

St. Brigid's National School



Child Safeguarding Statement

St. Brigid's National School is a mainstream primary school with three designated classes for children with Autism.

In accordance with the requirements of the Children First Act 2015, Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children 2017, 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 National 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: **Kenneth Kerins**
3. The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (DDL) is: **Angela Burns**
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. The school will adhere to the following principles of best practice in child protection and welfare. The school will:
 - a. recognise that the protection and welfare of children is of paramount importance, regardless of all other considerations
 - b. fully comply with its statutory obligations under the Children First Act 2015 and other relevant legislation relating to the protection and welfare of children
 - c. fully co-operate with the relevant statutory authorities in relation to child protection and welfare matters
 - d. 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
 - e. develop a practice of openness with parents and encourage parental involvement in the education of their children; and
 - f. 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:
 - a. 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 DES website.
 - b. 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 DES and available on the DES website.
 - c. 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:
 - i. Has provided each member of staff with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement.
 - ii. Ensures all new staff are provided with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement.
 - iii. Encourages staff to avail of relevant training.
 - iv. Encourages Board of Management members to avail of relevant training.
 - v. The Board of Management maintains records of all staff and Board member training.

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- d. 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.
 - e. 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.
6. All registered teachers employed by the school are mandated persons under the Children First Act 2015.
 7. In accordance with the Children First Act 2015, 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 attached as an appendix to these procedures.
 8. The various procedures referred to in this Statement can be accessed via the school's website, the DES 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.

9. 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.
10. 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 23rd April 2020.

Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment

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(of any potential harm)

| List of School Activities | Risk Level | The School has identified the following Risk of Harm | The School has the following Procedures in place to address risk identified in this assessment |
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| Training of school personnel in Child Protection matters | High | Harm not recognised or reported promptly | Child Safeguarding Statement & DES procedures made available to all staff DLP& DDLP to attend PDST face to face training All Staff to view Túsla training module & any other online training offered by PDST BOM records all records of staff and board training |
| One to one teaching | Med | Harm by school personnel | School has policy in place for one to one teaching |
| Care of Children with special needs, including intimate care needs | High | Harm by school personnel | Policy on intimate care |
| Toilet areas | High | Inappropriate behaviour | Usage and supervision policy |
| Curricular Provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay safe. | Med | Non-teaching of same | SPHE Policy |
| Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils | Med | Harm from older pupils, unknown adults on the playground | Arrival and dismissal supervised by Teachers |
| Managing of challenging behaviour amongst pupils, including appropriate use of restraint | High | Harm to pupils and staff | Physical intervention policy Health & Safety Policy Code of Behaviour |
| Sports Coaches | Med | Harm to pupils | Visitors Policy |
| Students participating in work experience/ teaching practice | Low | Harm by student | Work experience Policy Child Safeguarding Statement. |
| Recreation breaks for pupils | High | Harm to pupils | Yard policy, supervision policy, Anti-bullying policy, Health and Safety policy |
| Classroom teaching | Low | Harm to pupils | Health and safety policy, anti-bullying policy, code of behaviour |
| Outdoor teaching activities | High | Unknown adults, harm to pupils | SPHE Policy, Anti-bullying policy, Supervision policy, Health and Safety policy |
| Sporting Activities | High | Harm to pupils, unknown adults | Supervision policy, Code of Behaviour policy, Garda Vetting |
| Extra-curricular activities | Med | Harm to pupil, inappropriate use of ICT | Internet Acceptable Use policy, Health and Safety policy, SPHE curriculum / Stay Safe programme |
| School outings | High | Harm to pupils, unknown adults | Supervision policy, Code of Behaviour, Health and Safety policy, Intimate Care policy, Physical intervention policy, School Tours / Excursions Policy |
| Annual Sports Day | High | Harm to pupils | Code of Behaviour policy, |

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| | | | Supervision policy, Anti-bullying policy, Safety, Health and Welfare policy |
| Fundraising events involving pupils | Med | Risk of harm by external personnel. | SPHE / Stay Safe programme, Supervision Policy |
| Use of off-site facilities for school activities | Med | Harm to pupils, unknown adults | SPHE / Stay Safe programme, Supervision Policy, Safety, Health and Welfare Policy |
| School transport arrangements including use of bus escorts | High | Risk of child being alone if first/last on bus. Risk of harm to children with SEN who have vulnerabilities. | Garda vetting |
| Administration of Medicine Administration of First Aid | High | Harm by school personnel | Supervision policy, health and safety |
| Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst pupils | Med | Harm by other pupils | Anti-bullying, code of behaviour, SPHE policy |
| Use of external personnel to supplement curriculum | High | Harm by external personnel | Garda Vetting, Supervision policy |
| 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 Child protection notification system | High | Harm to themselves or others, Harm to pupils from adults | Anti-bullying policy, Code of Behaviour policy, Religion Policy, SPHE policy, Supervision policy |
| Recruitment of school personnel including - Teacher SNAs 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 or promptly reported | Child Safeguarding Statement & DES procedures made available to all staff All staff must complete Tusla 'Introduction to Children First' training and produce certificate Staff to view Tusla training module & any other online training offered by PDST Vetting Procedures Policy of Parents / Volunteers Policy on Visiting Contractors |
| Use of Information and | High | Bullying | ICT policy |

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| Communication Technology by pupils in school | | | Anti-Bullying Policy Code of Behaviour |
| Application of sanctions under the school's Code of Behaviour including detention of pupils, confiscation of phones etc. | Med | Harm by adults and other pupils | Code of behaviour |
| Use of video/photography/other media to record school events | High | Harm by adults and other pupils | Written consent from parents/guardians, verbal notice at events |

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.

This risk assessment has been completed by the Board of Management on 23rd April 2020. It will be reviewed as part of the school's annual review of its Child Safeguarding Statement.