

**Scoil Bhríde**



**St Brigid's J.N.S.**

**Brookfield, Dublin 24. Telephone: 451 4700**

**Email: secretary@stbrigidsbrookfield.ie**

## Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment

<b>For:</b>	<b>St Brigid's JNS</b>	
<b>At:</b>	<b>Brookfield, Tallaght, Dublin 24</b>	

**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):**

Maeve Cloke

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

Gwen Williams

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

**Name of Relevant Person**

Maeve Cloke

*(In schools this person is the DLP)*

**Relevant Person can be contacted on:**

087 9798334

*principal@stbrigidsbrookfield.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:**

Patricia Darling

*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**

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:

1. 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.
2. The school ensures that members of school personnel have availed of relevant training and completed child protection training.
3. The school encourages board of management members to avail of any relevant training and complete child protection training.
4. 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.

## Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment

The school maintains and up to date Safety Statement and does a safety risk assessment regularly

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
1.	Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils	<p>Risk of harm of children being on grounds of school unsupervised.</p> <p>Risk of children leaving school unsupervised</p>	<p>Cars are not allowed drive in or out of the premises when children are entering and exiting the school. Staff member and caretaker are at the gate/entrance in morning and at home time. Teachers are at school entrances and exits when children arrive and leave to supervise. Children collected late are supervised at the foyer of school until collected. Children must have permission to walk home alone in First and Second. Parents must designate someone to collect children and alert the school to any changes. If a parent/guardian is deemed incompetent the child is retained and alternative arrangements made or if necessary Guards are called.</p>
2.	Recreation breaks for pupils	<p>Risk of harm due to unsafe playground</p> <p>Risk of harm due to lack of supervision</p> <p>Risk of harm due to exposure to bullying</p>	<p>Caretaker checks and maintains against any potential hazards in play area</p> <p>Two teacher on duty on time for every break</p> <p>Yard book to record any behaviour problems and principal checks yard books to watch for patterns of potential bullying behaviour.</p> <p>Incidents are responded to according to up to date Code of Behaviour</p>



	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
			Bullying incidents are responded to according to up to date Bi Cinealta policy
3.	Classroom Teaching	<p>Risk of harm due to physically unsafe classroom environment</p> <p>Risk of harm due to emotionally unsafe classroom environment</p> <p>Risk of harm due to lack of supervision</p>	<p>Hazards. Breakages etc are brought to the attention of the caretaker/principal by class teacher</p> <p>Staff adhere to Nurture approach to teaching including Circle work and use of Zones of regulation to support children's emotional well being</p> <p>Up to date Code of behaviour is applied to address behaviour concerns</p> <p>Up to date Bi Cinealta policy is applied to address bullying issues</p> <p>Up to date supervision policy is followed</p>
4.	One to one teaching	Risk of harm to child from personnel	<p>One to one teaching is only when absolutely necessary.</p> <p>Principal and colleagues are aware when one to one teaching takes place and is scheduled for specific times</p> <p>Up to date supervision policy is followed</p>
5.	Outdoor teaching	<p>Risk of harm due to unsafe playground</p> <p>Risk of harm due to lack of supervision</p>	<p>Caretaker checks and maintains against any potential hazards in play area</p> <p>Up to date supervision policy is followed</p>
6.	Online teaching and learning	Risk of harm from exposure	Up to date remote learning policy is followed

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
7.	Sporting Activities	Risk of injury Risk of harm due to lack of supervision	Up to date supervision policy is followed Up to date First Aid policy is followed Incident reports are filled in put on file where necessary
8.	School outings	Risk of harm due to travelling to places beyond school grounds Risk of harm due to lack of supervision	Up to date policy on School Trips is followed Class teachers fill in and sign risk assessment before leaving on a school trip Up to date Supervision policy is followed
9.	Use of toilet and changing areas	Risk of harm to child during intimate care	Up to date Intimate Care policy is followed Only designated staff are appointed to engage in intimate care Principal meets parents and staff before and goes through policy and gets consent for intimate care plan
10.	Annual Sports Day	Risk of injury Risk of harm due to lack of supervision	Up to date supervision policy is followed Up to date First Aid policy is followed

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
11.	Fundraising events involving pupils	Risk of harm due to lack of supervision	Up to date supervision policy is followed

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
12.	Use of off-site facilities for school activities	<p>Risk of harm due to lack of supervision</p> <p>Risk of harm travelling off the premise of school</p>	<p>Up to date supervision policy is followed</p> <p>Teachers fill in and sign risk assessment before leaving on a school trip</p> <p>Up to date Supervision policy is followed</p>
13.	School transport arrangements	Risk of harm due to use of transport	<p>Teachers fill in and sign risk assessment before leaving on a school trip</p> <p>Up to date Supervision policy is followed</p> <p>Parents must give consent to use transport and are aware of mode of transport used</p>
14.	Care of children with special educational needs	Risk of harm due to specific vulnerability of SEN children	Up to date SEN policy is followed
15.	Management of Challenging behaviour from pupils	<p>Risk of harm due to at risk behaviour from pupils</p> <p>Risk of harm due to bullying behaviour</p>	<p>Staff adhere to Nurture approach to teaching including Circle work and use of Zones of regulation to support children's emotional well being</p> <p>Up to date Code of behaviour is applied to address behaviour concerns</p> <p>Up to date Bi Cinealta policy is applied to address bullying issues</p> <p>Up to date supervision policy is followed</p> <p>In case of extreme behaviour a risk assessment is carried out in consultation with staff</p>

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
18.	Administration of First Aid	<p>Risk of harm due to accidents/falls in school</p> <p>Risk of harm due to inappropriate First Aid response</p> <p>Risk of harm due to lack of First Aid response</p>	<p>Up to date First Aid Policy is followed, reviewed bi annually</p> <p>Two staff members are trained bi annually in First Aid and First Response</p> <p>Whole staff First Aid training is provided regularly</p>
19.	Curricular provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe	<p>Risk of harm to omission of teaching of SPHE, Stay Safe and RSE</p> <p>Risk of harm by inappropriate teaching of same</p>	<p>The school has a well-being/retention plan in place.</p> <p>The school follows a SPHE plan ensuring that both Stay Safe and RSE are taught twice in full during the four years they are in school.</p> <p>Teachers are supplied with relevant resources to deliver the plan.</p> <p>If parents want their child excluded from any part of RSE or Stay Safe they must sign a letter stating same which is kept on the child's file.</p>
20.	Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst pupils	Risk of harm from bullying behaviour in school	<p>School has a well-being plan in place as part of school retention plan including focus on friendship, kindness and anti-bullying</p> <p>Staff adhere to Nurture approach to teaching including Circle work and use of Zones of regulation to support children's emotional well being</p> <p>Up to date Code of behaviour is applied to address behaviour concerns</p>

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
			<p>Up to date Bi Cinealta policy is applied to address bullying issues</p> <p>Up to date supervision policy is followed</p>
21	Training of staff in Child Protection Matters	Risk of harm due to lack of accurate knowledge and training regarding Child Protection procedures	<p>School facilitates staff completing Children First training bi annually.</p> <p>Staff attend the whole staff Child Protection training in Dec 2026</p>
22	Use of external personnel to supplement curriculum, support sports and other extra-curricular activities	Risk of harm from personnel engaged from outside the school	<p>Vetting measures are taken to ensure personnel have up to date Garda vetting</p> <p>Policy for External personnel working in the school is provided to and signed by external personnel</p> <p>Teachers remain with classes at all times during activities provided by external personnel</p>
23	Pupils from ethnic minorities/migrants	<p>Risk of harm due to lack of English</p> <p>Risk of harm due to bullying related to ethnic differences</p>	<p>EAL policy is in place</p> <p>SET support provided to children where relevant</p> <p>HSCL support provided to parents where needed</p> <p>School has a well-being plan in place as part of school retention plan including focus on friendship, kindness and anti-bullying</p> <p>Staff adhere to Nurture approach to teaching including Circle work and use of Zones of regulation to</p>

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
			<p>support children's emotional well being</p> <p>Up to date Code of behaviour is applied to address behaviour concerns</p> <p>Up to date Bi Cinealta policy is applied to address bullying issues</p> <p>Up to date supervision policy is followed</p>
24	Pupils perceived to be LGBT	Risk of harm due to bullying as a result of LGBT	<p>School has a well-being plan in place as part of school retention plan including focus on friendship, kindness and anti-bullying</p> <p>Staff adhere to Nurture approach to teaching including Circle work and use of Zones of regulation to support childrens emotional well being</p> <p>Up to date Code of behaviour is applied to address behaviour concerns</p> <p>Up to date Bi Cinealta policy is applied to address bullying issues</p> <p>Up to date supervision policy is followed</p>
25	Pupils of minority religious faiths	Risk of harm from bullying/discrimination due to faith differences	<p>School has a well-being plan in place as part of school retention plan including focus on friendship, kindness and anti-bullying</p> <p>Staff adhere to Nurture approach to teaching</p>

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
			<p>including Circle work and use of Zones of regulation to support children's emotional well being</p> <p>Up to date Code of behaviour is applied to address behaviour concerns</p> <p>Up to date Bi Cinealta policy is applied to address bullying issues</p> <p>Up to date supervision policy is followed</p>
26	Children in care	Risk of harm	<p>HSCL supports children by linking with outside relevant agencies</p> <p>Principal engages with and works with relevant outside agencies and professionals</p>
27	Children on Tusla's Child Protection Notification System (CPNS)	Risk of harm from lack of school support/communication	Principal attends relevant case conferences and engages with and cooperates with relevant professionals to ensure safety of child
28	Recruitment of school personnel including teachers/SNAs, caretakers/secretaries/cleaners and sport coaches	Risk of harm due to lack of due diligence during hiring process	The school follows up to date DES guidelines for recruitment including the requirement to ensure staff members have up to date Garda vetting and sign a form of undertaking.
29	Volunteers/Parents in school activities	Risk of harm from volunteers or parents during activities in school	The school will ensure parents/volunteers are carefully selected and Garda vetted. Children are never left under the supervision of parents/volunteers. A teacher is always present during relevant activities

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
30	<p>Visitors/contractors present in school during school hours</p> <p>Visitors/contractors present during after-school activities</p>	<p>Risk of harm due to accident/injury/harm from persons engaging in contract work during school hours.</p>	<p>Up to date supervision policy is followed.</p> <p>DES guidance regarding vetting procedures are followed.</p> <p>The school will ensure the appropriate experience, qualifications, licences and insurance are in place for persons working in or on the grounds of the school.</p> <p>Safety statement will be followed and a risk assessment will be carried out before works begin to assess any further safety measures</p>
31	<p>Participation by pupils in religious ceremonies/religious instruction external to the school</p>	<p>Risk of harm from being off school premises</p>	<p>Parents must consent before children are taken to church.</p> <p>Children without consent stay in school.</p>
32	<p>Use of Information and Communication Technology by pupils in school</p>	<p>Risk of harm to exposure or engagement of inappropriate material while using technology.</p>	<p>An up to date Acceptable Use policy is followed.</p> <p>Children do not have access to the internet while using ipads.</p> <p>Children are properly supervised while using the ipads/technology.</p> <p>Parents must consent to use of technology/social media in school according to AUP.</p>
33	<p>Application of sanctions under the school's Code of Behaviour</p>	<p>Risk of harm from disruption to education due to sanctions.</p>	<p>School has a well-being plan in place as part of school retention plan including focus on friendship, kindness and anti-bullying to mitigate against the need for sanctions</p>

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
			<p>Staff adhere to Nurture approach to teaching including Circle work and use of Zones of regulation to support children's emotional well being</p> <p>Up to date Code of behaviour is applied to address behaviour concerns</p> <p>Up to date Bi Cinealta policy is applied to address bullying issues</p> <p>Up to date supervision policy is followed</p>
34	Students participating in work experience in the school	Risk of harm to children from person engaging in work experience in the school.	<p>Principal must approved students on work experience.</p> <p>A limited number of students will be facilitated.</p> <p>DES guidance regarding garda vetting procedures are followed.</p> <p>A structured timetable will be in place.</p> <p>Teachers are present during all work experience activities and supervision policy is followed.</p>
35	Use of video/photography/other media to record school events	Risk of harm from misuse of or sharing of photos/videos of children	<p>The school has an Acceptable use policy.</p> <p>Parents must consent to use of photos/videos of children.</p> <p>Photos and videos are for school based platforms only</p> <p>Parents are reminded at school events not to share</p>

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
			images/videos on social media
36	After-school use of school premises by other organisations	Risk of harm to children from outside personnel or lack of supervision	<p>DES guidance regarding vetting will be followed.</p> <p>Safety statement will be reviewed and any further measures put in place before any organisation can operate in the school.</p> <p>Child protection procedures will be reviewed and followed regarding any concerns raised.</p> <p>Board approval must be sought before any organisation can operate within the school.</p>
37	Breakfast Club	Risk of harm to children due to lack of supervision	<p>Up to date supervision policy will be followed.</p> <p>Healthy food policy will be followed</p>

*Additional pages may be added as required*

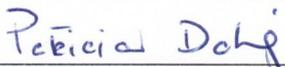
Risk in the context of this Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment is the risk of 'harm' as defined in the Children First Act 2015 and not general health and safety risk. The definition of harm is set out in the Children First Act 2015: 'harm' means, in relation to a child— (a) assault, ill-treatment or neglect of the child in a manner that seriously affects or is likely to seriously affect the child's health, development or welfare, or (b) sexual abuse of the child, whether caused by a single act, omission or circumstance or a series or combination of acts, omissions or circumstances, or otherwise.

## Child Protection Statement and Risk Assessment

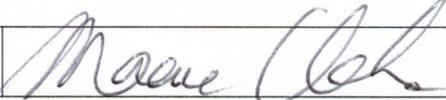
In accordance with Section 11 of the Children First Act 2015 and with the requirements of Chapter 9 of the Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025, the following is the written Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment.

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.

This Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment was reviewed by the board of management on 26/2/2026

<b>Signed:*</b>		<b>Date:</b>	<u>26/02/2026.</u>
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*Chairperson of the board of management*

<b>Signed:*</b>		<b>Date:</b>	<u>26/02/2026</u>
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*Principal/Secretary to the board of management*

This Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment is expected to be reviewed again on February 2027

*\* Document to be printed and signed with original signatures*

## Appendix - Location of copies of the Child Protection Procedures and Children First Guidance

This may be in the form of specifying the online location for the procedures (Department of Education and Youth website [www.gov.ie/childprotectionschools](http://www.gov.ie/childprotectionschools) and/or the school website), providing a link to the Children First National Guidance 2017 [Children First National Guidance 2017.pdf](#), and stating the number and location of hard copies of these procedures available in the school.

Two copies of the Child Protection Guidelines (2025) are available in the staffroom, two in the Principal's office and two in the parents room.

Guidelines are also available online at [www.gov.ie](http://www.gov.ie)