



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 \(revised 2023\)](#) 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 (revised (2023))* as part of this overall Child Safeguarding Statement
- 2 The Designated Liaison Person (DLP) is Carmel Linehan
- 3 The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is Pat Gallagher
- 4 The Relevant Person is Carmel Linehan
(The relevant person is one who can provide information in respect of how the child safeguarding statement was developed and will be able to provide the statement on request. This person can also be the DLP)
- 5 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.

6 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 (revised 2023)* and to the relevant agreed disciplinary procedures for school staff which are published on the gov.ie 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 gov.ie 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 (revised 2023)*, including in the case of registered teachers, those in relation to mandated reporting under the Children First Act 2015.
- 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 gov.ie 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.

- 7 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.
- 8 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 10th September 2025.

This Child Safeguarding Statement was reviewed by the Board of Management on 10th September 2025.

Signed: *Fiona Pakenham*

Chairperson of Board of Management

Date: 10th September 2025

Signed: *Carmel Linehan*

Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Date: 10th September 2025



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 PostPrimary Schools (revised 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 -
Training of school personnel in Child Protection matters	Harm not recognised or reported promptly	Child Safeguarding Statement & DEY procedures made available to all staff DLP& DDLP to attend Oide face to face training All Staff to view Túsla training module & any other online training offered by PDST. Croke Park Hours to facilitate online CP training each academic year. BOM records all records of staff and board training
One to one teaching	Harm to pupils Harm by school personnel, or pupils	School has structures in place for one to one teaching Open doors and / or there is a Glass window in Door (Table between teacher and pupil) Child Protection Policy & Procedures in place, Special Educational Needs policy
Care of Children with special needs, including intimate care needs	Harm by school personnel	Structures employed for intimate care.



Toilet areas including showers	Inappropriate behaviour	Toilets are monitored for classroom use and permission is sought outside of this along with acknowledgement of return.
Curricular Provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay safe.	Non-teaching of same	School implements SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe in full
LGBTQIA+ Children/Pupils perceived to be LGBTQIA+	Bullying	Bí Cineálta Policy Code of Good Behaviour
Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils.	Harm from older pupils, unknown adults on the playground	Arrival and dismissal supervised by Teachers. Sign out sheet at office for early exit. Parents are advised to make appropriate arrangements for home time.
Children Not collected	Harm from older pupils, unknown adults, Wander off	Teacher attends until responsibility passed over or contact made
Managing of challenging behaviour amongst pupils, including appropriate use of restraint	Injury to pupils and staff,	Code of Good Behaviour. Building contents secondary
List of School Activities	The School has identified the following Risk of Harm	The School has the following Procedures in place to address identified risks
Sports Coaches	Harm to pupils	Child Protection Policy & Procedures in place. Teachers present when coaches working with pupils
Students participating in work experience	Harm by TY student, Breach of confidentiality	Policy for students on work experience placements/ Garda Vetted . No u16s allowed Visitor Book, Child Safeguarding Statement. Letters of Acknowledgment and Requirements from schools/colleges.
Recreation breaks for pupils	Harm to pupils	Code of Good Behaviour, Supervision policy, Safety Statement, Bí Cineálta Policy
Classroom teaching	Harm to pupils Harm by school personnel, or pupils	Code of Good Behaviour, Glass in Doors Safety Statement, Bí Cineálta Policy



Outdoor teaching activities	Harm to pupils Harm by school personnel, or pupils	Code of Good Behaviour, Supervision Policy Safety Statement, Bí Cineálta Policy
Sporting Activities	Harm to pupils	Code of Good Behaviour, Supervision Policy Safety Statement, Bí Cineálta Policy. Persons Garda Vetted
Homework club/evening study	Harm to pupils	Code of Good Behaviour, Supervision Policy Safety Statement, Bí Cineálta Policy. Garda Vetting
School outings	Harm to pupils Harm by school personnel, or pupils	Code of Good Behaviour, Supervision Policy Safety Statement, Bí Cineálta Policy
School trips involving overnight stay	Harm to pupils Harm by pupils, Harm by school personnel,	Code of Good Behaviour, Safety Statement, Bí Cineálta Policy, Child Protection Policy & Procedures in place
School trips involving foreign travel	Harm to pupils Harm by pupils	Code of Good Behaviour, Safety Statement, Bí Cineálta Policy, Child Protection Policy & Procedures in place
List of School Activities	The School has identified the following Risk of Harm	The School has the following Procedures in place to address identified risks
Annual Sports Day	Harm to pupils, Harm by pupils, Harm by school personnel,others	Code of Good Behaviour, Safety Statement, Bí Cineálta Policy, Child Protection Policy & Procedures in place
Fundraising events involving pupils	Harm to pupils, Harm by pupils, Harm by school personnel,others	Code of Good Behaviour, Safety Statement, Bí Cineálta Policy, Child Protection Policy & Procedures in place



Use of off-site facilities for school activities	Harm to pupils, Harm by pupils, Harm by school personnel, others	Code of Good Behaviour, Safety Statement, Bí Cineálta Policy, Child Protection Policy & Procedures in place
School transport arrangements including use of bus escorts	Harm to pupils, Harm by pupils, Harm by school personnel, others, Drivers	Code of Good Behaviour, Safety Statement, Bí Cineálta Policy, Child Protection Policy & Procedures in place
Management of challenging behaviour amongst pupils, including appropriate use of restraint where required	Harm to pupils, Harm by pupils, Harm by school personnel, others,	Code of Good Behaviour, Safety Statement, Bí Cineálta Policy, Child Protection Policy & Procedures in place
Administration of Medicine	Harm to pupils, Harm by pupils, Harm by school personnel	Code of Good Behaviour, Safety Statement, Bí Cineálta Policy, Child Protection Policy & Procedures, Administration of Medicine policy.
Administration of First Aid	Harm to pupils, Harm by pupils, Harm by school personnel	Code of Good Behaviour, Safety Statement, Bí Cineálta Policy, Child Protection Policy & Procedures, Administration of Medicine policy.
Curricular provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe	Harm to pupils, Harm by pupils, Harm by school personnel, Harm to pupils by Parent refusal to engage with Stay Safe	Safety Statement, Administration of Medicine Policy. Stay Safe Letters to Parents,
Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst pupils	Bullying	Stay Safe Programme, Code of Good Behaviour, Safety Statement, Bí Cineálta Policy
Training of school personnel in child protection matters	Harm to pupils, Harm by pupils, Harm by school personnel/ visitors. Failure to take appropriate action / Follow procedures	Annual Presentation at staff level, Child Protection Policy & Procedures in place



Use of external personnel to supplement curriculum	Harm to pupils, Grooming	Accord, Child Protection Policy & Procedures in place
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, bisexual or transgender (LGBT) children • Pupils perceived to be LGBT • Pupils of minority religious faiths • Children in care • Children on CPNS 	Bullying	Bí Cineálta Policy, Safety Statement, Supervision Policy. Code of Good Behaviour. SPHE lessons on Bullying at all class levels. Kindness week. Friendship week.
Use of school premises by other organisation during school day	Usually doesn't happen	Visitor Book, Safety Statement ,Use of School Policy, Child Protection Policy & Procedures in place, Emergency Evacuation Procedure
Students participating in work experience in the school	Harm to pupils, Harm by pupils, Harm by school personnel/ visitors. Failure to take appropriate action / Follow procedures	Visitor Book, Safety Statement, Child Protection Policy & Procedures in place

List of School Activities	The School has identified the following Risk of Harm	The School has the following Procedures in place to address identified risks
Use of Information and Communication Technology by pupils in school including social media	Harm to pupils, Harm by pupils, Harm by school personnel. exposure to Inappropriate material. Bullying	Child Protection Policy & Procedures in place, Code of Good Behaviour, Bí Cineálta Policy, Acceptable Usage Policy.



<p>Recruitment of school personnel including -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 	<p>Harm not recognised or properly / promptly reported.</p>	<p>Child Protection Policy & Procedures in place, Code of Good Behaviour, Bí Cineálta Policy, Acceptable Usage Policy as well as school Welcome / Information packs. Vetting procedures. Visitors must sign in and out at reception.</p>
<p>Application of sanctions under the school's Code of Good Behaviour including detention of pupils, confiscation of phones etc.</p>	<p>Harm to pupils, Harm by pupils, Harm by school personnel. exposure to Inappropriate material. Bullying</p>	<p>Code of Good Behaviour, Bí Cineálta Policy, Acceptable Usage Policy</p>
<p>Student teachers undertaking training placement in school</p>	<p>Bullying, Breach of confidentiality</p>	<p>ICT policy , Bí Cineálta Policy Code of Good Behaviour.</p>
		<p>Child Safeguarding Statement & DES procedures made available to all staff Staff and students to view Tusla training module & any other online training offered by PDST Vetting Procedures system of Parents / Volunteers/Visitors</p>



Use of video/photography/other media to record school events	Harm not recognised or properly or promptly reported	<p>Child Safeguarding Statement & DEY procedures made available to all staff</p> <p>Staff to view Tusla training module & any other online training offered by PDST</p> <p>Vetting Procedures</p> <p>Policy of Parents / Volunteers</p> <p>Policy on Visiting Contractors</p>
After school use of school premises by other organisations	Harm to pupils, Harm by pupils, Harm by personnel. exposure to inappropriate material. Bullying	<p>Vetting Procedures</p> <p>Bí Cineálta Policy, Acceptable Use Policy, Code of Good Behaviour</p> <p>Emergency Evacuation Procedures, Use of School Contract</p>

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 (revised 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.