



SCOIL BHRÍDE BUACHAILLÍ
CHILD SAFEGUARDING STATEMENT

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1. Introduction & Rationale

Scoil Bhríde Buachaillí is an all-boys primary school for pupils from Junior Infants to 6th 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 Buachaillí has agreed the Child Safeguarding Statement 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 Primary and Post Primary Schools 2017 as part of this overall Child Safeguarding Statement.

2. Designated Liaison Person

The Designated Liaison Person (DLP) is Séamus Sullivan.

3. Deputy Designated Liaison Person

The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is Stephen Mullen.

4. Principles of Best Practice

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;
- 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. Procedures

The following procedures/measures are in place:

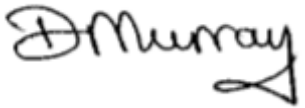
- In relation to any member of staff who is the subject of any investigation (howsoever described) in respect of any act, omission or circumstance in respect of a child attending the school, the school adheres to the relevant procedures set out in Chapter 7 of the Child Protection Procedures for Primary 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 DE 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; and
 - The Board of Management maintains records of all staff and Board member training.
- In relation to reporting of child protection concerns to TÚSLA, 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 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 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. Publication & Accessibility of Policy

This statement has been published on the school's website and has been provided to all members of school personnel, the Parent Association and the patron. It is readily accessible to parents/guardians, TÚSLA and the Department of Education on request.

7. Ratification & Review

This Child Safeguarding Statement was adopted by the Board of Management on 24th March 2022 and will be reviewed annually or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which this statement refers.

Signed: 
Declan Murray, Chairperson

Signed: 
Séamus Sullivan, Principal & Secretary to the Board

Date: 24th March 2022

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APPENDIX A

Risk Assessment

In accordance with section 11 of the Children First Act 2015 and with the requirements of Chapter 8 of the *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017*, the following is the Written Risk Assessment of Scoil Bhríde Buachailí.

List of School Activities	The school has identified the following Risk of Harm	The school has the following Procedures in place to address risk identified in this assessment
Training of school personnel in Child Protection matters	Harm not recognised or reported promptly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Child Safeguarding Statement</i> & DE 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
Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils	Harm due to inadequate supervision	Arrival and dismissal supervised by teachers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Morning supervision from 840am – parents informed - Infants dismissed to parent/guardian from school door - 1st & 2nd Classes dismissed to parent/guardian form line - 3rd – 6th Classes accompanied by teacher to school gate and dismissed
Recreation breaks for pupils	Harm due to inadequate supervision and/or inappropriate communication between child and unknown adults, e.g. adults passing the school communicating with children through the fence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - System of supervision for yard - School gate closed - Teacher vigilance of passers-by
Classroom teaching	Harm by school personnel	The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation and the relevant DE circulars in relation to recruitment and vetting
One-to-one teaching	Harm by school personnel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Open doors - Where possible, table/furniture between teacher and pupil - Glass in window - Guidance in Special Ed. Policy - Clear communication with parent/guardian
Outdoor teaching activities	Harm by school personnel and/or harm due to inappropriate communication between child and unknown adults	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation and the relevant DE circulars in relation to recruitment and vetting

		- Supervision of classes during activities
Online teaching and learning remotely	Risk of harm due to inappropriate use of online remote teaching and learning communication platform such as an uninvited person accessing the lesson link, pupils being left unsupervised for long periods of time in breakout rooms	The school's <i>Acceptable Use Policy, Remote Teaching and Learning Policy</i> and <i>Zoom Use Policy</i> include references to online teaching and learning and have been shared with all staff and all parents/guardians.
Sporting activities	Harm by member of school personnel, member of staff of another organisation or other person(s) while participating sporting activities	- The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation and the relevant DE circulars in relation to recruitment and vetting. - Supervision of pupils
School tours involving overnight stay	Harm by member of school personnel, member of staff of another organisation or other person(s) while participating out of school activities	- The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation and the relevant DE circulars in relation to recruitment and vetting. - Appropriate level of supervision on school tours
School tours involving foreign travel	Harm by member of school personnel, member of staff of another organisation or other person(s) while participating out of school activities	- The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation and the relevant DE circulars in relation to recruitment and vetting. - Appropriate level of supervision on school tours
Use of toilets in class	Risk of harm from another child. Inappropriate behaviour	Classroom supervision & management
Use of toilet during recreation	Risk of harm from another child. Inappropriate behaviour	Children only using toilets in room designated for First Aid
Annual sports day	Harm by member of school personnel, member of staff of another organisation or other person(s), visitors or volunteers, while participating in school activities	- The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation and the relevant DE circulars in relation to recruitment and vetting. - Increased supervision - Use of walkie talkies by member of staff
Fundraising events involving parents	Harm by member of school personnel, member of staff of another organisation or other person(s) while participating in school activities	- The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation and the relevant DE circulars in relation to recruitment and vetting. - Increased supervision

Use of off-site facilities for school activities	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 e.g. school trip, swimming lessons	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The school has in place a policy and clear procedures in respect of school outings and specifically swimming lessons - Supervision by class teachers - Class teachers to accompany child to toilet but remain outside toilet unless concerned
School transport arrangements including use of bus escorts	Risk of child being harmed by bus escort, taxi/bus driver or other person while child is in the care of the bus escort	The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation and relevant DE circulars in relation to recruitment and Garda vetting
Care of children with special educational needs, including intimate care needs	<p>Harm by school personnel</p> <p>Harm from another child</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation and the relevant DE circulars in relation to recruitment and vetting. - <i>Special Ed. Policy</i> - <i>Intimate Care Policy</i> - S.N.A. support where sanctioned - Supervision
Management of challenging behaviour	Injury to pupils(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Code of Behaviour</i> - De-escalation – M.A.P.A. - Walkie Talkie & Red Card Systems
Administration of medicines	Harm by school personnel	Administration of Medicines Policy
Administration of First Aid	Harm by school personnel	The school adheres to the requirement of the Garda vetting legislation and the relevant DE circulars in relation to recruitment and vetting First Aid administered in classroom or in the office area
Provision of sensitive curricular subjects: SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe	Non-teaching of same	<i>SPHE Policy</i> Declaration Sheet – signed by class teacher
Prevention of/dealing with bullying	<p>Risk of harm from another child</p> <p>Risk of harm not being reported properly and promptly</p>	<p>Anti-Bullying Policy</p> <p>SPHE Policy</p>
Use of external personnel to supplement the curriculum	Harm to pupils by member of staff of another organisation	Supervision – teacher remains with class at all times
<p>Care for children with specific vulnerabilities such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Ethnic Minorities ✓ Traveller community 	<p>Harm from other pupils – bullying</p> <p>Harm from communication from unknown adults</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Anti-Bullying Policy</i> - <i>Code of Behaviour</i> - Child Protection training for school personnel - Teaching of <i>Stay Safe</i>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ LGBT children ✓ Children perceived to be LGBT ✓ Minority Faiths ✓ Children in care ✓ Children on the Child Protection Notification System 		
<p>Recruitment of school personnel or hire of services including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Teachers/SNAs ✓ Caretaker ✓ Secretary ✓ Cleaners ✓ Sports Coaches ✓ External Tutors ✓ Guest Speakers ✓ Volunteers ✓ Contractors present during school hours and/or after-school activities 	Harm to pupils by member of staff or by member of another organisation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation and the relevant DE circulars in relation to recruitment and vetting - Supervision of classes by class teachers during activities
Participation in religious ceremonies/instruction off-site	Harm by member of school personnel, member of staff of another organisation in school activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation and the relevant DE circulars in relation to recruitment and vetting - Supervision - Management of pupils
Use of ICT in school for educational purposes	Risk of harm due to children inappropriately accessing/using computers or other devices at school	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>A.U.P. Policy</i> - <i>ICT Policy</i> - Supervision of pupils
Application of sanctions under the school's Code of Behaviour	Risk of harm due to inappropriate sanctions/application of sanctions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Code of Behaviour</i> - TÚSLA guidelines (2008)
Student teachers undertaking training placement	Harm by non-school personnel and risk of harm not being reported properly and promptly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Supervision by class teacher - <i>Child Safeguarding Statement</i>
Secondary school students undertaking work experience	Harm by non-school personnel and risk of harm not being reported properly and promptly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Supervision by class teacher - <i>Child Safeguarding Statement</i>
Substitute Teachers	Harm from school personnel and risk of harm not being reported properly and promptly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation and the relevant DE circulars in relation to recruitment and vetting

		- <i>Child Safeguarding Statement</i>
Use of video, photograph or other media to record school events	Risk of harm caused by member of school personnel circulating material inappropriately	- Parental consent on enrolment - <i>AUP & ICT Policy</i>
After school use of the premises by other organisations	Harm by member of another organisation	- Vetting through the school - Little Stars – Provide Safeguarding Statement
Use of the school premises by other organisations during the school day	Harm by member of another organisation	- Little Stars – Provide Safeguarding Statement

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*.