Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment

For:	**Scoil Bhríde, Roll No. 17662R**	*(School Name)*
At:	**Kill Hill, Kill, Co. Kildare W91PF85**	*(School Address)*

This school is a: (tick appropriate) ☑primary ☐post-primary ☐ special school

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) and 2025, Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025 and Child Safeguarding: A Guide for Policy, Procedure and Practice, 2nd ed. (Tusla, 2024), the board of management has adopted the Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment set out in this document.

The board of management has adopted and will implement fully and without modification the department's Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025 as part of this overall Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment.

Name of the Designated Liaison Person (DLP):

Carmel Linehan

Name of the Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP/DDLP):

Pat Gallagher

In the absence of the DLP, the Deputy DLP shall assume responsibilities of the DLP

Name of Relevant Person

Carmel Linehan

(In schools this person is the DLP)

Relevant Person can be contacted on:

045877592	*info@scoilbhridekill.ie*

Under the Children First Act 2015 Relevant Person means a person who is appointed by a provider of a relevant service to be the first point of contact in respect of the Child Safeguarding Statement. This person is nominated by the board of management to manage and provide oversight of child protection concerns/allegations of child abuse.

Name of Chairperson of the board of management, or in an ETB school the Chief Executive or their delegate:

Fiona Pakenham

In the event that both DLP and DDLP are absent and unavailable, and where there is no staff member formally acting in their role, the chairperson of the board of management, or in an ETB school the chief executive or their delegate, assumes the role of DLP.

The board of management recognises that child protection and safeguarding permeate all aspects of school life and must be reflected in all of the school's policies, procedures, practices and activities. In all of these, 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 happening to children and protect members of school personnel from the necessity to take unnecessary risks that may leave themselves open to accusations of child abuse.
- ☑ Develop a practice of openness with parents and encourage parental involvement in the education of their children.
- ☑ Fully respect confidentiality requirements as set out in the Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025 in dealing with child protection matters.
- ☑ Adhere to the above principles in relation to any vulnerable adult.

Procedures and Measures in Place

Our Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment has been developed in line with requirements under the Children First Act 2015, the *Children First: National Guidance 2017*, and *Child Safeguarding: A Guide for Policy, Procedure and Practice, 2nd ed. (Tusla, 2024),* and the *Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025.* In addition to the procedures listed in our risk assessment, the following procedures support our intention to safeguard children while they are availing of our service:

> Procedure for the Management of Allegations of Abuse or Misconduct against School Personnel Relating to a Child Availing of Our Service

~ Where any member of school personnel is the subject of any investigation in respect of any act, omission or circumstance in relation to a child attending the school, the school is required to adhere to the relevant procedures set out in Chapter 7 of *the Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025* and to the relevant agreed disciplinary procedures for school staff which are published on the gov.ie website.

> Procedure for the Safe Recruitment and Selection of School Personnel to Work With Children

~ The school is required to adhere to the requirements of the Vetting Act. The selection or recruitment of staff and their suitability to work with children, requires the school to adhere 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 Youth and available on the gov.ie website and as outlined in Chapter 10 of the procedures.

~ A written protocol is in place authorising immediate action for cases which require an employee to be immediately absented from school for child safeguarding reasons.

> Procedure for Provision of and Access to Child Safeguarding Training and Information, Including the Identification of the Occurrence of Harm

~ The school provides information and training to members of school personnel in relation to the identification of the occurrence of harm (as defined in the 2015 Act) as follows:

~ The school has provided each member of school personnel, including any new members of school personnel, (employees and volunteers, board of management members, student teachers and those on work experience) with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment.

~ The school ensures that members of school personnel have availed of relevant training and completed child protection training.

~ The school encourages board of management members to avail of any relevant training and complete child protection training.

~ The board of management ensures that records of all staff and board member child protection training are maintained.

> Procedure for the Reporting of Child Protection or Welfare Concerns to Tusla

~ All members of school personnel are required to adhere to the procedures set out in the *Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025*, in relation to reporting of child protection concerns to Tusla. Mandated reporting applies to all registered teachers and any other mandated person who may be employed by the school, for example a chaplain or nurse. A full list of those people who are mandated persons is set out in Appendix 1 procedures.

> Procedure for Maintaining a List of the Persons (if any) in the Relevant Service Who Are Mandated Persons

~ There is a procedure in place to maintain a list of mandated persons. Schools may on occasion employ additional staff who are mandated by virtue of their profession. This list will include all registered teachers and identify additional employees that are not registered teachers.

> Procedure for Appointing a Relevant Person (In schools this person is the DLP)

~ There is a procedure in place for appointing a relevant person.

The various procedures referred to in this Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment can be accessed via the school's website, the gov.ie website or will be made available on request by the school.

In accordance with the Children First Act 2015, the Addendum to Children First 2019 and 2025, and the *Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025,* the board of management 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.

Note: The procedures and measures in place outlined above, are not intended as exhaustive list. Individual boards of management shall also include in this section such other procedures and measures that are of relevance to the school.

This statement has been published on the school's website or will be made available on request by the school. It has been provided to all members of school personnel, the parents' association (if any), the patron and parents. A copy of this statement and risk assessment will be made available to Tusla and the department if requested.

This Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment will be reviewed annually or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which this statement refers

Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
1.	Training of school personnel in Child Protection matters	Harm not recognised or reported promptly Recording procedures not followed Staff Turnover	Child Safeguarding Statement & DEY procedures made available to all staff annually Reminder annually at Staff Meeting to identify DLP & DDLP DLP & DDLP attended Oide face to face training. All Staff have viewed Túsla training module & any other online training offered by Oide Croke Park Hours to facilitate online CP training each academic year. BOM records all records of staff and board training
2.	One to one teaching	Harm to pupils. Harm by school personnel, or pupils Physical risks Accusatory risks or allegations	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
3.	Care of Children with special needs, including intimate care needs	Harm by/to school personnel Accusatory risks or allegations	Structures employed for intimate care on individual care plans. Two personnel present at all times
4.	Toilet areas including showers	Inappropriate behaviour	Toilets are monitored for classroom use and permission is sought outside of this along with acknowledgement of return.
5.	Curricular Provision in respect of Wellbeing - SPHE, RSE, Stay safe.	Non-teaching of same	School implements SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe, Weaving Wellbeing , Safety Statement, Stay Safe Letters to Parents,
6.	LGBTQIA+ Children/Pupils perceived to be LGBTQIA+ Ethnic minorities or migrant backgrounds, traveller pupils, pupils of minority faiths, children in care and on Tusla's CPNS.	Bullying	Bí Cineálta Policy Code of Good Behaviour The DLP being aware of children in care or on CPNS, and liaison with Tusla social workers.
7.	Children Not collected	Harm from older pupils, unknown adults, Wander off	Teacher attends until responsibility passed over to Deputy Principal or contact made with parents and children left supervised by the office personnel.

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
8.	Recreation breaks for pupils	Harm to pupils, harm to adults. Inadequate supervision.	Code of Good Behaviour, Safety Statement, Bí Cineálta Policy
9.	Managing of challenging behaviour amongst pupils, including appropriate use of restraint	Injury to pupils and staff. Unsafe school environment.	Code of Good Behaviour. Bí Cineálta Policy. Safeguarding Statement. Safety Statement. The Department's *Understanding Behaviours of Concern and Responding to Crisis Situations* guidance.
10	Sports Coaches	Harm to pupils**.** Injury to pupils.	Child Protection Policy & Procedures in place. Teachers present when coaches working with pupils
11	Students participating in work experience	Harm to/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.
12	Classroom teaching	Harm to/by pupils. Harm to/by school personnel	Code of Good Behaviour, Bí Cineálta Policy, Health and Safety Policy, glass panels in doors
13	Outdoor teaching activities	Harm to pupils Harm by school personnel,	Code of Good Behaviour. Safety Statement, Bí Cineálta Policy, Health and Safety Policy
14	Sporting Activities / Extra Curricular Classes	Harm to pupils	Code of Good Behaviour, Supervision Policy. Safety Statement, Bí Cineálta Policy. Persons.Garda Vetted
15	School outings	Harm to pupils. Harm by school personnel, or pupils	Code of Good Behaviour, Supervision Policy. Safety Statement, Bí Cineálta Policy
16	Annual Sports Day	Harm to/by pupils, Harm by school personnel/others	Code of Good Behaviour, Bí Cineálta Policy, Child Protection Policy & Procedures in place Health and Safety Policy
17	Fundraising events involving pupils	Harm to/by pupils, Harm by school personnel/ others	Code of Good Behaviour, Bí Cineálta Policy, Child Protection Policy & Procedures in place, Health and Safety Policy
18	Use of off-site facilities for school activities	Harm to/by pupils,Harm by school personnel/others	Code of Good Behaviour, Bí Cineálta Policy, Child Protection Policy & Procedures in place Health and Safety Policy

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
19	School transport arrangements including use of bus escorts	Harm to/by pupils, Harm by school personnel, others, Drivers	Code of Good Behaviour, Safety Statement, Bí Cineálta Policy, Child Protection Policy & Procedures in place Health and Safety Policy
20	Administration of First Aid	Harm to pupils, Harm by school personnel	Code of Good Behaviour, Safety Statement, Bí Cineálta Policy, Child Protection Policy & Procedures, Administration of Medicine policy. Yard Supervision First Aid Room Supervisor with record book Notification given to child for parent attention We operate a triage system with minor injuries on yard Head and more serious injuries are sent to the first aid room, treated, recorded, a note is given to pupil A call to the parents may be necessary. Class Teacher / Mr. Gallagher / Ms Linehan are called for more serious injuries
21	Administration of Medicine	Harm to pupils, Harm by pupils, Harm by school personnel	Code of Good Behaviour, Child Protection Policy & Procedures, Administration of Medicine policy. Care Plans Medication in locked press or stored in teachers drawer Classmate awareness Staff Training/SNA Training
23	Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst pupils	Bullying	Stay Safe Programme, Code of Good Behaviour, Safety Statement, Bí Cineálta Policy
25	Use of external personnel to supplement curriculum	Harm to pupils, Grooming	Accord, Child Protection Policy & Procedures in place, Vetting procedures
26	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	Harm not recognised or properly / promptly reported.	Child Protection Policy & Procedures in place, Code of Good Behaviour, Bí Cineálta Policy, Vetting under the National Vetting Bureau Acts, re-vetting, references, checking identity and qualifications, induction that covers the safeguarding statement, and following the Department's recruitment circulars.

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
27	Children Absent from school	Harm to pupil due to absence	Scoil Bhríde Attendance Strategy Parent to fill in declaration of absence on Aladdin If there is no message from parent or completion of declaration of Absence on Aladdin, an automatic query is sent following the roll to ascertain the reason for the absence. Further notifications are sent if absent following 10, 15 and 20 days. The DLP is told when an absence pattern raises a welfare concern. The statutory notification to Tusla Education Support Service at 20 days is adhered to.
28	Yard supervision at Break time	Harm to pupils, Harm by pupils, Harm to school personnel	The school has a rota of supervision in place for all of the breaks Any injuries deemed serious are logged in the Accident Book in the First Aid Room and a note of the record is sent home to parents. Call home for head injuries. Yard book to record positive and negative behaviours. Photos of children with medical needs and relevant information.
29	School Tours	Harm to Pupils Harm to staff	Adequate number of Supervisory adults present Headcount carried out before departure and before return journey by trip supervisor Supervisor has fully charged mobile phone and a list of contact numbers Students are made aware of action to take if they are separated from the group Information on particular medical conditions has been disseminated to the Tour Supervising Teacher Safe adequate transport there and back Fully stocked First Aid Kit will be brought
30	Mobile Phones / Smart watches	Harm to pupils Harm to staff Photographing or recording other pupils, or contact from unknown people	If parents require their children to have a mobile phone / smart phone they must be placed in a box to be kept by the teacher until the end of the day and returned then.
31	Allergies and illness	Harm to pupils	A list is compiled each year from incoming Junior Infants of allergies and illnesses. A whole school list of the same has been created which is updated and

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
			added to each year . This list including photos is placed in each yard book so as to make the children easily identifiable to teachers and SNAs. Teachers
32	Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils	Harm from older pupils, unknown adults on the playground	Arrival and dismissal by teachers / SNA's/ Principal/ Deputy Principal • Doors open at 8:50am. • Children walk directly to their classrooms, via their assigned door • Junior infant / 6th children enter the school through their designated door. • Parents are allowed on school grounds in the mornings but only as far as the doors. • Staff supervise all entry points. • All corridors have supervising teachers and SNAs. .• One-to-one handover of children in Junior / Senior Infant pupils, • Pupils who arrive late enter via main door • Pupils who depart early signed out by Parent/guardian at reception, including reason for same
33	Use of Information and Communication Technology by pupils in the school	Bullying Risk of harm due to children inappropriately accessing/using computers, social media, phones and other devices at school	Data Protection Policy, AUP Policy No smart phones/smart watches/ outside devices allowed to be used during school hours Firewall/Chrome books/ Ipads • Bí Cinéalta Policy • Code of Behaviour Policy • Safer Internet Awareness Day in school each year.
34	Access to main Stairwell	Risk to pupils and adults	We have been forced to close down the main stairwell as a safety measure due to ongoing leaks. No child may use it. Adults may use it when access is allowed under dry conditions. Classes have been redirected until further notice
35	Photography, video and social media of school events	Photographing or recording other pupils, or contact from unknown people	Parental consent on enrolment, no children's full names next to photos
36	Use of school premises by other organisations		Rental agreement conditions adhered to and must have own appropriate insurance including public liability etc and follow a recognised Child Protection Policy.

In accordance with Section 11 of the Children First Act 2015 and with the requirements of Chapter 9 of the Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025, the following is the written Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment.

In undertaking this Child Safeguarding Statement and 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.

This Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment was reviewed by the board of

management on 09/11/2026 (*most recent review date)*

Signed:*	Fiona Pakenham	**Date**: 09/11/2026

Chairperson of the board of management

Signed:*	Carmel Linehan	**Date**: 09/11/2026

Principal/Secretary to the board of management

This Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment is expected to be reviewed again

on Term One 2027 *(expected review date)*

Appendix - Location of copies of the Child Protection Procedures and Children First Guidance

This may be in the form of specifying the online location for the procedures (Department of Education and Youth website www.gov.ie/childprotectionschools and/or the school website), providing a link to the Children First National Guidance 2017 Children_First_National_Guidance_2017.pdf, and stating the number and location of hard copies of these procedures available in the school.

Hard copies are available in the Child Protection filing cabinet in the Principal's Office.

Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk assessment and child friendly 'Child Safeguarding in Our school' document are available on Aladdin and on the Staff Drive.

These documents are on our school website and hanging in our reception area as well as every classroom. Further copies of the child friendly 'Child Safeguarding in Our school' document are on display at children's eye-level on our corridors and in a variety of languages.