

Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment Template

Child Safeguarding Statement 2024

St Brigid's Infant School is a primary school providing primary/post-primary education to pupils from Early Start to First 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 Infant School 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 Margaret O'Reilly, Principal
- 3 The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is Emer Patterson, Acting Deputy Principal
- 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
 - Requests teaching and SNA staff to avail of relevant training eg Tusla e-learning or pdst
 - 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 12/2/24.

This Child Safeguarding Statement was reviewed by the Board of Management on 12/2/24.

Signed: Frank Reedy
Chairperson of Board of Management

Date: 12-02-2024

Signed: Margaret Reedy
Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Date: 12/2/24

Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment

Written Assessment of Risk of St Brigid's Infant School

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 St Brigid's Infant School

1. List of school activities

- Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils
- Recreation breaks for pupils
- Classroom teaching
- One-to-one teaching
- One-to-one learning support
- One-to-one assisting
- ASD class activities, teaching in small group and 1-to-one context
- One-to-one keywork, therapy or meeting of child with visiting professionals
Eg School Completion keyworkers, Barnardos, Social Workers
- Outdoor teaching activities
- Online teaching and learning remotely
- Sporting Activities
- School outings
- Use of toilet areas in schools
- Annual Sports Day
- Fundraising events involving pupils
- Use of off-site facilities for school activities
- School transport arrangements for tours
- Care of children with SEN, including intimate care or toileting accidents
- Management of challenging behaviour amongst pupils, including appropriate use of restraint where required for safety of pupils themselves, other pupils or staff members
- Management of provision of food and drink
- Administration of Medicine
- Administration of First Aid
- Curricular provision in respect of SPHE(RSE, Stay Safe)
- Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst pupils
- Training of school personnel in child protection matters
- Use of external personnel to supplement curriculum
- Use of external personnel to support sports/ other extra-curricular activities
- Care of pupils with specific vulnerabilities/ needs such as
 - Pupils from ethnic minorities/migrants
 - Members of the Traveller community
 - Lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender (LGBT) children
 - Pupils perceived to be LGBT
 - Pupils of minority religious faiths
 - Children in care
 - Children on CPNS
 - Children with medical needs
 - Non-verbal children

- Recruitment of school personnel including -
 - Teachers/SNA's
 - Caretaker/Secretary/Cleaners
 - Sports coaches
 - External Tutors/Guest Speakers
 - Volunteers/Parents in school activities
 - Visitors/contractors present in school during school hours
 - Visitors/contractors present during after-school activities
- Participation by pupils in events off-site eg shows, church ceremonies
- Use of Information and Communication Technology by pupils in school
- Application of sanctions under the school's Code of Behaviour including timeout of pupils, confiscation of smartwatches, phones etc.
- Adults participating in work experience in the school
- Student teachers undertaking training placement in school
- Use of video/photography/other media to record school events
- After school use of school premises by other organisations
- Use of school premises by other organisation during school day
- Breakfast club/homework club/afterschool activities/summer camp

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

Risks of Harm

- Risk of harm not being recognised by school personnel
- Risk of harm not being reported properly and promptly by school personnel
- Risk of child being harmed in the school by a member of school personnel
- Risk of child being harmed in the school by another child
- 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 trip
- Risk of harm due to inappropriate use of online remote teaching and learning communication platform such as an uninvited person accessing the lesson link
- Risk of harm due to bullying of child
- Risk of harm being missed because non-verbal or pre-verbal child cannot tell
- Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children in school
- Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children while attending out of school activities
- Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children during summer camp activities
- Risk of harm due to inappropriate communications between child/another child or child/adult
- Risk of harm due to children inappropriately accessing/using internet or social media on devices while at school

- Risk of harm to children with SEN who have particular vulnerabilities, including medical vulnerabilities
- Risk of harm to child receiving intimate care eg toileting or First Aid
- Risk of harm to children from a person attracting pupils' attention from road
- Risk of harm from an unauthorised adult collecting a child from school
- Risk of harm to children at school events where visitors invited eg PT meetings, concerts, ceremonies

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

- The school adheres to vetting requirements for staff and volunteers
- Staff are given copies of Safeguarding Statement and sign the distribution list
- Child Protection is on the agenda at every staff meeting
- Teachers are aware of their responsibilities as mandated persons
- Staff have access to *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools*, available in staffroom and office
- School teaching and SNA staff avail of available training eg Tusla or pdst training
- School personnel are required to adhere to the *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools* and all teachers are required to adhere to the *Children First* guidelines
- The school implements the Stay Safe programme in full
- Letters are sent to parent to inform them in advance of the sensitive lessons in Stay Safe
- The school has in place a policy and procedures for students and other staff doing placement or work experience at the school
- If there are court orders from the Family Law court in relation to pupils enrolled at the School, the parents will be requested to provide a letter from a solicitor or copy of the order
- The gardai will be called to assist with disputes or breaches of court orders which occur on school grounds or during school day
- Parents requested to arrange access visit transfers away from school day or premises
- If in doubt about the collection arrangements for a child, a call will be made to the parents to clarify
- Staff working one-to-one with pupils have a glass panel/door ajar
- Staff assisting a child to change (eg toileting accident or wet clothes) will request another staff member to be close at hand
- The following school policies are relevant to child safeguarding:
 - Code of behaviour (Discipline for Learning)
 - Anti-bullying policy
 - Acceptable Use policy
 - SEN policy
 - One-to-one teaching and assisting policy (helping with toileting, first aid, changing)
- The school communication policy takes into account the possibility of remote teaching
- The code of behaviour is implemented consistently throughout the school
- The school Acceptable Use and Communication policy and Code of Behaviour have been communicated to parents and are published on the school website
- In the case of child-child violence, the staff will physically intervene to remove the

child causing danger, if the risk of harm from non-intervention is greater than the risk caused by a physical intervention. Items such as knives, scissors, matches which could be used by a child will be kept out of sight and out of reach

- In the event of remote teaching, parents are responsible for their children's safety using Internet-enabled device
- Zoom guidelines must be agreed by parents before invitation sent
- Parents are made aware of internet-safety workshops and webinars and child-friendly Websites and resources
- Invitations to live teaching sessions to be sent out shortly before each meeting
- Children are not allowed to bring internet-enabled devices from home into school, including smart watches; such devices will be taken and returned to parents at hometime
- On enrolment, parents sign permission for staff to upload photos of children learning on school website and Class Dojo
- Children's full names not displayed alongside photos
- Announcements about "no sharing" of photos/ videos on social media at each event
- Children's toilets are for children's use only
- Children will be brought to toilets in class groups as often as needed. Additional toilet visits will be under adult supervision. Extreme urgent toilet visits will be in pairs boy-boy, girl-girl
- Buzzer system for school entry to front door and yard top door
- Unaccompanied visitors will be politely requested by staff to identify themselves
- School yard is enclosed. Supervision of fence area when children playing on front grass
- Children going home early are signed out
- Children handed over by teacher to adult in school yard at hometime and parents are requested not to call their child until teacher allows child to leave the line
- All children are to be supervised by parents until collected by teacher in the morning.
- School outings and trips will have an adequate quota of supervision, depending on the class levels and need of the particular class or children in that class
- As far as possible, all visits by workmen will be arranged to take place outside school hours. Where this is not possible, the workmen (eg alarm or lift maintenance, urgent repairs) will not be working in an area where children are learning

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.