CSS 1: CHILD SAFEGUARDING STATEMENT

For:	**Scoil Bhríde, Eglantine.**
At:	**Eglantine Park, Ballinlough, Cork**
Date:	**17th Nov 2026**

This school is a: (tick appropriate) ☒primary ☐post-primary ☐ special school

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) and 2025, Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025 and Child Safeguarding: A Guide for Policy, Procedure and Practice, 2nd ed. (Tusla, 2024), the board of management has adopted the Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment 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 Schools 2025 as part of this overall Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment.

Name of the Designated Liaison Person (DLP):

Geraldine O Brien

Name of the Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP/DDLP):

Louise Hennessy

In the absence of the DLP, the Deputy DLP shall assume responsibilities of the DLP

Name of Relevant Person

Geraldine O Brien

(In schools this person is the DLP)

Relevant Person can be contacted on:

021 4295551 083 2017420	info@eglantine.ie

Under the Children First Act 2015 Relevant Person means a person who is appointed by a provider of a relevant service to be the first point of contact in respect of the Child Safeguarding Statement. This person is nominated by the Board of Management to manage and provide oversight of child protection concerns/allegations of child abuse.

Name of Chairperson of the Board of Management, or in an ETB school the Chief Executive or their delegate:

Sheelagh O Leary

In the event that both DLP and DDLP are absent and unavailable, and where there is no staff member formally acting in their role, the chairperson of the Board of Management, or in an ETB school the chief executive or their delegate, assumes the role of DLP.

The Board of Management recognises that child protection and safeguarding permeate all aspects of school life and must be reflected in all of the school's policies, procedures, practices and activities. In all of these, 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 happening to children and protect members of school personnel from the necessity to take unnecessary risks that may leave themselves open to accusations of child abuse.

☒Develop a practice of openness with parents and encourage parental involvement in the education of their children.

☒Fully respect confidentiality requirements as set out in the Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025 in dealing with child protection matters.

☒Adhere to the above principles in relation to any vulnerable adult.

Procedures and Measures in Place

Our Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment has been developed in line with requirements under the Children First Act 2015, the *Children First: National Guidance 2017*, and *Child Safeguarding: A Guide for Policy, Procedure and Practice, 2nd ed. (Tusla, 2024),* and the *Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025.* In addition to the procedures listed in our risk assessment,

the following procedures support our intention to safeguard children while they are availing of our service:

> Procedure for the Management of Allegations of Abuse or Misconduct against School Personnel Relating to a Child Availing of Our Service- See Appendix 1

~ Where any member of school personnel is the subject of any investigation in respect of any act, omission or circumstance in relation to a child attending the school, the school is required to adhere to the relevant procedures set out in Chapter 7 of *the Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025* and to the relevant agreed disciplinary procedures for school staff which are published on the gov.ie website.

> Procedure for the Safe Recruitment and Selection of School Personnel to Work with Children

~ The school is required to adhere to the requirements of the Vetting Act. The selection or recruitment of staff and their suitability to work with children, requires the school to adhere 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 Youth and available on the gov.ie website and as outlined in Chapter 10 of the procedures.

~ A written protocol is in place authorising immediate action for cases which require an employee to be immediately absented from school for child safeguarding reasons.

> Procedure for Provision of and Access to Child Safeguarding Training and Information, Including the Identification of the Occurrence of Harm

~ The school provides information and training to members of school personnel in relation to the identification of the occurrence of harm (as defined in the 2015 Act) as follows:

~ The school has provided each member of school personnel, including any new members of school personnel, (employees and volunteers, board of management members, student teachers and those on work experience) with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment.

~ The school ensures that members of school personnel have availed of relevant training and completed child protection training.

~ The school encourages board of management members to avail of any relevant training and complete child protection training.

~ The Board of Management ensures that records of all staff and board member child protection training are maintained.

> Procedure for the Reporting of Child Protection or Welfare Concerns to Tusla

~ All members of school personnel are required to adhere to the procedures set out in the *Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025*, in relation to reporting of child protection concerns to Tusla. Mandated reporting applies to all registered teachers and any other mandated person who may be employed by the school, for example a chaplain or nurse. A full list of those people who are mandated persons is set out in Appendix 1 procedures.

> Procedure for Maintaining a List of the Persons (if any) in the Relevant Service Who Are Mandated Persons

~ There is a procedure in place to maintain a list of mandated persons. Schools may on occasion employ additional staff who are mandated by virtue of their profession. This list will include all registered teachers and identify additional employees that are not registered teachers.

> Procedure for Appointing a Relevant Person (In schools this person is the DLP)

~ There is a procedure in place for appointing a relevant person.

The various procedures referred to in this Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment can be accessed via the school's website, the gov.ie website or will be made available on request by the school.

In accordance with the Children First Act 2015, the Addendum to Children First 2019 and 2025, and the *Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025,* the Board of Management 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.

Note: The procedures and measures in place outlined above, are not intended as exhaustive list. Individual boards of management shall also include in this section such other procedures and measures that are of relevance to the school.

This statement has been published on the school's website or will be made available on request by the school. It has been provided to all members of school personnel, the parents' association (if any), the patron and parents. A copy of this statement and risk assessment will be made available to Tusla and the department if requested.

This Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment 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:

Sheelagh O'Leary

Sheelagh O Leary
Chairperson, Board of Management

Geraldine O Brien
Principal
Secretary to the Board of Management

Date:

17/11/2026

Scoil Bhríde, CSS Risk Assessment

In accordance with Section 11 of the Children First Act 2015 and with the requirements of Chapter 9 of the Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025, the following is the written Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment.

In undertaking this Child Safeguarding Statement and 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.

List of School Activities	The School has identified the following risk of harm in respect of its activities	The School has the following procedures in place to address the risk of harm identified in this assessment
Adhering to Child Protection Procedures Training of School personnel in Child Protection matters Monitoring of children on CPNS- Child Protection Notification system.	• Staff not recognising abuse /risk • Inadequate training • Risk of omission of care where a child attendance is very poor/ failure to attend school	• Whole staff training completed; Sep 26 • All School personnel provided with a copy of the Child Safeguarding Statement and the Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools 2025 is on the shared in staffroom. • Recruitment of all staff- teachers, SNA's, caretaker, secretaries- ensure vetting is in place and school adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation. • The school will adhere to recruitment procedures and obtain a Statutory Declaration and a Form of Undertaking from new recruits as per the requirements on the DEY website.

	• Risk of harm/ abuse/ Misconduct against School Personnel of a child	• As per Section 7.3 of Child protection procedures 2025: A written protocol is in place authorising immediate action for cases which require an employee to be immediately absented from school for child safeguarding reasons. • Attendance Policy in place – monitoring children's attendance • Child-friendly Safeguarding Statement displayed at reception / classrooms / corridors.
Bullying Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst pupils	• Risk of harm from bullying, risk of not addressing / or inadequate code of behaviour • Risk of harm due to bullying of child or child being harmed by another child in School	• **Code of Behaviour in place** • Regular assembly and class discussion on bullying and good behaviour. • **Bí Cineálta policy/ procedures in** place available on Aladdin and Website- to address/ prevent bullying in schools • Child friendly Visual **Bí Cineálta displayed on posters around school**
Critical Incident	• Inadequate training • Misinformation	• **Critical Incident Management plan** in place
Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst staff	• Risk of harm to staff members	• School complies with **disciplinary procedures** for teaching staff • **Dignity at Work Policy in development.** • **Working Together** document
One-to-one teaching / support	• Risk of harm in one-to-one teaching or support.	• **Code of Conduct for Teachers (Teaching Council)** • Leave glass in door /window clear, when possible take more than one child • Open view/door and adequate proximity
Management of challenging behaviour amongst pupils, including appropriate use of restraint where required.	• Risk of harm in a one to one situation	• **Code of Conduct for Teachers (Teaching Council)** in place • Stay visible to others / public place

Outdoor Teaching	• Risk of harm from strangers • Children being unsupervised	• **Health and Safety policy in place** • **Supervision Policy in place** • **CCTV in place**
External teacher / coach/ personnel to supplement curriculum	• Risk of child being harmed by a member of staff of another organisation	• **Code of Conduct for Teachers (Teaching Council)** in place • School adheres to **Garda vetting** legislation • Adhere to DE circulars & patron direction in relation to recruitment. • **Supervision Policy in place** and procedures in place for engaging with external sports coaches
Students participating in Work experience/ Student Teacher undertaking training placement in School	• Risk of harm	• School adheres to Garda vetting legislation • DE circulars in relation to recruitment • Procedures in place- vetting/ never left alone with pupils • **Supervision Policy in place** and procedures in place for engaging with external sports coaches • **Work Experience Policy/** procedures in place
Curricular provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe	• Inadequate provision	• School implements **Stay Safe Programme, RSE, SPHE in full.** • School implements **Weaving Wellbeing.**
Online Teaching and learning (laptops or iPads, Sumdog for example)	• Risk of harm due to inappropriate use of online teaching and learning communication platform such as uninvited person accessing the lesson link • Risk of harm due to children inappropriately accessing social media and other devices at school. • Risk of harm by member of school personnel communicating with pupils in an	• **Acceptable Use Policy** in place**,** to include provision for online teaching and learning, and has communicated this policy to parents. • **Internet filtering system** as overseen by Oide. No access to social media platforms in school. • **Lan School Air** in use during laptop lessons. This allows teachers to monitor children's use of internet. • **Memory Sticks or Pen Drives.** No crossover between home and school. • **Annual internet safety activity or visiting speaker.** Webwise used by teachers throughout the school year to support safe internet use.

	inappropriate manner via social media / digital device.	
Parents entering school	• Risk of child being harmed in the school by volunteer or visitor to the school	• Parent / guardian Communication procedures. • **Health and Safety Policy** • All visitors should enter only through front door, sign in and wear lanyard. • Main doors opened by code only • Code regularly changed • No access without permission
Visitors / contractors in the school	• Risk of child being harmed in the school by volunteer or visitor to the school	• **Health and Safety Policy** • Visitors must use office door only and sign in • Students must never be alone with a guest speaker or other visitors • Teachers remain with classes during activities.
Visiting private therapists	• Risk of child being harmed in the school by volunteer or visitor to the school	• **Health & Safety Policy** • Visitors must use office door only and sign in.
Public entering staff carpark	• Risk of harm from adults having unsupervised access to children	• **Health & Safety Policy (signage at gate)** • **CCTV policy** and CCTV in place and regularly monitored in place • **Main gates kept closed (some locked).**
Seomra Shoracha, Sensory Room etc.	• Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision	• Adequate supervision at all times
Bus escorts School Transport	• Risk of harm from adults having unsupervised access to children	• **Garda Vetting in place** • **Contracts include Duties and Responsibilities of escort.**
After -school activities Use of in-site facilities for school activities	• Risk of harm while attending after school activities	• Children at after school activities must be fully supervised and remain with the facilitator - **School Rental Policy** • Vetting legislation adhered to
After school activities (Sherpa)	• Risk of harm for children arriving and exiting before school and after school	• Agreed waiting/collection areas. • Safety signage displayed. • CCTV
Late arrival entry of children	• Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision	• All must report to office and not to use side doors – doors not left open.

External doors being left open during school day at all times	• Risk of harm from adults having unsupervised access to children	• **Health and Safety Policy** • All staff and children to be vigilant of doors being open • Codes only shared with staff. • All staff be vigilant for any non-staff to enter the building. • CCTV in place
Children- who are a Flight risk	• Risk of harm as a result of leaving the School premises	• **Health and Safety Policy.** • **Supervision Policy.** • Increased awareness among staff due when opening doors or at playtime. • Caretaker to ensure the gates are always closed (some locked).
Parents collecting children early from school	• Risk of harm from inadequate supervision	• Parents must only collect early via the office, never during yard time, • Child cannot leave the school without being collected and signed out.
Use of ICT by pupils at School including social media Access to internet sites (YouTube /pop ups/search engines etc.)	• Risk of harm due to children inappropriately accessing/using computers, social media, phones and other devices while at school	• **ICT Acceptable Usage Policy** • **Mobile Phone and Electronic Devices Policy in place** • Block sites via Oide internet provider • Supervised access at all times • Children not permitted to have phone/Smartwatch and internet enabled devices unless with written consent in place and phone/device remains off during school day. Phone or device given to teacher each morning and collected each afternoon.
Use of video/ photography/ other media to record school events Use of children's mobile phone during the school day	• Risk of harm identified	• **ICT Acceptable Usage Policy** • **Safe procedures on taking photographs and recording in place – no photos of faces will be shared on school social media** • **Mobile phone policy in place**
Intimate Care	• Risk of harm when child is receiving intimate care	• **SEN policy** • **Intimate Care Agreements in place**
Care of children with SEN	• Risk of harm with SEN who have particular vulnerabilities	• **SEN policy**
Children arriving to school / leaving school at home time	• Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision	• Vigilant Supervision by staff. • All children from 1st to 6th are walked to gate each afternoon. • Strict protocol at Infant collection time, whereby the parent/ Guardian line up and child handed over one by one Infant teachers to carry out hand over only to a parent / designated adult

		rather than let the child 'find' their collector. Child handed over to Parent/ guardian / contact list person. • **Supervision Policy in place**
Children doing a task outside classroom	• Risk of harm from inadequate supervision	• Younger children should complete a job outside the classroom in pairs • Older Children will be encouraged to walk/ not run at any time on school corridors and move around school in a calm manner as per school policy.
Management of challenging behaviour amongst pupils	• Risk of physical and mental harm to children and staff	• **Code of Behaviour** • Bí Cineálta procedures
Care of children with specific vulnerabilities such as gay, lesbian, bi sexual / LGBT, Minority religious faiths/ migrants/ members of travelling community/	• Risk of harm due to discrimination	• **Stay Safe Programme** • **Code of Behaviour** • Bí Cineálta procedures • Regular assembly and school culture of tolerance, acceptance and celebration. • School environment, signage and displays.
Administration of medicine. First Aid	• Risk of harm due to inappropriate physical contact	• **Medical/ administration of medicine Policy**
Swimming	• Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision	• **Swimming Policy in place -** adults in dressing room at all times/ pool well supervised and adult on deck during lesson. • **Lanyards** identify school staff. • Pool booked for school use only. • **Intimate Care Policy**
School Tours / Trips/ Activities.	• Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision	• **Guidelines and Policies of DE, Public Health and HSE** • **Supervision Policy** • SPHE / Stay Safe lessons • Hi- vis jackets worn on trips outside the School. • Children competing in swimming galas under Swim Ireland are under the supervision of their parents and under the CSS and protocols of Swim Ireland Info Letter shared with parents.

Protection of parent teacher communication on journals.	• Risk of harm due to sharing of sensitive details	• **Data Protection Policy** • **Aladdin connect in place for secure p/t communication.**
Yard Supervision – including transition onto the yard and from the yard and use of toilet during break times	• Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision	• **Supervision Policy** • **Main gate to be kept closed during the school day and any staff that leave ensures to close it after exit** • **Health and Safety Policy**
Collection of resources: From corridor libraries/ meeting room/ PE room/ staffroom etc	• Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision	• **Children not to be unaccompanied to avoid potential injury/accident** • **All staff to follow correct procedures in place**
Flight Risk of children	• Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision	• **Health and Safety Policy** • Teacher on duty to be vigilant • Gate to infant yard to be locked after use. • Gate to soft play area and sensory garden and playground to be closed while area in use.
Wet-Day Supervision/ Recreation breaks for Pupils	• Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision	• **Supervision Policy**
Management of provision of food to pupils	• Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision	• Teacher remains in the room while children are eating. • Children eat under the supervision of the class teacher or supervising teacher.

In accordance with Section 11 of the Children First Act 2015 and with the requirements of Chapter 9 of the Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025, the following is the written Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment.

This Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment was reviewed by the Board of Management on 17/11/2026

This Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment is expected to be reviewed again in November 2027

Signed:*	Sheelagh O'Leary	**Date**: 17/11/2026

Chairperson of the Board of Management

Signed:*	Geraldine O'Brien	**Date**: 17/11/2026

Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Appendix 1:

Scoil Bhríde Protocol Authorising Immediate Action.

This protocol authorises immediate action under section 7.3.6 of the *Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025*. It is activated where it is warranted in the course of the procedures being followed where there is an allegation or suspicion of child abuse regarding a school employee (Chapter 7 of the Procedures).

Activation of this protocol is a precautionary and interim measure for the protection of all parties so that the allegation or suspicion can be further considered and investigated as necessary.

Activation of this protocol is precautionary and not disciplinary.

The steps below should be understood in relation to the procedures being followed in chapter 7 of the *Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025.*

STEP 1

The Chairperson, the DLP or the Principal will inform the employee to immediately absent himself or herself from the school without loss of pay until the matter has been considered by the employer (Chapter 7).

STEP 2

The employee is invited to a meeting with the Chairperson of the Board of Management. The employee is informed that they may be accompanied by an appropriate person of their choice to the meeting, if they so wish.

STEP 3

At that meeting, the chairperson is authorised to direct the employee to the allegation and the action being taken.

STEP 4

The employee is advised of the matter in writing.

STEP 5

The chairperson will make a record of the meeting and this shall be retained on the relevant case file.