



Child Safeguarding Statement

Gaelscoil 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 2017](#) and [Tusla Guidance on the preparation of Child Safeguarding Statements](#), the Board of Management of [insert school name] 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 Labhaoise Ní Chuinneagáin
- 3 The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is Michelle Ní Phiarsaigh
- 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.

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.

- 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 on 6th March 2018 [date].

This Child Safeguarding Statement was reviewed by the Board of Management on 18th October 2021 [most recent review date].

Signed: *Antóin Ó Briáin*

Chairperson of Board of Management

Signed: *Labhaoise Ní Chuinneagáin*

Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Date: 18.10.21

Date: 18.10.21



Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment

Written Assessment of Risk of Gaelscoil 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 Post-Primary Schools 2017*, the following is the Written Risk Assessment of [name of school].

Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment (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 | <p>Child Safeguarding Statement & DES procedures made available to all staff</p> <p>DLP & DDLP have attended PDST face to face training</p> <p>All Staff viewed Túsla training module & received cert</p> <p>DLP & DDLP viewed online training offered by PDST</p> <p>BOM records all records of staff and board training</p> |
| One to one teaching | Low | Harm by school personnel | <p>School has policy in place for one to one teaching</p> <p>Table between teacher and pupil</p> |

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| | | | Glass in window |
| Toilet areas | High | Inappropriate behaviour | Supervision policy Yard – Pupils are encouraged to use the toilet before break One member of staff on yard duty is responsible for giving permission to pupils to use toilet. Pupils attending SEN – 2 pupils are sent back together to their classroom if a pupil needs to use the toilet. |
| Curricular Provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay safe. | Med | Non-teaching of same | School implements SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe |
| LGBT Children/Pupils perceived to be LGBT | Low | Bullying | Anti-Bullying Policy Code of Behaviour |
| Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils | Med | Harm from older pupils, unknown adults on the playground | Arrival and dismissal supervised by Teachers Teacher walks class to school door and supervises class until the last pupil has been collected. Names & contact details of adults who have permission to collect each child are provided by parents at the beginning of the school year. If an unknown adult calls to collect a child (eg. a family friend, aunt, uncle, cousin etc.) and the school has not been informed beforehand by parents, the parent is contacted to confirm the child has permission to go with that adult. |
| Late drop off, early collection, late pick up, attendance | Med | Negative impact on pupils progress | Children who are dropped to or collected from school more than 10 minutes late are signed in or out of the 'Leabhar Tinrimh' by an adult. <i>This procedure is</i> |

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| | | | <p><i>currently not in place due to Covid 19 Pandemic and associated risks.</i> The school discusses punctuality with parents if children are regularly late.</p> <p>Children's attendance at school will be monitored with absence notes required for all missed days. Contact is made with parents whose children reach a certain threshold.</p> <p>Significant attendance concerns are reported to the Education Welfare Officer.</p> |
| Sports Coaches | Med | Harm to pupils | <p>Policy & Procedures in place</p> <p>Teacher present</p> <p>Vetting</p> |
| Students participating in work experience/placement/teaching practice | Med | Harm by student | <p>Work Experience Policy</p> <p>Child Safeguarding Statement.</p> <p>Vetting</p> |
| Recreation breaks for pupils | High | <p>Access to pupils by strangers</p> <p>Risk of harm from other pupils</p> | <p>Adequate Supervision</p> <p>Recording of Accidents in Leabhar na dTimpistí</p> |
| Classroom teaching | Low | Harm to pupils | <p>Child Safeguarding Statement.</p> <p>Child Protection Training</p> <p>Vetting</p> |
| Outdoor teaching activities | High | <p>Access to pupils by strangers</p> <p>Dangers posed by unfamiliar environment</p> | <p>Adequate planning and preparation by staff</p> <p>Adequate supervision</p> <p>Policies & Procedures in place</p> |
| Sporting Activities | High | <p>Access to pupils by strangers</p> <p>Dangers posed by unfamiliar environment</p> | <p>Adequate planning and preparation by staff</p> <p>Adequate supervision</p> <p>Policies & Procedures in place</p> |

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| | | Accidents | Swimming Pool-No pupil is allowed enter the dressing rooms until unless the teacher is present. Games/matches – Adequate supervision Where girls and boys play on the same team, there will always be separate changing areas. |
| School outings | High | Access to pupils by strangers Dangers posed by unfamiliar environment Accidents Inappropriate behaviour | Adequate planning and preparation by staff Adequate supervision Policies & Procedures in place No mobile phones or recording devices permitted. |
| School trips involving overnight stay | High | Access to pupils by strangers Dangers posed by unfamiliar environment Accidents Inappropriate behaviour | Adequate planning and preparation by staff Adequate supervision Policies & Procedures in place No mobile phones or recording devices permitted 24 hour supervision is provided by Killary Adventure Centre with teachers remaining on site at all times, moving between activities. |
| Fundraising events involving pupils & other school events | High | Access to pupils by strangers | Access to school via front door only Adequate supervision No access to upstairs Planning & preparation |
| Use of off-site facilities for school activities | High | Access to pupils by strangers | Adequate supervision |

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| | | Flight risk Danger posed by unfamiliar environment Use of toilets | Planning & preparation An adult to accompany pupil to toilet |
| School transport arrangements | High | Access to strangers Inappropriate activity | Vetting of bus drivers For school tours – Adequate supervision, teachers move throughout the bus. |
| Administration of Medicine Administration of First Aid | High | Harm to pupils | Administration of Medicines Policy Class lists of pupils with any medical conditions to be stored centrally in office, in the event of class teacher being absent. |
| Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst pupils | High | Harm to pupils | Anti-Bullying Policy Adequate supervision to ensure codes are being followed Positive, open school atmosphere, encouraging open and honest communication between pupils and staff. |
| | | | All parents sign to accept the school's Cód Smachta Promotion of a culture of openness & respect in which students can approach staff to discuss concerns & worries. Anti- Bullying Day & Friendship Week Restorative Practices implemented to resolve conflict Teaching of programmes such as the Friends Programme (NEPS) and the implementation of such programmes as 'Roots of Empathy'. |

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| | | | Various initiatives are implemented such as playground leaders and pupils working together on various projects to encourage positive relationships, always under the supervision of a teacher. |
| Use of external personnel to supplement curriculum | Med | Harm to pupils | Procedures & Policies Vetting |
| 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 | High | Potential for bullying | Anti-Bullying Policy |
| Recruitment of school personnel including - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teachers • SNA's • Caretaker/Secretary/Cleaners • Sports coaches • External Tutors/Guest Speakers • Visitors/contractors present in school during school hours • Visitors/contractors present during after school activities | Med | Harm not recognised or properly or promptly reported | Child Safeguarding Statement & DES procedures made available to all staff Staff to view Tusla training module & any other online training offered by PDST Vetting Procedures Policies & Procedures in place, including signing of Visitors book. |
| Use of school premises by other individuals/tutors during or after school day | Low | Harm to pupils | Vetting Insurance |

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| | | | Responsible for the review & implementation of their own Child Protection Policy & provide the school with written assurance of same. |
| Use of Information and Communication Technology by pupils in school | High | Bullying | <p>AUP policy Anti-Bullying Policy Anti-Cyberbullying Policy Code of Behaviour</p> <p>Information sessions for pupils, parents & staff.</p> <p>Use of electronic devices in school is guided by the school Acceptable Usage Policy</p> <p>School internet is provided by PDST Technology in Education which is monitored for inappropriate content and unsuitable websites blocked.</p> |
| Application of sanctions under the school's Code of Behaviour including detention of pupils, confiscation of phones etc. | Med | Potential harm to pupils | <p>Code of Discipline</p> <p>Mobile phones are not allowed in school or on school trips.</p> |
| Use of video/photography/other media to record school events | High | Parents sharing/posting same on social media. | <p>Relevant policies & procedures in place.</p> <p>Written parental permission to take photos of children is obtained by the school.</p> <p>No name will appear with photos uploaded to the school website.</p> <p>Photos taken at school/school events are stored securely on the school storage system.</p> |

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| Access | Low | Access to pupils by strangers or other adults. Flight risk | Central access system in place and magnetic lock on doors. Visitors have to buzz to gain access, which is governed by receptionist. Pupils not allowed in front of school, unless for specific events such as Active School Initiatives and always monitored by adult supervision A sign in – sign out system operates in the school. All visitors to the school must sign this book. <i>This system is not in place currently, due to the Covid 19 pandemic.</i> |
| Online teaching & learning | Low | Risk of harm due to inappropriate use of online teaching & learning communication platform. | The school has an Acceptable Use policy in place, to include provision for online teaching and learning remotely. |
| Use of tablet devices in the classroom in the course of the school day. | Low | Risk of harm associated with misuse or abuse of devices & the various associated technologies. | The school has a policy in place covering the use of tablet devices during the school day. |

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.