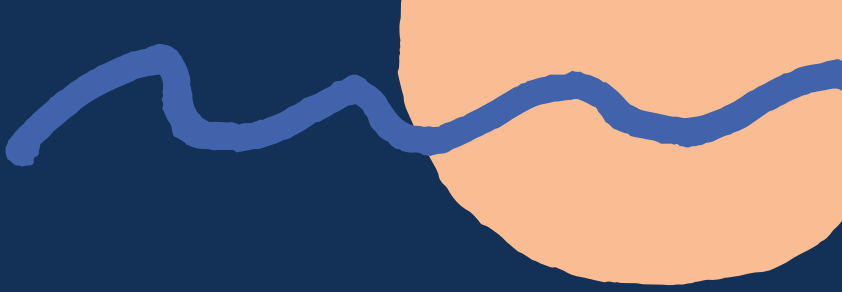



Professional Certificate in Children and Loss (Level 9)





When a child experiences loss, either through death or 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 seeks to equip practitioners with the necessary skills to understand and support children on their grief journey.



Course Schedule

Module One: Understanding Children and Loss

Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this module students will be able to:

- Critically evaluate the core theories and ethical frameworks underpinning our understanding of children and young people's experiences of death loss and non-death loss in their lives and associated losses and changes.
- Differentiate how a range of losses may be experienced by children and young people at various developmental stages, with reference to diverse family and inter-generational contexts, vulnerabilities, as well as deprivations associated with systemic and social inequalities.
- Appropriately assess the resilience of bereaved children and young people with reference to familial and community supports, personal and contextual vulnerabilities.
- Demonstrate reflective practice, self-care and self-awareness.
- Locate and critique current knowledge from loss-related literature.

Thursday, 4 September 2025 Orientation

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

Friday, 5 September 2025 An Overview of Child Development and Loss Theory

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

Thursday, 2 October 2025 Self-care for Carers

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

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, 3 October 2025

Younger Children and Loss

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

Thursday, 6 November 2025

Young People and Loss

This input explores change and loss in the life of the young person. Family and peer loss and the issue of young people and suicide are addressed.

Friday, 7 November 2025

When Changes Occur in Families

This input considers the impact on children and young people 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 or young person will be explored.

Friday, 5 December 2025

Integrative Session

(Online 9.15am - 1.15pm)

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



Module Two: Addressing Loss Issues with Children

Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this module, students will be able to:

- Critically determine the central competence and ethical principles essential to organisational and personal support while working with children and young people experiencing a death or non-death loss in their lives in relation to community interventions, formal support services and resources available.
- Evaluate appropriate intervention strategies for working with children and young people experiencing death or non-death loss with reference to appropriate Level 1 and Level 2 interventions (ICBN, 2014) for children and young people according to their needs.
- Demonstrate a discerning understanding of standards for safe and appropriate bereavement care for children and young people.
- Exhibit an integrated, value-based, inclusive and evidence-based approach to supporting children and young people after a death or non-death loss in their lives whilst acknowledging the influence of diverse family and inter-generational histories and vulnerabilities, as well as the deprivation associated with systemic and social inequalities.
- Develop critical self-awareness within the scope of professional role and limitations of competence.
- Reflect on professional development and personal growth through the educational experience.

Thursday, 8 January 2026

Working with Young Children

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, 9 January 2026

Working with Young People and Families

This input will focus on effective ways of working with young people to include the family and address the use of social media platforms as a way of offering bereavement support for young people.

Thursday, 5 February 2026

Understanding Traumatic Grief in Children and Young People

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, 6 February 2026

Using Creative Arts: An Introduction to Art and Clay

Participants will be 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 and young people..

Thursday, 5 March 2026

Integrative Session

(Online 9.15am - 1.15pm)

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

Friday, 6 March 2026

Bereavement Services and Resources

Presentations from organisations that provide services for children and young people experiencing bereavement and loss.

This is a part-time blended course

Module 1 (Sept - Dec 2025): The Orientation session on 4 September will be in-person in Irish Hospice Foundation, Morrison Chambers, 4th Floor, 32 Nassau Street, Dublin 2, D02 X627. All other lectures in Module 1 will be taught online on Zoom.

Module 2 (Jan – March 2026): All lectures will be taught in-person in Irish Hospice Foundation, Morrison Chambers, 4th Floor, 32 Nassau Street, Dublin 2, D02 X627, with the exception of 5 March 2026 Integrative session, which will be online on Zoom.

All lectures, both in-person and online, will run from 9.15am – 4.15pm (with the exception of the two half-day online integrative group sessions on 5 December 2025 and 5 March 2026, which will be from 9.15am - 1.15pm).

To apply

All applications need to be made online through the RCSI website. Follow the link below:
<https://www.rcsi.com/dublin/postgraduate/taught-courses/children-and-loss/course-details>

For general queries contact

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Course Administrator
Irish Hospice Foundation
Morrison Chambers
32 Nassau Street, Dublin 2, D02 X627

(01) 679 3188
Email iris.murray@hospicefoundation.ie

**Online applications
will be accepted
until 12 May 2025**