



Child Safeguarding Statement

St. Brigid's Primary School, The Coombe

St. Brigid's P.S, The Coombe, Dublin 8 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 2017](#) and [Tusla Guidance on the preparation of Child Safeguarding Statements](#), the Board of Management of St. Brigid's P.S, The Coombe, Dublin 8 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 Michelle Stedman for academic year 22/23
- 3 The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is Grace Cowman for the academic year 22/23
- 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 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 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 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 abovenamed DLP as the "relevant person" (as defined in the Children First Act 2015) to be the first point of contact in respect of the schools 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 (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.
- 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.

This Child Safeguarding Statement was adopted by the Board of Management in March 2018.

This Child Safeguarding Statement was reviewed by the Board of Management on 29/09/2022.

Signed: Amanda McGarry

Chairperson of the Board of Management

Signed: Michelle Stedman

Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Date: 29th September 2022

Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment

Written Assessment of Risk of St. Brigid's Primary School, The Coombe, Dublin 8.

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 St. Brigid's Primary School, The Coombe, Dublin 8

1. List of school activities

Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils
Visibility during yard breaks
Accidents
Classroom teaching
1:1 teaching
1:1 counselling
Outdoor teaching activities
Online teaching and learning remotely
Sporting activities
School outings
Care of children with SEN including intimate care needs
Use of off-site facilities for school activities
Management of challenging behaviour amongst pupils, including appropriate use of restraint where required
Administration of Medicine
Administration of First Aid
Curricular provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe
Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst pupils
Training of school personnel in child protection matters
Use of external personnel to supplement curriculum, support sports and extra-curricular activities
Recruitment and induction of school personnel including

- Teachers and SNA's,
- Caretaker, Secretary, Cleaners
- Sports Coaches,
- External/Guest Speakers,
- Volunteers/Parents in school activities,
- Visitors/Contractors present in school during school hours
- Visitors/ Contractors present in school during after school activities.

Use of ICT by pupils in school including social media
Application of sanctions under the schools Code of Behaviour
Students participating in work experience in the school
Student teachers undertaking training placement in the school
Care of pupils with specific vulnerabilities/needs such as

- Pupils from ethnic minorities/migrants
- Member 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
- Children with medical needs

Use of video/photography/other media to record school events

After school use of school premises by other organisations

Breakfast Club

Record Keeping

Children travelling in staff cars

Attendance

School transport arrangements including use of bus escorts

2. The school has identified the following risk of harm in respect of its activities

Risk of harm not being recognised by school personnel

Risk of harm not being reported promptly by school personnel

Risk of child being harmed in school by school personnel

Risk of child being harmed in school by another child

Risk of child being harmed in the school 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 person while child participating in out of school activities e.g. school trip, swimming lessons

Risk of harm due to inappropriate use of online remote teaching and learning communication platform such as a

uninvited person accessing the lesson link

Risk of harm due to bullying of child

Risk of harm due to racism

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

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 particular vulnerabilities, including medical vulnerabilities

Risk of harm to a child while a child is receiving intimate care

Risk of harm due to inadequate Code of Behaviour

Risk of harm in 1:1 teaching, counselling, coaching situation

Risk of harm caused by a member of school personnel communicating with pupils in an inappropriate manner via social media, texting, digital device or other manner

Risk of harm caused by school personnel accessing/circulating inappropriate material via social media, texting, digital device or other manner

Risk of harm to child by school personnel or bus driver when travelling in staff car or using bus escort

3. The school has the following procedures in place to address the risks of harm identified in this assessment

All school personnel are provided with a copy of the schools 'Child Safeguarding Statement
The Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools 2017 are made available to all school personnel

School personnel are required to adhere to the Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools 2017 and all registered teaching staff are required to adhere to the Children First Act 2015 and Addendum (2019)

The school implements the full Stay Safe Programme

The school implements the full SPHE curriculum

The school has an Anti-Bullying Policy which fully adheres to the Department's Anti Bullying Procedures for Primary And Post Primary Schools

The schools is committed to inclusive education.

The school has a yard supervision procedure to ensure appropriate supervision of children during assembly, dismissal and breaks and in respect of specific areas such as toilets and restricted areas of the yard.

The school has in place clear procedures for appropriate supervision in respect of school outings

The school has a Health and Safety policy

The schools adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation and relevant Department of Education circulars in relation to recruitment and Garda vetting

The school has codes of conducts for teaching staff as issued by the Teaching Council.

The school complies with the agreed disciplinary procedures for teaching staff

The school has a Special Educational Needs policy

The school has an Intimate Care Needs policy and plan in respect of pupils who require such care

The school has in place a policy and procedures for the administration of medication to pupils

The school:

- Has provided each member of school 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
- Maintains records of all staff and board member training

The school has in place the procedures for the administration of First Aid in its Health and Safety Policy.

The school has in place a Code of Behaviour Policy

The school has an Acceptable Use and Remote Learning Policy in place and has communicated this policy to parents

The school has in place a Mobile Phone Policy

The school has in place a Critical Incident Management Plan

The school has in place a Home School Liaison/ Parental Involvement Policy

The school has in place procedures for the use of external persons to supplement the delivery of the curriculum

The school has in place procedures for the use of external sports coaches

The school has in place, within the SEN policy, clear procedures for 1:1 teaching and counselling activities

The school has in place procedures in respect of student teacher placements

The school has in place procedures in respect of students undertaking work experience in the school

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.