



# Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment

## Written Assessment of Risk of St. Bernadette's Senior National School

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 (revised 2023)*, the following is the Written Risk Assessment of **St. Bernadette's Senior National School**

1. LIST OF SCHOOL ACTIVITIES	2. THE SCHOOL HAS IDENTIFIED THE FOLLOWING RISK OF HARM IN RESPECT OF ITS ACTIVITIES –	3. 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	<p>Indicators of harm /abuse not being recognised by school personnel</p> <p>Harm / Abuse not being reported properly and promptly by school personnel</p>	<p>Child Safeguarding Statement &amp; DES procedures made available to all staff.</p> <p>Ensure the DES child protection procedures are made available to all school personnel</p> <p>All Staff to view Tusla training module &amp; any other online training offered by PDST and provide a copy of the certificate of completion to the DLP</p> <p>Encourages staff to avail of relevant training</p>
	<p>Risk of child being harmed in the school by a member of school personnel</p> <p>Risk of child being harmed in the school by another child</p>	<p>Encourage board of management members to avail of relevant training</p> <p>Maintains records of all staff and board member training</p> <p>BOM records.</p> <p>The DLP /DDLDP are required to avail of training provided by a professional organisation (e.g. PDST) on a regular basis – Certificate of attendance provided to the BOM</p>



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	<p>Risk of harm due to bullying of child</p> <p>Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children in school</p>	<p>All school personnel, mandated and non-mandated, are required to adhere to the <i>DES Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017</i></p>
Record Keeping		<p><b>Record Keeping</b></p> <p>All school personnel are required to ensure that any sensitive records e.g. child protection monitoring records they are required to keep are maintained in a secure location in the school and are treated with the strictest of confidence.</p> <p>All such records form part of the school record keeping system and must be filed with the central school records at the end of the school year or in the event that the staff member is going on 'leave' e.g. maternity leave, career break etc. or is leaving the school to take up employment elsewhere.</p>



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Recruitment of school personnel  and  Volunteers / Parents in school activities		<b>Garda Vetting and Recruitment of school personnel</b>  All school personnel are required to be Garda vetted and the relevant DES circulars in relation to recruitment and Garda vetting are adhered to.  Best practice procedures with regard to interviewing and checking references are followed  All volunteers / parents involved in school activities are Garda vetted  All volunteers / parents involved in school activities are provided with access to a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement
Curriculum Implementation of SPHE  Teaching the Stay safe programme as part of the 2 year SPHE cycle		<b>Planning for and implementation of the SPHE curriculum and the Stay Safe programme:</b>  The school implements in full the SPHE curriculum over a two year cycle as outlined in the school plan for SPHE . A copy of that plan can be found in the staff "Google Drive " account and also hardcopy is available in Principal's office.  The Stay safe programme will be taught in every class over the months of January to April in Year 1 of the school's SPHE Plan.



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Use of external personnel to support curriculum		<p>Individual teacher planning documents indicate when specific objectives of the SPHE curriculum, including the Stay Safe programme) will be taught (timetabled for) and what specific objectives of SPHE, Stay Safe and RSE will be taught in that period of time.</p> <p>The Cuntas Miosiuil of individual teachers will highlight the SPHE content objectives covered and the Stay Safe lessons covered in that month</p> <p>In addition to specific teaching on the prevention and dealing with bullying as part of the SPHE programme the school has an Anti-Bullying Policy which fully adheres to the requirements of the Department's <i>Anti-Bullying Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools</i>. A copy of that policy can be found in the staff "Google Drive " account and also hardcopy is available in Principal's office.</p> <p>The school has a yard/playground supervision policy. A copy of that policy can be found in the staff "Google Drive " account and also hardcopy is available in Principal's office.</p>



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One to one teaching		Open doors.  Table between teacher and pupil.  Glass in window of support teacher room, 3 <sup>rd</sup> SET room.
Changing for Games / PE/ Swimming		<b>Changing for Games/PE and Swimming</b>  In all activities that require children to change clothing staff must ensure that a balance is struck between the child's right to privacy and adequate supervision.  Pupils will be expected to dress / undress themselves. Teachers will always be present in a supervisory capacity. School staff will not take any responsibility for the dressing / undressing of pupils. Pupils will be encouraged to dress/undress in communal areas and will not be allowed share cubicles with anyone else. Changing for activities will not be permitted in areas where personnel other than school personnel are present.



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<p>Sporting Activities</p> <p>Use of external personnel to support sports and other extra curricula activities.</p> <p>Travel to away Sporting Activities</p>		<p><b>External personnel / coaches working with pupils</b></p> <p>In accordance with Circular No. 0042/2018 ‘Best practice guidance for primary schools in the use of programmes and/or external facilitators in promoting wellbeing consistent with the Department of Education and Skills’ Wellbeing Policy Statement and Framework for Practice’ a member of the teaching staff will always be present when external personnel are working with students.</p> <p>All external coaches will be garda vetted.</p> <p>External coaches will be required to report child protection concerns to the DLP.</p> <p>A teacher/s will always accompany pupils travelling to sports events.</p>
<p>School tours / trips</p>		<p><b>School outings and tours</b></p> <p>All school trips, outings and tours will be sanctioned by the principal – in certain circumstances the principal may have to get the prior approval of the BOM e.g. trips involving an overnight stay.</p> <p>Written parental consent must be given for all outings and tours.</p>



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<p>Student teachers undertaking training placement</p>		<p><b>Students on work placement or teaching practice</b></p> <p>Only students that are over 16 years of age and garda vetted, by the organisation placing them on work experience, will be accepted by the school on work experience.</p> <p>All students will be given access to a copy of the school’s Child Safeguarding Statement, placed in the staff room &amp; also outside secretary’s office &amp; in Principal’s office.</p> <p>In the event that students have a child protection concern or that a child makes a disclosure to them the student must report the matter to the DLP.</p>
<p>Use of ICT/ cameras/ Mobile Phones</p> <p>Administration of Medicine</p> <p>Administration of First Aid</p> <p>Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst pupils</p>	<p>Risk of harm due to children inappropriately accessing/using computers, social media, phones and other devices while at school</p>	<p><b>Other policies and procedures</b></p> <p>The school has a Health and safety policy. A copy of that policy can be found in the staff “Google Drive ” account and also hardcopy is available in Principal’s office.</p> <p>The school complies with the agreed disciplinary procedures for teaching staff</p> <p>The school has a Special Educational Needs policy. A copy of that policy can be found in the staff “Google Drive ” account and also hardcopy is available in Principal’s office.</p>



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		<p>The school has in place a Critical Incident Management Plan. A copy of that policy can be found in the staff “Google Drive ” account and also hardcopy is available in Principal’s office.</p> <p>The school has in place a Home School Liaison policy and related procedures. A copy of that policy can be found in the staff “Google Drive ” account and also hardcopy is available in Principal’s office.</p>
		<p>The school has in place a policy and procedures for the administration of First Aid in the Medical Policy. A copy of that policy can be found in the staff “Google Drive ” account and also hardcopy is available in Principal’s office.</p> <p>The school has in place a code of behaviour for pupils, A copy of that policy can be found in the staff “Google Drive ” account and also hardcopy is available in Principal’s office.</p>
Online teaching and learning remotely		<p>Online teaching and learning remotely.</p> <p>The school has in place an ICT policy in respect of usage of ICT by pupils, A copy of that policy can be found in the staff “Google Drive ” account and also hardcopy is available in Principal’s office.</p> <p>The school has in place a mobile phone policy in respect of usage of mobile phones by school personnel including pupils. A copy of that policy can be found in the staff “Google Drive ” account and also hardcopy is available in Principal’s office.</p>



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Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils	Harm from other pupils, unknown adults on the playground  Traffic on avenue  Inappropriate behaviour	Notices on end doors  Note home to parents – no early morning supervision on yard  Newsletter – no early morning supervision on yard  Pupils brought in on wet mornings  Postholders’ supervising at home time on each block
LGBT Children/Pupils perceived to be LGBT	Bullying	Anti-Bullying Policy Code of Behaviour. A copy of that policy can be found in the staff “Google Drive ” account and also hardcopy is available in Principal’s office.
Recruitment of new staff	Harm not recognised or properly or promptly reported	Child Safeguarding Statement & DES procedures made available to all staff.  Staff to view Tusla training module & any other online training offered by PDST.



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Managing of challenging behaviour amongst pupils, including appropriate use of restraint	Injury to pupils and staff	Physical Intervention Policy. A copy of that policy can be found in the staff “Google Drive ” account and also hardcopy is available in Principal’s office.  Health & Safety Policy A copy of that policy can be found in the staff “Google Drive ” account and also hardcopy is available in Principal’s office.
Use of internet for Communication Technology by pupils in schools	Access unsuitable material	All computer points and wireless connections are filtered using ScoilNet
S.C.P. Project Workers	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children while attending in school / after school activities	SCP Procedures in place.  Garda Vetting  Also ensure they comply with SCP safeguarding procedures.
Administration of medicine	incorrect medicine	Administration of medicine policy A copy of that policy can be found in the staff “Google Drive ” account and also hardcopy is available in Principal’s office.



**St. Bernadette's Senior N.S.**  
 Quarryvale, Clondalkin, Dublin 22.



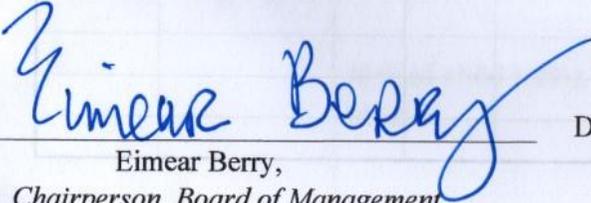
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Recreation breaks for pupils	Injury to pupils/Bullying  Harm not recognised or properly or promptly reported	Procedures in place Health & Safety Policy Code Of Behaviour
Toilet areas	Inappropriate behaviour	Usage and supervision Procedures Code Of Behaviour

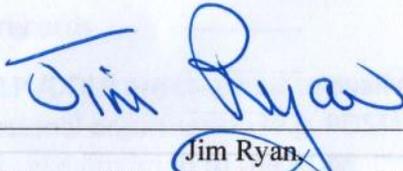
**Important Note:** It should be noted that risk in the context of this risk assessment is the risk of “harm” as defined in the Children First Act 2015 and not general health and safety risk. The definition of harm is set out in Chapter 4 of the *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools (revised 2023)*

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.

This risk assessment has been completed by the Board of Management of St. Bernadette’s Senior National School on **9<sup>th</sup> December 2024**

It shall be reviewed as part of the school’s annual review of its Child Safeguarding Statement. in **December 2025**

Signed  Date **9<sup>th</sup> December 2024**  
 Eimear Berry,  
 Chairperson, Board of Management

Signed  Date **9<sup>th</sup> December 2024**  
 Jim Ryan,  
 Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management