



Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment Template

Child Safeguarding Statement

St. Brigid's Girls' School 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 Girls' 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 Elaine Carroll - Principal
- 3 The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is Bríd Darcy – 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
 - ☐ 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 24th May 2021.

This Child Safeguarding Statement was reviewed by the Board of Management on 24th May 2021.

Signed 

Chairperson of Board of Management

Signed 

Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Date: 24th May 2021

Date 24th May 2021`.

Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment

Written Assessment of Risk of St. Brigid's Girls' 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 Post-Primary Schools 2017*, the following is the Written Risk Assessment of [name of school].

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 -
Training of School personnel in child protection matters	Harm not recognised or reported promptly.	Child Safeguarding Statement and DES procedures made available to all staff. DLP and DDLP have received relevant training. All staff to view Tusla Training Module and any other online training offered by PDST. B.O.M. records all records of staff and Board training.
One to One teaching	Harm by school personnel.	School has a policy in place for special education teaching. Staff are Garda vetted. Glass in door – teacher and pupil visible.
Care of Children / children with special needs including intimate care needs	Harm by school personnel.	Policy in place.

Toilet Areas	Inappropriate behaviour.	Usage and supervision policy
Curricular provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe	Non-teaching or inadequate teaching of same.	School implements SPHE, RSE and Stay Safe in full.
Arrival and Dismissal of pupils	Harm from other pupils, unknown adults.	School starts at 8.40a.m. and supervision is provided from then onwards. On wet days supervision is provided in the school hall. Dismissal is supervised by teachers. Procedures for non-collection of pupils are in place. Covid-19 Policy in place due to Covid-19 restrictions. This will be followed until restrictions are lifted. Health and Safety Policy
Managing of Challenging Behaviour amongst pupils	Injury to pupils and staff.	Code of Behaviour
Sports Coaches	Harm to pupils.	Garda vetting in place. Teachers always present.
Students participating in Work Experience	Harm by student.	Garda vetting in place. Only students known to the school or staff are accepted.
Recreation Breaks for Pupils	Harm by other students. Bullying.	Recreation yard supervised by school personnel. Code of discipline and Good Behaviour, including anti-bullying policy.
Classroom teaching	Harm to pupils / staff.	Child Safeguarding Statement Health and Safety Statement Garda Vetting
Outdoor Teaching Activities	Harm to pupils / staff.	Child Safeguarding Statement Health and Safety Statement Supervision – Garda vetting
Sporting Activities	Harm to pupils.	Child Safeguarding Statement Health and Safety Statement Supervision – Garda Vetting
School Outings	Harm to pupils.	Child Safeguarding Statement Health and Safety Statement Supervision – higher supervision levels. Garda Vetting.
Administration of Medicine	Harm to pupils.	Administration of Medicine Policy

Administration of First Aid		School indemnity form First Aid Procedures
Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst pupils	Harm to pupils.	Code of Good Behaviour and Discipline and Anti-bullying policy. Specialised training for pupils
Use of External Personnel to supplement curriculum	Harm to pupils.	Garda Vetting Supervision by teacher
Care of pupils with specific vulnerabilities / needs such as <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pupils from ethnic minorities/migrants • Members of the Traveller Community. • Lesbian / gay / bi-sexual or transgender (LGBT) children. • Pupils perceived to by LGBT • Pupils of minority Religious faiths. • Children in care. 	Bullying.	Anti-Bullying Policy and Code of Good behaviour and Discipline. Compliance with all legislation and DES circulars.
Recruitment of school Personnel, including - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teachers • SNAs • Caretaker / Secretary • Sports Coaches • External tutors / guest speakers. • Volunteers / parents in school activities 	Harm not recognised or properly or promptly reported.	Child Safeguarding Statement and DES procedures made available to all staff. Staff to view Tusla training module and any other online training offered by PDST. Vetting procedures
Use of information and communication technology by pupils in the school.	Bullying.	I.C.T. Policy Anti-Bullying Policy Code of Good Behaviour and Discipline Mobile phone policy and procedure Acceptable Use Policy

Annual Sports Day	Harm to pupils.	Child Safeguarding Statement Health and Safety Statement High supervision levels Garda Vetting procedures First Aid Station
Fund-raising events involving pupils	Harm to pupils.	Supervised activities Child Safeguarding Statement Health and Safety Statement
Use of Off Site facilities for school activities	Harm to pupils.	Health and Safety Statement Child Safeguarding Statement Garda Vetting Procedures High supervision levels
School transport arrangements to outside venues	Harm to pupils.	Health and Safety Statement Buses with seatbelts
Student Teachers undertaking training placement in the school	Harm to pupils. Harm not recognised or reported properly.	Child Safeguarding Statement DES procedures made available to student teachers Garda Vetting procedures
Use of Video / Photography / other media to record school events.	Harm to pupils. Inappropriate use of imagery.	School policy Parental permission
After-school use of school premises by other organisations.	Harm to pupils.	Health and Safety Statement Child Safeguarding Statement Garda Vetting procedures
Security of School Building	Harm to pupils.	Health and Safety procedures Security procedures in place
Remote teaching during school closures	Risk of harm to pupils using online content Homes are unlikely to have a filtering system on their broadband line as is currently in place on our school system. Pupils may access inappropriate material or websites. Risk of pop-ups or inappropriate content appearing. Increased risk of cyberbullying.	Acceptable Use Policy Distance Learning Policy
Voice calls to parents and	Risk of harm to pupil	Acceptable Use Policy - Online

students.	Risk of call being interrupted by an unwelcome other.	Communication Guidelines
Lack of face to face contact with pupils due to school closures	<p>Risk of harm to pupil as the school staff will not observe any potential evidence of neglect or abuse</p> <p>Risk of harm to pupil as they may not have anyone they can disclose an incident/incidents of abuse or neglect to while they are at home</p>	<p>Where the DLP or DDLP becomes aware of a concern, it will be reported to Tusla.</p> <p>School staff are in touch with families identified as vulnerable over the telephone/email</p> <p>Teachers have contacted any families not engaging in learning to ensure that everything is ok in the household</p> <p>Staff were reminded of their duty of care and reporting procedures.</p>
Live face to face interactions with pupils	<p>Risk of harm to pupil</p> <p>Risk of call being interrupted by an unwelcome other.</p> <p>Risk of others taking an audio or visual recording of children and teacher.</p> <p>Risk of others taking photos of children or teachers.</p> <p>Risk of indecent images being shown by an unwelcome other.</p> <p>Risk of other family members coming onto the screen.</p> <p>Risk of using a platform that is not fully secure.</p>	Distance Learning Policy

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.

