



Mandatory Template 1: Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment Template

Child Safeguarding Statement

St. Brigid's N.S. 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 St. Brigid's N.S. 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 **Nóra Lynch**
- 3 The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is **Grace Conneally**
- 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 27th February 2018.

This Child Safeguarding Statement was reviewed by the Board of Management on 20th February 2023.

Signed: *Des Hackett*

Chairperson of Board of Management

Date: 20/02/2023

Signed: *Nóra Lynch*

Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Date: 20/02/2023

Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment

Written Assessment of Risk of St. Brigid's N.S.

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 Post-Primary Schools 2017*, the following is the Written Risk Assessment of St. Brigid's N.S.

1. List of school activities	2. The school has identified the following risk of harm in respect of its activities –	3. The school has the following procedures in place to address the risks of harm identified in this assessment -
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rick of harm from older pupils, unknown adults on the playground. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The school communicates supervision arrangements to all staff and parents at the beginning of each year. Pupil's arrival and dismissal are supervised by Teachers. Pupils who are not collected remain inside the gate with the teacher.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recreation breaks for pupils 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children in school, risk of bullying. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The school has in place a Supervision Policy to ensure appropriate supervision of children during, dismissal and breaks and in respect of specific areas such as toilets and hallway. Anti-Bullying Policy Code of Behaviour
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Classroom teaching 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Risk of harm not being recognised by school personnel. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All teachers are registered with the Teaching Council,

		<p>have provided Garda Vetting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The school's Child Safeguarding Statement & The Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools 2017 are made available to all staff. • All staff completed the Tusla E-Learning Programme in 2018 & PDST online training in September 2022. • All new staff since are requested to complete Tusla E-learning Programme and the PDST online training. • All staff members will be informed of the school's expectation to follow the Code of Conduct for Teachers and the Child Protection Procedures for Primary Schools 2017 and the Anti-Bullying Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One to one teaching 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harm by school personnel 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All classroom doors remain open.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Care of children with special needs, including intimate care needs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Risk of harm by school personnel 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All school personnel Garda vetted. • SNA maintain a log of all intimate care procedures

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> carried out. Intimate Care & Toileting Policy
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Toilet areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inappropriate behaviour 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children will be encouraged to use the toilet before going out to the yard.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Curricular Provision in respect on SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Non-teaching of same 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> School implements SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe in full.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst pupils. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Risk of harm through bullying 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The school has in place an Anti-Bullying Policy, which fully adheres to the requirement of the Department's Anti-Bullying Procedures for Primary Schools. Code of Behaviour
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Managing of challenging behaviour amongst pupils, including appropriate use of restraint 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Injury to pupils and staff 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Health & Safety Policy Code of Behaviour
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students participating in work experience 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Harm by student Confidentially 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work Experience Policy Child Safeguarding Statement All work experience students are Garda Vetted. Students are never on their own with children.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sporting Activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Risk of harm by school personnel/volunteers, exposure to unknown adults, bullying. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All coaches are Garda Vetted. Teacher is always present during sports activities.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use of external personnel to supplement curriculum. Use of external personnel to support sports and other extra curricular activities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Risk of harm by volunteers/external personnel. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All external personnel are Garda Vetted unless it is a supervised once off talk e.g Grandparents Day class visit. Pupils are never left alone

		<p>with personnel.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Principal/teacher has the responsibility to check out the credentials of the visitor/guest speaker to ensure the material in use is appropriate. • The school has in place a SPHE Policy.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School Outings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Risk of harm by school personnel/volunteers, exposure to unknown adults, bullying. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All school personnel Garda Vetted. • Anti-Bullying Policy • Code of Behaviour.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual Sports Days 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Risk of harm, Bullying 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anti-Bullying Policy • Code of Behaviour
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Swimming 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Risk of harm by pool employee/unknown adults. Use of video/photography/other media to record children. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teachers are present and supervising children at all times. • Mobile Phone Policy.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Administration of Medicine • Administration of First Aid. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Risk of symptoms of illness not being recognised by staff. • Risk of injury to pupil. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Administration of Medication Policy • Supervision Policy • First Aid Policy • All school personnel are Garda Vetted.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Care of pupils with specific vulnerabilities/needs such as • Pupils from ethnic minorities/migrants • Members of the Traveller Community • Pupils with minority religious faiths. • Children in care, Children on CPNS. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Risk of harm through bullying 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anti-Bullying Policy • Code of Behaviour • Stay Safe implemented in full. • SPHE lessons on bullying at all class levels. • Anti-Bullying Week/Friendship Week held

		<p>annually.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Friends for Life implemented in target classes.
<p>Recruitment of school personnel including –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teachers • SNAs • Caretaker/Secretary/Cleaners • Sport Coaches • External Tutors/Guest Speakers • Volunteers/Parents in school activities • Visitors/contractors present in school during school hours. • Visitors/contractors present after school activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Risk of child being harmed in the school by volunteer or visitor to the school. • Risk of child being harmed by a member of school personnel, a member of staff of another organisation or other person while child participating in out of school activities e.g. school trips, swimming lessons. • Risk of harm due to inappropriate relationship/communications between child and another child or adult. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda Vetting legislation and relevant DES circulars in relation to recruitment and Garda Vetting. • The school ensures all new staff are provided with a copy of the school’s Child Safeguarding Statement. • The school encourages all new staff to avail of relevant training. • The school encourages BoM members to avail of relevant training. • The school maintains records of all staff and board member training. • All visitors must sign in and out.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of Information and Communication Technology by pupils in school. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Risk of harm due to children inappropriately accessing/using computers, social media, phones and other devices outside of school. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The school has in place an Anti-Bullying Policy. • ICT Acceptable use Policy. • Code of Behaviour. • Online Learning Policy.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of Information and Communication Technology by staff in school. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Risk of harm caused by member of school personnel communicating with 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ICT Acceptable use Policy. • The school complies with the

	<p>pupils in an inappropriate manner via social media, texting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Risk of harm caused by member of school personnel accessing/circulating inappropriate material via social media, texting, digital device of other manner. 	<p>agreed disciplinary procedures for teaching staff.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The school has in place a mobile phone policy in respect of usage of mobile phones by staff. • The school Online Learning Policy outlines the chosen platforms for online communication with pupils.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of video/photography/other media to record school events. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inappropriate use/sharing of images of pupils. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parental consent for photographs and recordings to be used within the school received on enrolment. • Data Protection Policy in place. • All school events taking place in the school will be photographed by teachers and posted on the school website/Twitter page. • Parents are asked not to post photographs of school events on social media without permission from other parents.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Critical Incident 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Risk of harm to pupils by traumatic event. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The school has a Critical Incident Policy in place, which is reviewed annually.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitoring of attendance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Risk of harm to pupil by parents through lateness/poor attendance. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The school has a statement of strategy as part of its Attendance Policy.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One-to-one teaching remotely 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Risk of harm by school personnel 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parent must be present in the room.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child must be in communal area i.e. Kitchen/sitting room. • Child must be dressed appropriately. • Online Learning AUP
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teaching a small group/class remotely 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Risk of harm through increased barriers to children reporting their concerns. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Online Learning AUP • 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 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.

Examples of activities, risks and procedures

The examples listed in this document are provided to assist schools in undertaking their risk assessment under the Children First Act, 2015. Schools should note that this list of examples is not intended to be exhaustive. It is the responsibility of each school to ensure, as far as possible, that any other risks and procedures that are relevant to its own particular circumstances are identified and specified in the written risk assessment and that adequate procedures are in place to address all risks identified.

It is acknowledged that schools already have in place a range of policies, practices and procedures to mitigate the risk of harm to children while they are participating in the activities of the school and that some school activities will carry low or minimal risks of harm compared to others. In the context of the risk assessment that must be undertaken by schools, the Children First Act, 2015 refers to risk as “any potential for harm”. Therefore, it is important that, as part of its risk assessment process, each school lists and reviews all of its various activities (which shall include identifying those that may carry low risk of harm as well as those that carry higher risks of harm). Doing so will help the school to (1) identify, as required under the Children First Act, 2015, any risks of harm that may exist in respect of the school’s activities, (2) identify and assess the

adequacy of the various procedures already in place to manage those risks of harm and (3) identify and put in place any such additional procedures as are considered necessary to manage any risk identified.

The Addendum to Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children published in January 2019 clarifies that organisations providing relevant services to children should consider the specific issue of online safety when carrying out their risk assessment and preparing their Child Safeguarding Statement.

The Guidance on Continuity of Schooling for primary and post-primary schools (April 2020) advises of the importance of teachers maintaining the safe and ethical use of the internet during distance learning and assisting parents and guardians to be aware of their role also. Schools should ensure that their Acceptable Use Policy (AUP) informs and guides remote or distance learning activity.

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.