Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment

For: Bunscoil Bhríde *(School Name)*

At: Rathangan, Co. Kildare *(School Address)*

This school is a Primary 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):

Maria Rogerson

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

Savannah Rowley

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

Name of Relevant Person

Maria Rogerson

(In schools this person is the DLP)

Relevant Person can be contacted on:

(045)524540
maria.rogerson@bunscoilbhride.ie

(insert phone & email)

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:

Anne Connolly

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:
    - 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 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.

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

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
1.	Training of school personnel in Child Protection matters	Risk of harm not recognised or reported promptly	• Child Safeguarding Statement & DES procedures made available to all staff • DLP & DDLP have attended Oide face to face training on the New Child Protection Procedures (September 2025). • Whole staff received training in the New Child Protection Procedures (November 2025)
2.	One to one teaching	Risk of child being harmed in the school by a member of school personnel	• School has put policy in place for one to one teaching • All classroom doors have a glass panel.
3.	Care of Children with special needs, including intimate care needs	Risk of child being harmed in the school by a member of school personnel Flight Risk Behaviours of concerns Communication Differences/Difficulties	• Policy on intimate care • SEN Policy • External doors closed • Enclosed playground • RELATE training, • Relationships with external support services • Inclusion Day • Communication boards on playgrounds
4.	Toilet areas	Risk of inappropriate behaviour	• Children will be encouraged to use the toilet before going out to the yard. • Visits in to the toilet from the yard are strongly discouraged • Only two children at a time allowed to the toilet, where necessary
5.	Curricular Provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay safe.	Risk of non-teaching of same Risk that children with SEN may not understand content	• School implements SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe in full • Adapted resources from NCSE used for children with SEN, • SETs pre-teach content to children with communication/comprehension difficulties • All teachers sign a declaration confirming that they have taught the Stay

			Safe and RSE Programmes relevant to their class in their entirety.
6.	Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst pupils	Risk of bullying Children with Additional Needs	● Bí Cineálta Policy ● Code of Behaviour ● A Friendship / Antibullying Week is run across the school annually ● Wellbeing Wednesday ● Wellbeing Committee ● Restorative Practice
7.	Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils	Risk of harm from older pupils, unknown adults around the playground	● Reception, Assembly and Dismissal of Pupils Policy ● Arrival and dismissal supervised by Teachers/SNAs ● SNA handover to bus escort
8.	Managing of challenging behaviour amongst pupils, including appropriate use of restraint	Risk of injury to pupils and staff	● Bí Cineálta Policy ● Health and Safety Policy ● RELATE training for all staff ● CPI training for Special Educational Needs Coordinator (to be shared with staff)
9.	Sports Coaches	Risk of harm to pupils	● All coaches to be Garda vetted ● Teacher is present when coach is working with children
10.	Students participating in work experience	Risk of harm by student Risk of breach of confidentiality	● Work experience Policy ● Child Safeguarding Statement ● All individuals on work experience in the school are Garda Vetted ● Students not on their own with children ● Students sign a Confidentiality Agreement

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
11.	Recreation breaks for pupils	Risk of inappropriate behaviour, bullying	• Bí Cineálta Policy • Code of Behaviour • Supervision Policy
12.	Classroom teaching	Risk of harm by school personnel	• All school personnel Garda vetted • Glass in doors
13.	Outdoor teaching activities	Risk of harm by school personnel, flight Risk	• All school personnel Garda vetted • Gates closed to yards/school carpark
14.	School Outings	Risk of harm by school personnel / volunteers, exposure to unknown adults, loss of pupils use of electronic devices	• Policy on School Tours / Excursions • All school personnel and parent volunteers Garda vetted • Bí Cineálta Policy • Acceptable Use Policy • Mobile Phone and Electronic Devices Policy
15.	Sporting Activities	Risk of harm by school personnel / volunteers, exposure to unknown adults, loss of pupils, Use of electronic devices	• Policy on School Tours / Excursions • All school personnel and parent volunteers Garda vetted • Acceptable Use Policy • Mobile Phone and Electronic Devices Policy
16.	Annual Sports Days	Risk of bullying, loss of pupils/ flight risk	• Bí Cineálta Policy • Code of Behaviour • Teachers work with smaller group sizes during Sports Days • Gates closed to yards/school carpark

17.	Administration of Medicine Administration of First Aid	Risk of harm by school personnel, injury to pupil	• Administration of Medication Policy • Supervision Policy • All school personnel Garda vetted • All staff have First Aid Training and Defibrillator training • All SNAs have completed epilepsy training
18.	Use of external personnel to supplement curriculum	Risk of harm to pupils	• All external personnel engaged within the school are Garda vetted • Pupils are always supervised by class teacher when engaging with an external teacher
19.	Care of pupils with specific vulnerabilities/ needs such as; • Pupils from ethnic minorities/migrants • Members of the travelling communities • Pupils of minority religious faiths	Risk of harm to pupils Risk of low self-esteem Risk of previous trauma Risk of harm due to racism	• Bí Cineálta Policy • Code of Behaviour • Stay Safe implemented in full • SPHE lessons on bullying at all class levels • Friendship week annually • Weaving Wellbeing/ 'Friends' Programme implemented in target classes • Nurture Room • Diversity Day • Inclusion Day • Staff EAL training • Morning Meetings in all classes • Trauma Informed Practice course completed by some staff
20.	Recruitment of school personnel including; • Teachers • SNAs • Caretaker/Secretary /Cleaner • Sport Coaches • External Tutors/ Guest speakers • Volunteers/ Parents	Harm not recognised or properly or promptly reported Breach of confidentiality	• Child Safeguarding Statement & DES procedures made available to all staff • Vetting Procedures • Parent/ volunteer policy • School Visitors Policy • All Visitors must sign in and out at reception • Key code needed to access the main door • Access limited to staff (via fob system) on all other external doors

	in school activities. ● Visitors/contractors present in school during school hours ● Visitors/contractors present during after school activities		
21.	After school use of school premises by other organisations	Risk of harm by after-school provider, harm by unknown adults	● Hire and Use of the School Policy ● Garda vetting of all providers of after-school activities in the school ● All after-school providers have supplied the Board of Management with a Child Protection Policy ● All providers must have their own First Aid Policy and First Aid materials.
22.	Presence of individuals who are not Garda vetted in the school building / yard during or after school	Risk of harm by unknown individual, Abduction of pupils	● School Visitors Policy ● All visitors to the school must present to reception and be buzzed in ● After-school providers have been instructed to inform parents of children attending after-school classes that they must collect their children outside the school ● On days, such as Grandparents Day, the children are prevented from using the toilets beside the hall during breaks, as these are designated for the adults in the school.
23.	Swimming	Risk of harm by pool employee / unknown adults, loss of pupils, use of video / photography / other media to record children	● Swimming Policy ● Parent volunteers are Garda vetted ● Mobile Phones and Electronic Device Policy ● Acceptable Use Policy ● Teachers and parent volunteers present and supervising children at all times
24.	Changing of clothes for events e.g. concerts, Communion photograph	Risk of harm by school personnel / parent volunteers	● All school personnel and parent volunteers are Garda vetted ● Only Garda vetted parents help with clothes changing ● Always two or more adults present when children in class

			are changing
25.	Teaching via Zoom during periods of remote learning	Risk of harm by school personnel	● All Zoom sessions have two adults present; a teacher and SNA.
26.	Use of Information and Communication Technology by pupils in school, including social media	Risk of harm due to bullying Risk of harm due to children inappropriately accessing/using computers, social media, phones and other devices while at school	● ICT Acceptable Use Policy ● Bí Cineálta Policy ● Code of Behaviour ● Mobile Phones and Electronic Device Policy
27.	Student teachers undertaking training placement in school	Risk of harm by students, Breach of confidentiality	● Work experience Policy ● Garda vetting of all student teachers undertaking placement in the school ● Student teachers are always supervised by class teacher when in the presence of children
28.	Use of video/photography/other media to record school events	Inappropriate use / sharing of images of pupils	● Mobile phones and Electronic Device Policy ● Parental consent for photographs and recordings to be used within the school received on enrolment. ● All school events taking place in the school will be photographed by teachers and placed on the school website ● Parents are asked not to put photographs of school concerts / school events on social media
29.	Escorting of visitors around school on Grandparents Day	Risk of harm by unknown adults	● Student Council members guide grandparents to their grandchildren's classrooms and back to the hall on Grandparents in groups of 2/3, never alone. They are supervised by the Principal.

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 _____ *(most recent review date)*.

Signed:* _____ Date: _____

Chairperson of the board of management

Signed:* _____ Date: _____

Principal/Secretary to the board of management

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

_____ *(expected review date)*