**Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment Template ( Mandatory Template 1)**

**Child Safeguarding Statement**

St Brendan’s PS 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](http://www.irishstatutebook.ie/eli/2015/act/36/enacted/en/pdf), [Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children 2017](https://assets.gov.ie/25844/b90aafa55804462f84d05f87f0ca2bf6.pdf), [the Addendum to Children First (2019)](https://assets.gov.ie/25819/c9744b64dfd6447985eeffa5c0d71bbb.pdf), the [Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools 2017](https://www.gov.ie/pdf/?file=https://assets.gov.ie/45063/2d4b5b3d781e4ec1ab4f3e5d198717d9.pdf#page=1) and [Tusla Guidance on the preparation of Child Safeguarding Statements](https://www.tusla.ie/uploads/content/4214-TUSLA_Guidance_on_Developing_a_CSS_LR.PDF), the Board of Management of St.Brendan’s PS 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 **Niall Crofton**
3. The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is **Martina Mulqueen**
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.

1. 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](https://revisedacts.lawreform.ie/eli/2012/act/47/revised/en/pdf) 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.

1. 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.
2. 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 19/10/2021

This Child Safeguarding Statement was reviewed by the Board of Management on 19/10/2021

Signed: Pat Teehan Signed: Niall Crofton

Chairperson of Board of Management Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Date: 19/10/2021 Date: 19/10/2021

**Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment**

**Written Assessment of Risk of St.Brendan’s PS**

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.Brendan’s PS

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| **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 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  All Staff to view Túsla training module & any other online training offered by PDST  BOM records all records of staff and board training |
| One to one teaching | Harm by school personnel | School has policy and clear procedures in place for one to one teaching  Open doors  Table between teacher and pupil unless outlined in an educational programme. |
| Care of Children with special needs, including intimate care needs | Harm by school personnel  Bullying | The school has a Special Educational Needs policy  Policy on intimate care and toileting for children developed in 2021  Anti-bullying Policy |
| Toilet areas | Inappropriate behaviour / inadequate supervision | The school has a Supervision policy to ensure appropriate supervision of children in this area.  (Outside toilets are now locked – COVID 19 response plan 2020) |
| **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 risks of harm identified in this assessment -** |
| Curricular Provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay safe. | Non-teaching of same | School implements SPHE, RSE and Stay Safe in full. Stay Safe Programme at the beginning of Term 2 each year. |
| Use of toilet/changing areas in schools | Harm by another child/children  Harm from a member of school personnel  Inadequate supervision | Supervision Policy to ensure there is adequate supervision in these areas  Anti-bullying Policy  Code of behaviour for all children |
| Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst pupils | Harm from another child/children | School has an Anti-Bullying Policy which fully adheres to the requirements of the Department’s Anti-Bullying Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools |
| Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils | Harm from older pupils, known and unknown adults on the playground | Playground supervised from 9.00am by ISM team and dismissal supervised by teachers/SNAs |
| Managing of challenging behaviour amongst pupils, including appropriate use of positive handling | Injury to pupils and staff | The school has a Health & Safety Policy  The school has a Code Of Behaviour for all children.  Policy on positive handling has been developed-2021 |
| Use of external personnel to supplement the curriculum and the use of external sport’s coaches. | Harm to pupils | #The school will put in place a Policy & Procedures for the use of external sport’s coaches and external persons to supplement the delivery of the curriculum. |
| Recreation breaks for pupils | Injury to children  Bullying  Inadequate supervision | The school has a yard duty policy ( Reviewed 2021)  The school has an Anti-Bullying Policy ( annual review)  The school has a safety statement. |
| **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 risks of harm identified in this assessment -** |
| Classroom teaching | Harm by school personnel | Teaching council code of conduct in place.  The school complies with the agreed disciplinary procedures for teaching staff. |
| Outdoor teaching activities | Inadequate supervision of children while attending out of school activities  Risk of harm due to non-adherence or inconsistency in applying the Code of Behaviour | School has a yard duty Policy  Code of Behaviour for all pupils |
| Sporting Activities | Harm by other students  Inadequate supervision | Clear procedures in place for attending sporting activities  Supervision policy |
| Administration of Medicine  Administration of First Aid | Risk of incorrect/inappropriate medication being administered | Clear Policy and Procedures in place for administration of medication and first aid to pupils  Designated, trained staff for the administration of specific medications  School accident and injury policy reviewed and updated ( 2021) |
| Annual Sports Day | Harm by another child/children  Harm from a member of school personnel  Inadequate supervision | Supervision Policy  School has clear procedures for Sports Day |
| **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 risks of harm identified in this assessment -** |
| Visitors entering School / school grounds | Harm to children from unknown persons | CCTV in school- signs outlining CCTV in use on display.  New door security in place on all doors.  Visitors must present to the office/ reception.  Pupils must be signed out from their reception if leaving school premises.  Any persons entering the school are allowed access by staff member and pupils then brought to office for collection.  No unauthorised persons allowed on school grounds as indicated by warning signs at all entrances. |
| Fundraising events involving pupils | Inadequate supervision | Supervision policy |
| Use of off-site facilities for school activities | Inadequate supervision | Supervision policy |
| School transport arrangements including use of bus escorts | Harm from school personnel | School has procedures in place re use of school transport.  All staff, including bus escorts made aware of Child Safeguarding Statement and procedures. |
| Care of pupils with specific vulnerabilities/ needs such as   * 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 | Bullying | The school has an Anti-Bullying Policy which fully adheres to the requirements of the Departments Anti-Bullying Procedures.  The school has in place a Code of Behaviour for all students. |
| **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 risks of harm identified in this assessment -** |
| Participation in Religious ceremonies external to the school  Recruitment of school personnel including -   * Teachers * SNAs * Caretaker/Secretary/Cleaners * Sports coaches * External Tutors/Guest Speakers * Volunteers/Parents in school activities | Risk of harm not being recognised by school personnel  Harm not recognised or properly or promptly reported | The school has worked with local parish office to ensure altar servers consent forms completed by parents and that child safeguarding procedures are in place. School to be given list of names who are permitted.  Child Safeguarding Statement & DES procedures made available to all staff  School adheres to the requirements of the Garda Vetting legislation and relevant DES circulars in respect of recruitment  Staff to view Tusla training module & any other online training offered by PDST  Vetting Procedures  No external personnel allowed unsupervised access to pupils.  Procedures in place for Parents / Volunteers |
| Use of Information and Communication Technology by pupils in school including iPads and phones | Bullying  Child inappropriately accessing social media while at school  Inappropriate communications between child and another child or adult through use of phone/tablet/other device | AUP policy (2018)  Anti-Bullying Policy  Code of Behaviour  NCTE controlled access levels to internet monitored by school management.  Pupils not permitted mobile phones at school under school rules.  Guest speakers on internet safety provided to pupils, parents and staff where possible. |
| Application of sanctions under the school’s Code of Behaviour including detention of pupils, confiscation of phones etc. | Harm by school personnel | Staff adhere to procedures in Code of Behaviour |
| **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 risks of harm identified in this assessment -** |
| Students participating in work experience in the school | Inappropriate contact between child and student teacher  Harm by student | School adheres to the requirements of the Garda Vetting legislation. The school has a Child Safeguarding Statement. Students will never be left unsupervised with a child or class. |
| Student teachers undertaking training placement in school | Inadequate supervision  Inconsistency on the part of the student teacher in implementing the Code of Behaviour | Child Safeguarding Statement & DES procedures made available to all work experience students  Work experience guidelines doc in place |
| Contractors / tradespeople employed or engaged by BOM working in school both during and after school hours | Harm not recognised or properly or promptly reported | School management should endeavour to ensure all work completed outside of school hours when pupils are not present. If necessary during school hours supervision to be in place. |
| After school use of school premises by other organisation. | N/A at moment | Procedures are in place from Patron body – St Senans education office |
| Use of video/photography/other media to record school events | Risk of harm by photographs/videos being circulated on social media | ICT policy and publishing of photographs/media  Anti-bullying Policy  Enrolment Registration Form |
| Changing into hurling / sports wear | Boys get changed in shed as has always happened. Parents may be around shed area at home collection time | Teachers may allow boys get changed in rooms if they wish. Boys and parents made aware of risk and reminded / encouraged to wear shorts to school under tracksuit. School to look at avoiding collection times when using shed as changing area.  ( 2020- NO parents on school yard as part of COVID school response plan) |
| **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 risks of harm identified in this assessment –** |
| DEIS Summer Camp Programme | Risk to pupils travelling to camp.  Possible risk during breaktimes. | Staff running the programme will outline supervision procedures / sign-in attendance sheets which will be given to Camp overseer and recorded. |

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| **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.

**Examples of activities, risks and procedures**

The examples listed in this document are provided to assist schools in undertaking their risk assessment under the Children First Act, 2015. Schools should note that this list of examples is not intended to be exhaustive. It is the responsibility of each school to ensure, as far as possible, that any other risks and procedures that are relevant to its own particular circumstances are identified and specified in the written risk assessment and that adequate procedures are in place to address all risks identified.

It is acknowledged that schools already have in place a range of policies, practices and procedures to mitigate the risk of harm to children while they are participating in the activities of the school and that some school activities will carry low or minimal risks of harm compared to others. In the context of the risk assessment that must be undertaken by schools, the Children First Act, 2015 refers to risk as “any potential for harm”. Therefore, it is important that, as part of its risk assessment process, each school lists and reviews all of its various activities (which shall include identifying those that may carry low risk of harm as well as those that carry higher risks of harm). Doing so will help the school to (1) identify, as required under the Children First Act, 2015, any risks of harm that may exist in respect of the school’s activities, (2) identify and assess the adequacy of the various procedures already in place to manage those risks of harm and (3) identify and put in place any such additional procedures as are considered necessary to manage any risk identified.

The Addendum to Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children published in January 2019 clarifies that organisations providing relevant services to children should consider the specific issue of online safety when carrying out their risk assessment and preparing their Child Safeguarding Statement.

The Guidance on Continuity of Schooling for primary and post-primary schools (April 2020) advises of the importance of teachers maintaining the safe and ethical use of the internet during distance learning and assisting parents and guardians to be aware of their role also. Schools should ensure that their Acceptable Use Policy (AUP) informs and guides remote or distance learning activity.

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.