

## Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment

### Child Safeguarding Statement

Scoil Bhríde Eglantine 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 Scoil Bhríde Eglantine 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 Ger O'Brien
- 3 The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is Jennifer O'Shea
- 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 school’s 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 14/3/2023

This Child Safeguarding Statement will be reviewed by the Board of Management in March 2024

Signed: Bill Reidy  
Chairperson of Board of Management

Signed: Geraldine O'Boyle  
Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Date: 14-3-2023

Date: 14-3-2023

## Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment

### Written Assessment of Risk of Scoil Bhríde Eglantine

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].

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	<p>Child Safeguarding Statement &amp; DES procedures made available to all staff</p> <p>DLP&amp; DDLP have attended PDST face to face training (03/03/2020) All Staff have viewed Tusla training module &amp; any other online training offered by PDST.</p> <p>Yearly review of Risk Assessment by the whole staff 03/03/2023 along with Board of Management review and ratification (14/03/2022) .</p> <p>BOM records all records of staff and board training</p>
One to one teaching	Harm by school personnel	School has procedures in place for one to one teaching Open doors and/or glass in window/door

Care of Children with special needs, including intimate care needs	Harm by school personnel	Procedures for intimate care in place as part of Child safeguarding procedures.
Toilet areas	Inappropriate behaviour	Procedures in place for Toilet areas and made available to all school personnel
Curricular Provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay safe.	Non-teaching of same	School implements SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe in full
LGBT Children/Pupils perceived to be LGBT	Bullying	Anti-Bullying Policy Code of Behaviour
Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils during and after school	Harm from older pupils, unknown adults on the playground	Arrival and dismissal at designated times supervised by teachers/SNA's (ref supervision policy) Procedures in place around collection and dismissal in place
Managing of challenging behaviour amongst pupils.	Injury to pupils and staff	Health & Safety Policy Code of Behaviour
Sports Coaches	Harm to pupils	Policy & Procedures in place, all coaches are Garda Vetted through our Patron. Sessions are always supervised by classroom teachers.
Students participating in work experience including student teachers	Harm by student	Work experience procedures in place, always over 16years old, Garda vetted and will be supervised by a classroom teacher.

Recreation breaks for pupils	Harm to pupils by non-school personnel on school grounds	Security cameras, supervision by school personnel. Non- automated closure of gates.
Classroom teaching	Harm to pupils	Procedures in place regarding Garda Vetting of all school personnel. All classroom teacher fully implement Stay Safe/SPHE and have engaged in Tusla online training.
Outdoor teaching activities	Harm to pupils	Timetabled and supervised use of yard and playground subject to weather conditions
Sporting Activities	Harm to pupils	Use of all mandatory safety equipment.
School outings including swimming lessons	Harm to pupils due to inappropriate use of photographic images by non-school personnel	Effective Supervision of pupils by teachers/SNA's and parents (always vetted), emergency contact list and first aid kit and on all outings
Use of toilet/changing areas in schools	Inappropriate behaviour	Procedures on intimate care in place
Active Schools Week	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children in school.	Timetabled activities and effective supervision
Fundraising events involving pupils	Harm to pupils	Effective supervision involving parents(always vetted) SNA's/Teachers
Use of off-site facilities for school activities including swimming lessons	Harm to Pupils	Effective supervision of pupils. Parental consent sought. Emergency contact list
School transport arrangements including use of bus escorts	Harm to pupil	Garda Vetting of escorts. Effective supervision Emergency contacts list provided. Parental consent sought.
Administration of Medication  Administration of First Aid	Harm to Pupils	Administration of Medicine policy Health and Safety Policy First Aid Training for Staff

Curricular provision in respect of SPHE and RSE & Stay Safe	Harm to pupils	The school implements in full the Stay Safe, RSE and SPHE Programme. The school has embedded a Well Being Programme
Curricular provision in respect of digital learning and use of IT at school.	Harm to pupils. Exposure to inappropriate content or risk of Cyberbullying.	Stay Safe Programme implemented across all classes. Annual Safety Talk/Internet Safety Talk provided by Community Garda to senior classes. Acceptable Usage Policy in place. PDST broadband ensures access to websites is filtered and age appropriate.
Prevention of and dealing with bullying amongst pupils	Risk of harm to pupils communicating with other pupils in an inappropriate manner via social media, texting, digital devices or in other manner.	SPHE Policy/Stay Safe/Wall Tall/ HTML Heroes Anti-Bullying Policy in Place. Anti-Bullying talks for parents and personnel.
Training of school personnel in child protection matters	Lack of training leading to misinterpretation of procedures by staff.	School personnel have engaged in appropriate training
Use of external personnel to supplement curriculum	Risk of harm due to inappropriate relationships/ communication between child and another child or adult.	Child safeguarding and risk assessment statement. All external personnel Garda Vetted Classroom teacher present at all times.

<p>Care of pupils with specific vulnerabilities/ needs such as</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pupils from ethnic minorities/migrants</li> <li>• Members of the Traveller community</li> <li>• Lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender (LGBT) children</li> <li>• Pupils perceived to be LGBT</li> <li>• Pupils of minority religious faiths</li> <li>• Children in care</li> </ul>	<p>Risk of Harm to particular vulnerable children/children at risk.</p> <p>Risk of harm to pupils caused by pupil communicating via inappropriate digital communication.</p> <p>Risk of harm to pupils due to inappropriate relationships /communication between a child and another child or adult</p>	<p>Anti-Bullying Policy Weaving Well Being Programme (SPHE and RSE) Code of Behaviour Policy Ethos of respect communicated modelled by all school personnel. Guest Speakers Full implementation Stay Safe and school rules. School Mission Statement. AUP Policy</p>
<p>Recruitment of school personnel including -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Teachers</li> </ul>	<p>Harm not recognised or properly or promptly reported</p> <p>Risk of child being harmed by non-school personnel</p>	<p>Child Safeguarding Statement &amp; DES procedures made available to all staff.</p> <p>Requirement of all interview processes is the furnishing of Tusla certificate of Training.</p>



<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SNA's</li> <li>• Caretaker/Secretary/Cleaners</li> <li>• Sports coaches</li> <li>• External Tutors/Guest Speakers</li> <li>• Volunteers/Parents in school activities</li> <li>• Visitors/contractors present in school during school hours</li> <li>• Visitors/contractors present during after school activities</li> </ul>		<p>Staff to view Tusla training module &amp; any other online training offered by PDST</p> <p>Vetting Procedures</p> <p>Procedures of Parents/ Volunteers</p> <p>Procedures on Visiting Contractors</p> <p>Non-school personnel escorted by appropriate school personnel at all times.</p>
<p>Use of school premises by other organisation during school day</p>	<p>Harm to pupils and non-school pupils.</p>	<p>All external personnel are Garda Vetted</p>
<p>Use of information and communication technology by pupils in school</p>	<p>Bullying</p> <p>Possible exposure to inappropriate material</p>	<p>ICT Policy</p> <p>Anti-Bullying Policy</p> <p>Code of Behaviour</p> <p>AUP Policy</p> <p>Effective supervision of pupils.</p> <p>Restorative Practices Policy.</p>
<p>Application of sanctions under the schools Code of Behaviour including detention of pupils, confiscation of phones etc.</p>	<p>Lack of effective supervision may cause harm to pupils</p>	<p>Use of detention is not applicable in our school.</p> <p>Inappropriate phone usage is covered in our AUP Policy</p>
<p>Use of Video / Photography / Other media to record school events</p>	<p>Harm to pupils and school personnel due to inappropriate use</p>	<p>AUP Policy</p> <p>Effective supervision of pupils</p>

<p>After school use of premises by other organisations</p>	<p>Harm to pupils due to inadequate Supervision.</p>	<p>Garda vetting mandatory for all external personnel. Procedures in place regarding best practice in this area. C.C.T.V cameras both internal and external.</p>
--	--	--