

## Mandatory Template 1: Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment Template

### **Child Safeguarding Statement**

Scoil Bhríde is a primary school providing primary education to pupils from Junior Infants to Sixth Class.

In accordance with the requirements of the [Children First Act 2015](#), [Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children 2017](#), [the Addendum to Children First \(2019\)](#), the [Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools \(revised 2023\)](#) and [Tusla Guidance on the preparation of Child Safeguarding Statements](#), the Board of Management of Scoil Bhríde has agreed the Child Safeguarding Statement set out in this document.

- 1 The Board of Management has adopted and will implement fully and without modification the Department's *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools (revised (2023))* as part of this overall Child Safeguarding Statement
- 2 The Designated Liaison Person (DLP) is Shane O'Donnell
- 3 The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is Eimear Brehony
- 4 The Relevant Person is Shane O'Donnell  
(The relevant person is one who can provide information in respect of how the child safeguarding statement was developed and will be able to provide the statement on request. In a school setting the relevant person shall be the designated liaison person.)
- 5 The Board of Management recognises that child protection and welfare considerations permeate all aspects of school life and must be reflected in all of the school's policies, procedures, practices and activities. In its policies, procedures, practices and activities, the school will adhere to the following principles of best practice in child protection and welfare:

The school will:

- recognise that the protection and welfare of children is of paramount importance, regardless of all other considerations;
- fully comply with its statutory obligations under the Children First Act 2015 and other relevant legislation relating to the protection and welfare of children;
- fully co-operate with the relevant statutory authorities in relation to child protection and welfare matters;
- adopt safe practices to minimise the possibility of harm or accidents happening to children and protect workers from the necessity to take unnecessary risks that may leave themselves open to accusations of abuse or neglect;
- develop a practice of openness with parents and encourage parental involvement in the education of their children; and

- fully respect confidentiality requirements in dealing with child protection matters.

The school will also adhere to the above principles in relation to any adult pupil with a special vulnerability.

6 The following procedures/measures are in place:

- In relation to any member of staff who is the subject of any investigation (howsoever described) in respect of any act, omission or circumstance in respect of a child attending the school, the school adheres to the relevant procedures set out in Chapter 7 of the *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools (revised 2023)* and to the relevant agreed disciplinary procedures for school staff which are published on the [gov.ie](http://gov.ie) website.
- In relation to the selection or recruitment of staff and their suitability to work with children, the school adheres to the statutory vetting requirements of the [National Vetting Bureau \(Children and Vulnerable Persons\) Acts 2012 to 2016](#) and to the wider duty of care guidance set out in relevant Garda vetting and recruitment circulars published by the Department of Education and available on the [gov.ie](http://gov.ie) website.
- In relation to the provision of information and, where necessary, instruction and training, to staff in respect of the identification of the occurrence of harm (as defined in the 2015 Act) the school-
  - Has provided each member of staff with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement
  - Ensures all new staff are provided with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement
  - Encourages staff to avail of relevant training
  - Encourages Board of Management members to avail of relevant training
  - The Board of Management maintains records of all staff and Board member training
- In relation to reporting of child protection concerns to Tusla, all school personnel are required to adhere to the procedures set out in the *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools (revised 2023)*, including in the case of registered teachers, those in relation to mandated reporting under the Children First Act 2015.
- All registered teachers employed by the school are mandated persons under the Children First Act 2015.
- In accordance with the Children First Act 2015 and the Addendum to Children First (2019), the Board has carried out an assessment of any potential for harm to a child while attending the school or participating in school activities. A written assessment setting out the areas of risk identified and the school's procedures for managing those risks is included with the Child Safeguarding Statement.

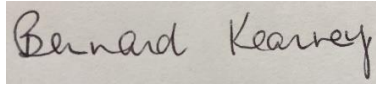
- The various procedures referred to in this Statement can be accessed via the school's website, the [gov.ie](http://gov.ie) website or will be made available on request by the school.

**Note:** The above is not intended as an exhaustive list. Individual Boards of Management shall also include in this section such other procedures/measures that are of relevance to the school in question.

- 7 This statement has been published on the school's website and has been provided to all members of school personnel, the Parents' Association (if any) and the patron. It is readily accessible to parents and guardians on request. A copy of this Statement will be made available to Tusla and the Department if requested.
- 8 This Child Safeguarding Statement will be reviewed annually or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which this statement refers.

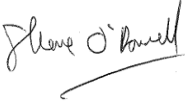
This Child Safeguarding Statement was adopted by the Board of Management on 15/1/24.

This Child Safeguarding Statement was reviewed by the Board of Management on 15/1/24.

Signed: 

Chairperson of Board of Management

Date: 15/1/24

Signed: 

Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Date: 15/1/24

## Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment

### Written Assessment of Risk of [name of school]

In accordance with section 11 of the Children First Act 2015 and with the requirement of Chapter 8 of the *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and PostPrimary Schools (revised 2023)*, the following is the Written Risk Assessment of [name of school].

<p><b>1. List of school activities</b> (insert list of school activities in this section)</p>	<p><b>2. The school has identified the following risk of harm in respect of its activities –</b> (insert risks of harm identified in this section)</p>	<p><b>3. The school has the following procedures in place to address the risks of harm identified in this assessment -</b> (insert the procedures in place to address risks of harm in this section)</p>
<p>Training of school personnel in Child Protection matters</p>	<p>Risk of harm not being recognised by school personnel</p>	<p>All school personnel are provided with a copy of the school's <i>Child Safeguarding Statement and copy of DES procedures made available</i> Principal has attended IPPN child protection seminar Principal and Mary King have attended CPSMA child protection seminar DLP and DDLP have completed relevant PDST online training module for DLPs All staff have completed PDST online training module All staff have completed TUSLA training module DLP has attended PDST face to face training BOM records all records of staff and board training</p>

Classroom teaching	Risk of child being harmed in the school by a member of school personnel	<p>All school personnel are provided with a copy of the school's <i>Child Safeguarding Statement</i></p> <p>The <i>Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools (revised 2023)</i> are made available to all school personnel</p> <p>School Personnel are required to adhere to the <i>Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools (revised 2023)</i> and all registered teaching staff are required to adhere to the <i>Children First Act 2015</i> and its Addendum (2019)</p> <p>Glass in Door</p>
One-to-one teaching	Risk of child being harmed in the school by a member of school personnel	<p>The school has in place a policy and clear procedures for one-to-one teaching activities</p> <p>Table between teacher and pupil with the exception of certain pupils who need specific intervention. (These pupils parents will sign consent form annually)</p> <p>Glass in Door</p>
Care of Children with special needs, including intimate care needs	Risk of child being harmed in the school by a member of school personnel	SEN Policy, Intimate care and Toileting Policy
Recruitment of school personnel	Risk of child being harmed in the school by a member of school personnel	The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation and relevant DE circulars in relation to recruitment and Garda vetting.
Toilet areas	<p>Inappropriate behaviour</p> <p>Risk of child being harmed in the school by another child</p>	The school has a yard/playground supervision policy to ensure appropriate supervision of children during, assembly, dismissal and breaks and in respect of specific areas such as toilets, changing rooms etc.

Recreation breaks for pupils	Inappropriate behaviour Risk of child being harmed in the school by another child	The school has a yard/playground supervision policy to ensure appropriate supervision of children during, assembly, dismissal and breaks and in respect of specific areas such as toilets, changing rooms etc.
Pupils who are staying in at break time due to sickness	Inappropriate behaviour Risk of child being harmed in the school by another child	Supervision Policy and Safety during school hour's policy. Supervising teacher will check on child and teachers in hall/staffroom can view pupils who are staying indoors
Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils	Risk of child being harmed by another child or an adult	Supervision and Safety During School Hours Policy Pupils supervised by teachers and their parents. Parents informed of time when they are responsible
Sports Coaches	Risk of Harm by a member of another organisation	All coaches are vetted, coaches won't have unsupervised access to pupils
Use of external personnel to supplement curriculum	Risk of Harm by a member of another organisation	Staff not employed by the BoM are never left in sole charge of the children. Staff member to stay in classroom
Students participating in work experience in the school	Risk of harm by student	Work Experience Policy
Student teachers undertaking training placement in school	Risk of harm by student	All school personnel are provided with a copy of the school's <i>Child Safeguarding Statement and copy of DES procedures made available</i> Vetting provided by third level colleges
Curricular Provision in respect of SPHE,	Non-teaching of same	The school implements in full the SPHE curriculum
RSE, Stay Safe.	Non-teaching of same	The school implements in full the Stay Safe Programme
Buses to school events	Harm by strangers	Staff accompany pupils on buses

School outings/tours	Inappropriate behaviour Risk of child being harmed by another child	School Tours Policy Code of Behaviour
School trips involving overnight stay	Inappropriate behaviour Risk of child being harmed by another child	School Tours Policy Code of Behaviour
Swimming	Inappropriate behaviour Harm from older pupils, unknown adults in the pool	Swimming Policy
Changing for sports	Inappropriate behaviour Risk of child being harmed by another child	Supervision and Safety During School Hours Policy Boys and girls to change in separate bathrooms
Administration of Medicine	Risk of harm to child due to inexperience and non-qualification of school personnel to administer certain medication	Administration of Medicine Policy
Administration of First Aid	Risk of harm to child due to inexperience and non-qualification of school personnel to administer certain medication	First Aid Policy
Use of Information and Communication Technology by pupils in school	Inappropriate behaviour	Internet Acceptable Use Policy Pupils taught online safety skills
Blended/Remote Teaching and Learning	Pupils accessing inappropriate material Risk of stranger joining lesson	Remote Teaching and Learning Policy Video calls locked and password protected Video conferencing calls will not be recorded
Managing of challenging behaviour amongst pupils,	Injury to pupils and staff when with children with challenging behaviour	SEN Policy...Code of Behaviour
Annual Sports Day	Harm from older pupils, unknown adults on the playground	Supervision Policy, Safety During School Hours Policy Parents will not have unsupervised access to children
School concert /nativity play	Inappropriate behaviour	Supervision Policy, Safety During School Hours Policy

	Risk of child being harmed by another child	Parents will not have unsupervised access to children
,	Risk of harm from director	Director vetted, staff member present
Events involving a small number of pupils .e.g. Mini sevens, Quiz	Harm from other pupils Risk of Harm by a member of another organisation	Staff not employed by the BoM are never left in sole charge of the children. Teacher will not travel alone with a pupil in a car
Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst pupils	Risk of child being harmed by another child	The school has an Anti-Bullying Policy which fully adheres to the requirements of the Department's <i>Anti-Bullying Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools</i>
Care of pupils with specific vulnerabilities/ needs such as Pupils from ethnic minorities/migrants Members of the Traveller community	Children being excluded , racism, bullying	Anti Bullying Policy Code of Behaviour

**Important Note:** It should be noted that risk in the context of this risk assessment is the risk of “harm” as defined in the Children First Act 2015 and not general health and safety risk. The definition of harm is set out in Chapter 4 of the *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools (revised 2023)*

In undertaking this risk assessment, the board of management has endeavoured to identify as far as possible the risks of harm that are relevant to this school and to ensure that adequate procedures are in place to manage all risks identified. While it is not possible to foresee and remove all risk of harm, the school has in place the procedures listed in this risk assessment to manage and reduce risk to the greatest possible extent.