



Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment

For:	St. Patrick's NS
At:	Kilmallock Road, Bruree, Co. Limerick

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):

Ger Kelleher

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

Margaret Irwin

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

Name of Relevant Person

Ger Kelleher

(In schools this person is the DLP)

Relevant Person can be contacted on:

06390896

gerkelleher@brureens.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:

Fr. David Gibson

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, reflecting Appendix 3 of the Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025, is in place authorising immediate action where an employee must be immediately absented from the 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 and that training is refreshed at least every three years.

- **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 of the 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 an 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 and is displayed near the main entrance to the school. It has been provided to all members of school personnel, the Parents' Association and the patron, and is available to parents and members of the public on request. A copy of this statement and risk assessment will be made available to Tusla and the Department if requested. A student-friendly version, containing the name and photograph of the DLP, is displayed beside the statement near the main entrance.

This Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment will be reviewed in each calendar year or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which this statement refers.

St. Patrick's N.S **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 risk assessment of St. Patrick's N.S., Bruree, Co. Limerick.

1. List of school activities	2. The school has identified the following risk of harm in respect of its activities	3. Procedures / Measures in Place to Mitigate Risk
1. Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils	Risk of harm on school grounds; inadequate supervision	Supervision Policy; agreed arrival/dismissal procedures; staff on duty; controlled access points
2. Recreation break for pupils	Risk of harm in yard; bullying	Yard supervision rota; Anti-Bullying Policy; Code of Behaviour; closed access points
3. Classroom teaching	Risk of child being harmed in the school by a member of school personnel or by another child.	Glass panels; supervision; Garda vetting; Code of Professional Conduct
4. One-to-one teaching/support teaching	Risk of harm in isolated settings	Glass panels; one-to-one procedures; Garda vetting; SEN Policy
5. Outdoor teaching activities	Risk of harm while on the school grounds	Supervision; controlled access
6. Sporting activities	Risk of child being harmed in the school/on the school grounds by a member of school personnel or by another child. Risk of harm due to bullying of child	Staff supervision; Garda vetting; Code of Behaviour
7. School tours/outings (including transport)	Risk of harm by school personnel/peers/providers	School Tours Policy; advance planning; vetting; supervision
8. Sports Day / whole-school events	Risk of harm from visitors	Planned events; hazard identification; supervision
9. Toileting Areas	Risk of harm by peers/adults	Supervision Policy; agreed procedures for use of toilets

10. Care of children with S.E.N. incl. intimate care needs	Risk to vulnerable pupils	SEN Policy; Intimate Care Policy; Garda vetting; toileting care plans agreed with parents in advance.	
11. Administration of medication	Risk of harm arising from inappropriate assistance, inadequate supervision or unnecessary exposure during treatment	Administration of Medication Policy; parental authorisation; trained/authorised staff; appropriate privacy and supervision; secure storage and records	
12. Administration of First Aid	Risk of harm arising from inappropriate assistance, inadequate supervision or unnecessary exposure during treatment	First Aid Policy; designated area; trained staff; appropriate privacy and supervision; treatment and incident records	
13. SPHE / RSE / Stay Safe	Risk of inappropriate delivery	SPHE/RSE Plans; Stay Safe Programme	
14. Bullying Prevention	Risk of peer harm	Bí Cineálta Policy; supervision; SPHE	
15. Management of challenging behaviour among pupils	Risk of harm to pupil/others	Code of Behaviour; agreed de-escalation strategies and individual behaviour plans; Department guidance on Understanding Behaviours of Concern and Responding to Crisis Situations	
16. Care of pupils with specific vulnerabilities/needs, including pupils from ethnic minorities or migrant backgrounds, members of the Traveller community, LGBT or non-binary children, pupils perceived to be LGBT, pupils of minority religious faiths, children in care, children on Tusla's Child Protection Notification System (CPNS), and children with significant medical needs	Risk of bullying/discrimination	Supervision of pupil interactions; implementation of the Bí Cineálta Policy, Code of Behaviour, SPHE programme and anti-racism/inclusion initiatives; appropriate individual safeguarding and medical arrangements where required	
17. Recruitment of school personnel	Risk of harm by staff	Garda vetting; recruitment procedures	
18. Use of ICT, smartphones and tablet devices; online communication with pupils	Risk of online harm, inappropriate access or inappropriate pupil-to-pupil or staff-to-pupil	Acceptable Use Policy; filtering and supervision; agreed procedures for staff-to-pupil digital	

	communication	communication; school procedures governing smartphones and tablet devices; regular online-safety education for pupils and information for parents
19. Sanctions / detention	Risk of harm by personnel	Code of Behaviour
20. Transition year students participating in work experience in the school	Risk of child being harmed in the school by volunteer or visitor to the school	Garda vetting of students participating in work experience. Member of school personnel always present (i.e. TY student never left alone with child(ren)).
21. Management and provision of food and drink, including the hot-meals service	Risk of harm arising from access by external food-service personnel or inadequate supervision	Approved supplier arrangements; controlled access for delivery/catering personnel; staff supervision of pupils; safe collection and distribution procedures; dietary and medical information managed appropriately
22. Student teachers / trainee SNAs	Risk from visitors	Garda vetting; supervision; agreed procedures in place with educational institutions
23. After-school activities and use of premises	Risk from external providers	Vetting assurance; written agreement/licence with St. Senan's Education Office; provider safeguarding and reporting procedures; prompt reporting to Tusla where required; documented procedure for ensuring the school DLP is informed of any safeguarding concern
24. Use of off-site facilities	Risk from others	Continuous supervision
25. External tutors / coaches	Risk from personnel	Garda vetting; staff present
26. External speakers	Risk of harm from visitors	Staff present
27. Changing pupils' clothes following a toileting or other accident	Risk during assistance	Intimate Care Policy; two adults if required; parents informed

28. Parent / family volunteers	Risk from volunteers	Garda vetting if ongoing; supervision
29. BOM / PA members on site	Risk of harm from visitors	Meetings outside school hours; escorted visits
30. Participation by pupils in religious ceremonies or religious instruction external to the school	Risk of harm arising from interaction with external adults or inadequate supervision	Advance planning; parental consent where appropriate; continuous school supervision; agreed arrangements with the parish and venue
31. School concerts / performances	Risk of harm from visitors	Pupil supervision
32. Online teaching/remote learning	Risk of online harm, inappropriate access or inappropriate pupil-to-pupil or staff-to-pupil communication / cyberbullying	Remote Learning Plan; AUP; supervised sessions
33. Photography / video at events	Risk of misuse of images	Consent; controlled use
34. Contractors / maintenance personnel/cleaners	Risk from adults on site	Work to be completed outside school hours where possible; supervision
35. Retrospective abuse disclosures	Risk of poor response or records	DLP procedures; staff training
36. Child protection record keeping	Risk of data breach	Secure storage; restricted access
37. Child Protection Oversight Report (CPOR)	Risk of inadequate governance	CPOR to BOM; anonymised records

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 Schools 2025

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 formally adopted with _____ by the Board of Management on _____.

This Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment was reviewed by the Board of Management on _____
(most recent review date)

Chairperson of Board Of Management:

David Sean J.B.

Date:

16-9-26

Principal/Secretary to Board of Management:

Ger Webb

Date:

8/10/2026

This Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment is expected to be reviewed again on December 2026 (expected review date)

As part of each annual review, the board of management will seek and retain a record of feedback from parents and school personnel and will seek pupils' views in an age- and maturity-appropriate manner. Any areas for improvement will be addressed through an action plan. The Department's standard written notification of review will be provided to the Parents' Association and patron, school personnel will be informed, and the notification will be published on the school website.

Appendix – Access to Child Protection Procedures and Children First Guidance

The Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025 are available online at www.gov.ie/childprotectionschools. Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children 2017 is available online through www.gov.ie and www.tusla.ie. One hard copy of each document is maintained in the principal's office and is available to school personnel on request.

