

# Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment

## 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 2017 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 2017 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 Mar Kelly
- 4 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.

- 5 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 2017 and to the relevant agreed disciplinary procedures for school staff which are published on the DE 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 DE 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 2017, including in the case of registered teachers, those in relation to mandated reporting under the Children First Act 2015.
- In this school the Board has appointed the abovenamed DLP as the “relevant person” (as defined in the Children First Act 2015) to be the first point of contact in respect of the schools child safeguarding statement.
- 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 DE 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.

- 6 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.
- 7 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 \_\_\_\_\_ [date].

This Child Safeguarding Statement was reviewed by the Board of Management on \_\_\_\_\_ [most recent review date].

Signed: Bernard Kearney  
Chairperson of Board of Management  
Date: 17/1/22

Signed: Shane O ‘Donnell  
Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management  
Date: 17/1/22

## Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment

### Written Assessment of Risk of Scoil Bhríde

In accordance with section 11 of the Children First Act 2015 and with the requirements of Chapter 8 of the *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017*, the following is the Written Risk Assessment of Scoil Bhríde.

#### 1. List of school activities

- Training of school personnel in Child Protection matters
- Classroom teaching
- One-to-one teaching
- Care of Children with special needs, including intimate care needs
- Toilet areas
- Recreation breaks for pupils
- Pupils who are staying in at break time due to sickness
- Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils
- Sports Coaches
- Use of external personnel to supplement curriculum
- Students participating in work experience in the school
- Student teachers undertaking training placement in school
- Curricular Provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay safe.
- Buses to school events
- School outings/tours
- School trips involving overnight stay
- Swimming
- Changing for sports
- Administration of Medicine
- Administration of First Aid
- Use of Information and Communication Technology by pupils in school
- Managing of challenging behaviour amongst pupils, including appropriate use of restraint where required
- Annual Sports Day
- School concert /nativity play
- 5th/6th class pupils participating in passion play
- Altar Servers
- Events involving a small number of pupils .e.g. Mini sevens, Quiz
- Blended/Remote Teaching and Learning

**2. The school has identified the following risk of harm in respect of its activities -**

- Harm not recognised or reported promptly
- Harm by school personnel
- Inappropriate behaviour
- Harm by strangers
- Harm from older pupils, unknown adults on the playground
- Harm to pupils
- Harm by student
- Non-teaching of same
- Bullying
- Pupils accessing inappropriate material
- Injury to pupils and staff
- Harm by strangers, parents
- Harm by director
- Strangers joining lesson

**3. The school has the following procedures in place to address the risks of harm identified in this assessment -**

- Child Safeguarding Statement & DES procedures made available to all staff
- 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
- Glass in Door
- Child Safeguarding Statement
- Table between teacher and pupil with the exception of certain pupils who need specific intervention.(These pupils parents will sign consent form annually)
- Glass in window
- One to one teaching policy
- SEN policy
- Intimate care policy
- Lunchtime Supervision Policy
- Safety During School Hours Policy
- Supervising teacher will check on child...and teachers in hall/ staff room can view pupils who are staying indoors
- Parents told of times pupils are supervised
- All coaches vetted...evidence of vetting to be provided by organising body

- Coaches won't have unsupervised access to pupils
- External speakers won't have unsupervised access to pupils
- Staff member to stay in classroom
- Work experience Policy
- Vetting provided by third level colleges
- School implements SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe in full
- Adequate staff or vetted parents to ensure that pupils are supervised at all times
- Adequate staff to ensure children are supervised at all times, supplemented with parents when necessary
- School Tours/Outings policy
- Overnight Tours Policy
- Swimming Policy
- Boys and girls to change in separate bathrooms
- Administration of Medicine Policy
- First Aid Policy to be reviewed
- ICT policy
- Anti-Bullying Policy
- Code of Behaviour
- Pupils use of internet is supervised
- Pupils taught online safety skills
- Health & Safety Policy
- Parents will not have unsupervised access to children
- Pupils supervised by teachers and their parents. Parents told of time when they are responsible
- Parents told in advance of collection arrangements
- Director to be vetted
- Parents to sign consent form
- Staff member present
- 2 adults present outside school time
- CCTV in sacristy/church
- Parents to sign annual consent form
- CCTV in sacristy/church
- Staff member or parent will accompany servers to church. Deacon Seamus will supervise their return to the school
- Teacher will not travel alone with a pupil in a car
- Parents to sign consent form
- Internet Acceptable Use policy
- Remote Teaching and Learning Policy
- Parents and pupils regularly reminded of appropriate behaviour
- Video Calls locked and password protected
- Video Conferencing calls will not be recorded

**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 2017*

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.