



St. Brigid's Girls' National School

Palmerstown, Dublin 20.

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20th January 2022

Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment – Mandatory Template 1

St. Brigid's GNS 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 GNS 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 Aideen O'Shea (Principal)
- 3 The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is Maeve Hayes (Deputy Principal)
- 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 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 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 on 20th January 2022.

This Child Safeguarding Statement was reviewed by the Board of Management on 20th January 2022.



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Mandatory Template 1: Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment

Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment

Written Assessment of Risk of St. Brigid's GNS, Turret Road, Palmerstown, Dublin 20

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 St. Brigid's GNS, Palmerstown, Dublin 20.

1. List of school activities	2. The school has identified the following risk of harm in respect of its activities –	3. The school has the following procedures in place to address the risks of harm identified in this assessment -
Training of school personnel in Child Protection matters.	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(when available) All Staff to view Túsla training module & any other online training offered by PDST BOM records details of all staff and board training Open doors when teaching one to one

<p>One to one teaching, Learning support, CLASS Hours etc.</p>	<p>Harm by school personnel Risk of harm to children with SEN who have particular vulnerabilities</p>	<p>Table between teacher and pupil Glass panel in support room/ classroom door.</p> <p>The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation and relevant DES circulars in relation to recruitment and Garda vetting The school complies with the agreed disciplinary procedures for teaching staff</p>
<p>Care of Children with special needs, including intimate care needs</p>	<p>Risk of harm to children with SEN who have particular vulnerabilities</p>	<p>Policy on intimate care in place.</p> <p>The school implements a yearly yard supervision procedure to ensure appropriate supervision of children during, assembly, dismissal and breaks and in respect of specific areas such as toilets, changing rooms etc.</p>
<p>Toilet procedure in school</p>	<p>Risk of meeting an unknown adult when travelling to the toilet during class time. Peer to peer interaction – older children interacting negatively with younger children</p>	<p>Use of school toilets procedure in place. Designated times for classes to attend to limit cross over with other classes.</p>
<p>Children going on jobs/messages</p>	<p>Risk of child meeting an unknown adult when travelling in twos to the office etc.</p>	<p>The school implements an agreed procedure around children carrying out messages/jobs – Children always carry out messages/jobs in twos never a child on their own. Pupils will only be sent on age appropriate messages / jobs.</p>
<p>Toilet areas</p>	<p>Inappropriate behaviour</p> <p>Risk of harm to child when child leaves the classroom during class time to use the toilet.</p> <p>Risk of harm to child when child has a toileting</p>	<p>The school implement a yearly yard supervision policy to ensure appropriate supervision of children during, assembly, dismissal and breaks and in respect of specific areas such as toilets, changing rooms etc. Use of school toilets procedure in place.</p>

	<p>accident.</p> <p>Risk of harm to children with SEN who have particular vulnerabilities</p> <p>Risk of harm to child while a child is receiving intimate care</p>	Intimate care policy in place.
Curricular Provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay safe and Weaving Well-Being	Non-teaching of same	School implements SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe in full & details of which are recorded in monthly reports.
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
Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils	Harm from older pupils, unknown adults on the playground.	<p>Updated Covid 19 safety measures for school year 2021-2022 –</p> <p>Each class entering and leaving from designated school doors to avoid cross over between class bubbles.</p> <p>3rd- 6th Class children arriving to the school yard at 8.50am. Early supervision of 3rd – 6th class children from 8.45am. Staff personnel on yard (rota basis) to carry out morning supervision.</p> <p>Junior Infants – 2nd class children arrival onto the school yard at 9.00am</p> <p>JJ- 2nd class children supervised by Parents/Guardians outside school grounds until they are allowed enter the school yard at 9am when senior classes have left the yard, as per school Code of Behaviour. Teachers supervise the arrival of Junior Infants – 2nd class children at 9.00am.</p> <p>The school implement a yearly yard supervision policy to ensure appropriate supervision of children during assembly, dismissal, break times</p>

		<p>and days with inclement weather.</p> <p>Children leaving during the school day – Aladdin profiles are checked to ensure that a child is leaving with an appropriate adult as per their personal profile. Parents are required to enter details of their child’s early leaving time through the Aladdin App if they need to collect their daughter early from school throughout the course of the school day.</p> <p>Daily dismissal supervised by Teachers</p> <p>Junior and senior infant teachers ensure younger pupils are collected by an adult listed on pupil profile on Aladdin. Advance notice is to be given of collection by another adult not listed on profile.</p>
Managing of challenging behaviour amongst pupils, including appropriate use of restraint	Injury to pupils and staff	<p>Health & Safety Policy in place</p> <p>Code Of Behaviour in place</p>
Use of external personnel to support sports and other extra-curricular activities e.g. Sports Coaches	Risk of child being harmed in the school by a volunteer or visitor to the school	<p>External agencies for sports and the arts code of conduct in place.</p> <p>All volunteers/ visiting professionals encouraged to view Tusla Child Protection The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation and relevant DES circulars in relation to volunteers/visiting professionals in school.</p> <p>Garda vetting of external personnel used to supplement the curriculum. Members of school personnel always present for the duration of the activity.</p>

Students participating in work experience	Harm by student	Work experience Policy in place. Child Safeguarding Statement in place.
Recreation breaks for pupils	Injury to pupils and staff Risk of harm to children with SEN who have particular vulnerabilities	Health & Safety Policy in place Code Of Behaviour in place Sickness/Injury at School policy in place and adhered to. The school implement a yearly yard supervision policy to ensure appropriate supervision of children during, assembly, dismissal and breaks and in respect of specific areas such as toilets etc. SEN policy in place.
Classroom teaching	Harm by school personnel Risk of harm to children with SEN who have particular vulnerabilities	The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation and relevant DES circulars in relation to recruitment and Garda vetting The school abides by the Teaching Council codes of conduct for school personnel as well as strict vetting procedures for all permanent and voluntary staff. The school complies with the agreed disciplinary procedures for teaching staff.
Outdoor teaching activities	Injury to pupils	Sickness/Injury at School policy in place and adhered to. Health & Safety Policy in place. Permission forms signed on enrolment in the school for pupils' participation in outdoor teaching activities. Use of school toilets procedure in place. Stay safe programme for all pupils

Sporting Activities	Injury to pupils	External agencies for sports and the arts code of conduct in place. Use of school toilets procedure in place. Sickness/Injury at School policy in place and adhered to. Health & Safety Policy in place.
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
School outings	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	Code Of Behaviour in place. The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation and relevant DES circulars in relation to recruitment and Garda vetting. Health and Safety policy in place. School Tours/excursions policy in place. Use of school toilets procedure in place.
Walking pupils to school events/ locations e.g. St. Philomena's Church, Glenaulin Park, Waterstown Park, Palmerstown Library/Hub, Supervalu complex etc.	Risk of child being harmed by a member of school personnel, a member of staff of another organisation or other person while child walking to various locations for school excursion e.g. St. Philomena's Church, Glenaulin Park, Waterstown Park, Palmerstown Library/Hub, Supervalu complex etc. Risk of child being harmed by another child carrying out inappropriate/poor behaviour. Risk of harm to children with SEN who may have particular vulnerabilities.	The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation and relevant DES circulars in relation to recruitment and Garda vetting. Code Of Behaviour in place. Health and Safety policy in place. School Tours/excursions policy in place. Use of school toilets procedure in place. All staff members to be familiar with procedures for walking groups of children to specific venues staff members. Procedures for walking groups of children to specific venues are adhered to by all

		<p>staff members – as per School Tours/excursions policy.</p> <p>Additional arrangements to be made for children with SEN or care needs as appropriate, in consultation with school Principal, before the excursion commences.</p> <p>SNA (where applicable) to walk with assigned pupil/pupils.</p> <p>Adult positioned at front, middle and end of line of children.</p> <p>When crossing roads, supervising adults to ensure the safe crossing of the children. Middle supervising adult to remain on the road to ensure the children walk briskly across the road. Middle supervising adult to remain on the road until met by the adult supervising the end of the line and confirms that no more children are to cross. The middle supervising adult should then resume their position at the middle of the line. Safety of the children and the adults should be a priority at all times.</p> <p>Pupils always walk in pairs.</p> <p>Pupils encouraged to be aware of their surroundings as they walk and when crossing the road.</p> <p>Procedures for walking groups of children to various locations/venues agreed by all staff members and adhered to by all staff members.</p>
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		Route to be travelled should be planned out by supervising teachers in advance of the excursion commencing – appropriate stopping points to ensure the group/class.
Use of toilet/changing/shower areas in school and in Swimming Pool	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	Code Of Behaviour in place Policy on intimate care in place. Use of school toilets procedure in place. Policy on School Tours and Outings in place Policy on swimming in place.
Annual Sports Day / School Open Days /Member of the public/school community viewing sports day.	Risk of child being harmed in the school by volunteer or visitor to the school	External agencies for sports and the arts code of conduct in place. Sickness/Injury at School policy in place and adhered to. Code of Behaviour in place. Teachers are mindful of the adults that are around. Child only speaks to an adult on asking teachers permission. Supervision timetable created for open day events.
Fundraising events involving pupils	Risk of child being harmed in the school by volunteer or visitor to the school. Risk of harm due to inadequate behaviour between peers.	The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation and relevant DES circulars in relation to volunteers in school. School visitors policy in place. Code Of Behaviour in place.

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
Management of challenging behaviour amongst pupils, including appropriate use of restraint where required	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	<p>The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation and relevant DES circulars in relation to recruitment and Garda vetting</p> <p>The school abides by the Teaching Council codes of conduct for school personnel as well as strict vetting procedures for all permanent and voluntary staff.</p> <p>The school complies with the agreed disciplinary procedures for teaching staff.</p>
Administration of Medicine Administration of First Aid	Allergic reactions to medication	<p>Sickness/Injury at School policy in place and adhered to.</p> <p>Parents/Guardians of children in need of medication during school hours complete a school indemnification form before medication is administered to a child.</p>
Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst pupils	Risk of harm due to bullying of child	The school has an Anti-Bullying Policy which fully adheres to the requirements of the Department's <i>Anti-Bullying Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools</i>
Use of external personnel to supplement curriculum	Risk of child being harmed by a member of staff of another organisation or other person while child participating in out of school activities.	<p>The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation and Garda vetting is strictly monitored in the school.</p> <p>Teacher stays in the room at all times with her/his class to ensure that the member of personnel from any visiting organisation or volunteer is supervised at all times.</p> <p>School visitor's policy in place.</p>

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
<p>Care of pupils with specific vulnerabilities/ needs such as</p> <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 • Children on CPNS • Homeless children • Children experiencing homelessness • Children experiencing poverty • Children experiencing mental health issues • Children experiencing abuse 	<p>Harm not recognised or properly or promptly reported</p>	<p>The school –</p> <p>Has provided each member of school staff with a copy of the school’s Child Safeguarding Statement</p> <p>Has provided each member of school staff with a copy of the Department of Education and Skills Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools 2017.</p> <p>Ensures all new staff are provided with a copy of the school’s Child Safeguarding Statement</p> <p>Encourages staff to avail of relevant training</p> <p>Encourages board of management members to avail of relevant training</p> <p>BOM records details of all staff and board training</p> <p>Anti-Bullying Policy in place.</p> <p>Stay Safe fully implemented.</p> <p>Code of Behaviour in place.</p>
<p>Recruitment of school personnel including -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teachers • SNAs • Caretaker/Secretary/Cleaners 	<p>Harm not recognised, properly or promptly reported</p> <p>Risk of harm in one-to-one teaching, coaching situation</p>	<p>Child Safeguarding Statement & DES procedures made available to all staff</p> <p>Staff to view Tusla training module & any other online training offered by PDST</p> <p>The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation and relevant DES circulars in relation to recruitment and Garda vetting</p> <p>The school abides by the Teaching Council codes</p>

		of conduct for school personnel as well as strict vetting procedures for all permanent and voluntary staff. The school complies with the agreed disciplinary procedures for teaching staff.
Visitors/contractors present in school during school hours Visitors/contractors present during after school activities	Risk of child being harmed in the school by volunteer or visitor to the school.	School visitor's policy in place. External agencies for sports and the arts code of conduct in place.
Use of school premises by other organisation outside school day	Risk of child being harmed by a member of staff of another organisation or other person while child participating in out of school activities	All personnel vetted and Garda checked through Archbishops House.
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
Use of Information and Communication Technology by pupils in school, including social media.	Risk of harm due to children inappropriately accessing/using computers, social media, phones and other devices while at school Risk of harm caused by member of school personnel communicating with pupils in appropriate manner via social media, texting, digital device or other manner Risk of harm caused by member of school personnel accessing/circulating inappropriate material via social media, texting, digital device or other manner	ICT policy in place AUP in place Anti-Bullying Policy in place Code of Behaviour in place Adequate supervision of children at all times. Use of appropriate resources by teacher to raise awareness amongst pupils. Stay safe fully implemented.
Application of sanctions under the school's Code of Behaviour	Bullying	The school has an Anti-Bullying Policy which fully adheres to the requirements of the Department's <i>Anti-Bullying Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools</i>

Students participating in work experience in the school	Risk of child being harmed in the school by volunteer or visitor to the school	Work experience policy in place. Child Safe Guarding Policy in place.
Student teachers undertaking training placement in school	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	Work experience policy in place. Child Safe Guarding Policy in place.
Use of video/photography/other media to record school events	Risk of harm due to children inappropriately accessing/using computers, social media, phones and other devices while at school Risk of child's image/personal information being accessible in the public domain.	The school has in place an ICT policy in respect of usage of ICT by pupils and staff The school has in place a mobile phone procedures in respect of usage of mobile phones by pupils and staff Visitors to our school are asked to refrain from photographing/videoing children in our school.
Online teaching and learning remotely	Risk of child being harmed online by member of school personnel, by another child, by a household member of another child or by anyone who accesses the online learning platform	Garda vetting of all school personnel. Procedures for online learning set out in the school's Acceptable Use Policy.
Use of off-site facilities for school activities	Risk of children being harmed by others using the facility	Supervision of pupils at all times by members of school personnel.
School transport arrangements including use of bus escorts	Risk of harm due pupils not following the school code of behaviour. Risk to students/staff and occupants of the bus.	The school has in place a Critical Incident Management Plan Code of Behaviour in place. School Tours/excursions policy in place. Bus Escort Policy/role and responsibility (to be formulated in advance of opening of our ASD class in the school). Child Protection/Safeguarding training. Individual Behaviour Support Plans/Liaison with

		teacher and SNA. School adheres to the requirements of Garda Vetting Legislation and relevant DES circulars in relation to recruitment and Garda Vetting
Participation by pupils in religious ceremonies/religious instruction external to the school	Risk of child being harmed in the school by personnel associated with religious instruction	Instruction to take place in classroom with class teacher present at all times. Classes only to be held if there is more than one child present.

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.

The risk assessment has been completed by the Board of Management on 20th January 2022 and will be reviewed as part of the school’s annual review of its Child Safeguarding Statement.