Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment Scoil Bhríde

Child Safeguarding Statement

Scoil Bhríde is a primary school with autism classes 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 2023 as part of this overall Child Safeguarding Statement

2 The Designated Liaison Person (DLP) is Sheila Dempsey

3 The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is Áine Gannon

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 2023 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 2023, 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 above named DLP as the "relevant person" (as defined in the Children First Act 2015) to be the first point of contact in respect of the school's 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.

6 This statement has been published on the school's website and has been provided to all members of school personnel, the Parents' Association 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.

21/03/2018

This Child Safeguarding Statement was adopted by the Board of Management on 21/03/2018 [date].

This Child Safeguarding Statement was reviewed by the Board of Management on Sept Feb 2026 [most recent review date].

Signed: _____ Signed: _____

Chairperson of Board of Management Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Date: Sept Feb. 2026 Date: 5. 2. 2026

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 requirement of Chapter 8 of the *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2023,* the following is the Written Risk Assessment of Scoil Bhríde.

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 -**
1. Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils 2. Recreation breaks for pupils. 3. One-to-one Teaching 4. Outdoor teaching activities 5. Sporting Activities 6. School outings 7. Swimming 8. Use of toilet areas. 9. Sports Day 10. Use of off-site facilities for school activities E.g. (Gymable, Stewarts Equestrian Centre, local GAA pitch etc) 11. School transport arrangements (to matches, swimming, tours etc.) 12. Management of challenging behaviour amongst pupils, including appropriate use of restraint where required. 13. Administration of Medicine 14. Administration of First Aid 15. Curricular provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe	• Risk of harm, as defined in this context i.e., not being recognised by school personnel. • Risk of harm not being reported properly and promptly by school personnel. • Risk of child being harmed by a member of school personnel. • Risk of child being harmed by another child. • Risk of child being harmed 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. • Risk of harm due to bullying of child. • 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.	Child Safeguarding Statement & DE procedures 2023 made available to all staff and is displayed on the school website and is available on request. • School Personnel are required to adhere to the *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2023* and all registered teaching staff are required to adhere to the Children First Act 2015 • DLP& DDLP attend annual training in Child Protection Procedures. • All Staff view online Tusla training module and /or Child Protection Procedures training. • Child Safeguarding is an item on each staff meeting agenda where staff are reminded of their responsibilities. • The BOM keeps records of staff and board training. • Support from NCSE, NEPS and relevant agencies to address challenging behaviour. Training from Crisis Prevention Ireland

16. Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst pupils. 17. Training of school personnel in child protection matters. 18. Care of pupils with specific vulnerabilities/ needs such as i. Pupils from ethnic minorities/migrants ii. Members of the Traveller community iii. Lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender (LGBT) children iv. Pupils perceived to be LGBT. v. Pupils of minority religious faiths vi. Children in care vii. Children with additional needs 19. Recruitment of school personnel including – i. Teachers/SNAs ii. Caretaker/Secretary/ iii. Sports coaches iv. External Tutors/Guest Speakers v. Volunteers/Parents in school activities vi. Visitors/contractors present in school during school hours.	• Risk of harm due to inappropriate relationship/communications between child and another child or adult • Risk of harm due to children inappropriately accessing/using computers, social media, phones and other devices while at school. • Risk of harm to children with SEN who have vulnerabilities. • Risk of harm to child while a child is receiving intimate care. • Risk of harm due to inadequate application of Code of Behaviour • Risk of harm in one-to-one teaching / coaching situation • Risk of harm caused by member of school personnel accessing/circulating inappropriate material via social media, texting, digital device or other manner. • Risk of bullying not being recognised as serious enough as to constitute child abuse. • Risk of harm from unknown others on the playground. • Risk of harm from grooming • Risk of harm from peer abuse • Risk of harm by pupils from other schools/peer abuse/abuse from referees coaches of external teams • Risk of harm from parent involvement or spectating • Risk of harm from access to other adults/students who may not be vetted.	completed in 2023. Individual behaviour plans to be used where required. Use of Code of Behaviour. • School has policy in place for one-to-one teaching: o Table between teacher and pupil in mainstream. Where appropriate in autism classes o Glass in windows of all support rooms and classrooms. • Policy on intimate care is in place. Updated in 2022. • External door for 3 X bathrooms used by children in room 4 has been removed. • School implements SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe in full. • Staff had training in new Stay Safe programme. • The school has a *Bí Cineálta Policy* which fully adheres to the requirements of the Department's Anti-Bullying Procedures for Primary Schools. • Code of Behaviour in place which accords with Tusla (NEWB) Guidelines of 2008 • Consistent reminders to parents about safety matters: o Arrival time supervised by Principal, Deputy Principal, teachers, and SNAs. o Dismissal time, pupils supervised by Principal, Deputy Principal, teachers, and SNAs. • All staff vetted and trained in Child Safeguarding.

vii. Visitors/contractors present during after school activities. 20. Cleaners from contracted cleaning company 21. Participation by pupils in religious ceremonies and activities external to the school 22. Use of Information and Communication Technology by pupils in school. 23. Students participating in work experience in the school. 24. After school use of school premises by other organisations e.g., Basketball, Dancing, Speech and Drama, GAA, Irish dancing. 25. Homework club/evening study 26. Student Council Meetings / Green School Committee Meetings / Other meetings involving students, staff and other visiting adults / parents. 27. Movement of pupils around the school e.g., pupils walking to/from the offices, pupils to/from ASD rooms, pupils walking to another classroom / hall/yard etc. 28. Students being sent to alternative classrooms when a teacher is absent. 29. School transport arrangements including use of bus escorts. 30. Matches/educational Trips 31. Use of external personnel to supplement curriculum e.g.	• Risk of harm due to lack of proper checks and procedures not being implemented on recruitment. • Risk of harm from accessing inappropriate material sites etc. • Risk of harm from other adults if attending mass or religious ceremonies outside school. • Risk of harm from inappropriate use of photographs etc. • Inappropriate behaviour at online class or zoom session. • Inappropriate content shared at online zoom class or session. • Child Protection/welfare concerns witnessed by staff at online zoom class or session. • Unauthorised persons attending at online zoom class or session. • Risk of flight risk child running from school (See H&S Policy) • Risk of pupils running away from supervising adult / classroom / school grounds when overwhelmed (See H&S Policy) • Risk of harm resulting from school collection pickup.	• All coaches vetted prior to starting in school. Teachers remain with pupils while coach is working. • All work experience students vetted through secondary school. • 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 etc. (This policy being updated Feb. 2025) • The school has in place a policy and clear procedures in respect of school outings. • School uses joint declaration form, used in the event of visiting speech and language therapists, OTs, Psychologists etc.working with pupils on their own, without Scoil Bhríde staff in attendance. • Pupils aware of how to report possible bullying incidents. • Serious incidents of bullying reported by DLP to Tusla. • Child Safeguarding Statement & DE procedures implemented during recruitment of teachers and SNAs and others in direct employment of Board of Management. • Proper recruitment procedures in place including reference checking and vetting. • Vetting Procedures always implemented regarding anyone coming to work with children. • Contract cleaners start after 3pm when children have left premises

i. Visits from Enable Ireland ii. Visits from school psychologist iii. Music Generation teacher iv. Badminton teacher/ sports coaches 32. Children in care 33. Use of school premises by other organisation during school day ART ZONE, Hip Hop, Speech and Drama class 34. Use of Information and Communication Technology by pupils in school. 35. Application of sanctions under the school's Code of Behaviour including detention of pupils, confiscation of phones etc. 36. Student teachers undertaking training placement in school. 37. Use of video/photography/other media. 38. Use of online teaching platforms for schoolwork &/or live interactions between staff & pupils. 39. Zoom open days with secondary schools for 6th class pupils. 40. Visiting staff from other schools disseminating information about secondary school enrolment. 41. Visiting staff from other schools for observation		• Garda Vetting for all those who help in the school. • Visiting Contractors to sign in and out and to be accompanied by a member of staff while on the premises. • Those who use the school facilities have own CP Policy and confirm same in writing to BOM and that such are in line with 2023 guidelines. • ICT policy in place • AUP policy in place • Mobile phone use Policy in place • Parents notified about taking of photographs or circulation of such on social media. • No use of individual IT when class has been split and children are in another classroom. • The school has in place a policy and procedures for the administration of First Aid: see Accident/Illness/Injury Policy and also Administration of Medication Policy In the case of online classes: • Parental permission agreed. • Agreed email addresses only. • Parental supervision of live sessions. • No recording or sharing of live content. Clear Code of conduct/Guidelines issued to all parents, pupils & staff including sanctions for breaches of guidelines. Visiting staff would be on professional visit, would be accompanied by Scoil Bhríde staff while visiting.

42. Unknown adult arriving at school asking to collect a particular child before school closure time.		Child's parents telephoned to verify the identity of the person (no. 42). Check with child if the person is known to them. The child will not be released to this person without parent permission for same.

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 genera 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 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.