

# Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment

## Child Safeguarding Statement

St. Bernadette's SNS is a primary school providing primary education to pupils from Third Class to Sixth Class.

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 \(2019\)](#), the [Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools \(revised 2023\)](#) and [Tusla Guidance on the preparation of Child Safeguarding Statements](#), the Board of Management of [insert school name] 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 (revised (2023))* as part of this overall Child Safeguarding Statement
- 2 The Designated Liaison Person (DLP) is **Mr. Jim Ryan**
- 3 The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is **Ms. Deirdre Dunne**
- 4 The Relevant Person is **Mr. Jim Ryan**
- 5 (The relevant person is one who can provide information in respect of how the child safeguarding statement was developed and will be able to provide the statement on request. This person can also be the DLP)
- 6 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.

7 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 (revised 2023)* and to the relevant agreed disciplinary procedures for school staff which are published on the [gov.ie](http://gov.ie) 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](#) 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 [gov.ie](http://gov.ie) 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 (revised 2023)*, including in the case of registered teachers, those in relation to mandated reporting under the Children First Act 2015.
- 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 [gov.ie](http://gov.ie) website or will be made available on request by the school.

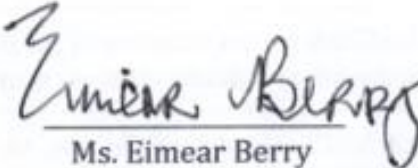
**Note:** The above is not intended as an exhaustive list. Individual Boards of Management shall also include in this section such other procedures/measures that are of relevance to the school in question.




- 8 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.
  
- 9 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 9<sup>th</sup> December 2024

This Child Safeguarding Statement was reviewed by the Board of Management on 9<sup>th</sup> December 2024

Signed:   
Ms. Eimear Berry  
Chairperson of Board of Management

Signed:   
Jim Ryan  
Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Date: 9<sup>th</sup> December 2024

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## Checklist for Review of the Child Safeguarding Statement



Charities Regulator: Registered Charity Number 20120290

The [Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools \(revised 2023\)](#) require that the Board of Management must undertake a review of its Child Safeguarding Statement and that the following checklist shall be used for this purpose. **The review must be completed every year or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which the Child Safeguarding Statement refers.** Undertaking an annual review will also ensure that a school also meets its statutory obligation under section 11(8) of the Children First Act 2015, to review its Child Safeguarding Statement every two years.

The checklist is designed as an aid to conducting this review and is not intended as an exhaustive list of the issues to be considered. Individual Boards of Management shall include other items in the checklist that are of relevance to the school in question.

As part of the overall review process, Boards of Management should also assess relevant school policies, procedures, practices and activities vis a vis their adherence to the principles of best practice in child protection and welfare as set out in the school's Child Safeguarding Statement, the Children First Act 2015, the Addendum to Children First (2019) and the *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools (revised 2023)*.

	Yes/No
1. Has the Board formally adopted a Child Safeguarding Statement in accordance with the <i>Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools (revised 2023)</i> ?	YES
2. Is the Board satisfied that the Child Safeguarding Statement is displayed in a prominent place near the main entrance to the school?	YES
3. As part of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement, has the Board formally adopted, without modification, the <i>Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools (revised 2023)</i> ?	YES
4. Does the school's Child Safeguarding Statement include a written assessment of risk as required under the Children First Act 2015? (This includes considering the specific issue of online safety as required by the Addendum to Children First)	YES
5. Has the Board reviewed and updated where necessary the written assessment of risk as part of this overall review?	YES
6. Has the Risk Assessment taken account of the risk of harm relevant to online teaching and learning remotely?	YES
7. Has the DLP attended available child protection training?	YES
8. Has the Deputy DLP attended available child protection training?	YES
9. Have any members of the Board attended child protection training?	YES
10. Has the school appointed a DLP and a Deputy DLP?	YES
11. Are the relevant contact details (Tusla and An Garda Síochána) to hand?	YES
12. Has the Board arrangements in place to communicate the school's Child Safeguarding Statement to new school personnel?	YES

13. Is the Board satisfied that all school personnel have been made aware of their responsibilities under the <i>Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools (revised 2023)</i> and the Children First Act 2015?	YES
14. Has the Board received a Principal's Child Protection Oversight Report (CPOR) at each Board meeting held since the last review was undertaken?	YES
15. Since the Board's last review, did each CPOR contain all of the information required under each of the 4 headings set out in sections 9.5 to 9.8 inclusive of the procedures?	YES
16. Since the Board's last review, has the Board been provided with and reviewed all records relevant to the CPOR?	YES
17. Is the Board satisfied that the records provided are anonymised and redacted as necessary to ensure that the identities of children and any other parties, including school personnel, to whom the concern or report relates are not disclosed?	YES
18. Since the Board's last review, have the minutes of each Board meeting appropriately recorded the records provided to the Board as part of CPOR?	YES
19. Have the minutes of each Board meeting appropriately recorded the CPOR?	YES
20. Is the Board satisfied that the child protection procedures in relation to the making of reports to Tusla/An Garda Síochána were appropriately followed in each case reviewed?	YES
21. Is the Board satisfied that, since the last review, all appropriate actions are being or have been taken in respect of any member of school personnel against whom an allegation of abuse or neglect has been made?*	N/A
22. Where applicable, were unique identifiers used to record child protection matters in the Board minutes?	YES
23. Is the Board satisfied that all records relating to child protection are appropriately filed and stored securely?	YES
24. Has the Board been notified by any parent in relation to that parent not receiving the standard notification required under section 5.6 of the <i>Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools (revised 2023)</i> ?	NO
25. In relation to any cases identified at question 20 above, has the Board ensured that any notifications required under section 5.6 of the <i>Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools (revised 2023)</i> were subsequently issued by the DLP?	N/A
26. Has the Board ensured that the Parents' Association (if any), has been provided with the school's Child Safeguarding Statement?	YES
27. Has the Board ensured that the patron has been provided with the school's Child Safeguarding Statement?	YES
28. Has the Board ensured that the school's Child Safeguarding Statement is available to parents on request?	YES
29. Has the Board ensured that the Stay Safe programme is implemented in full in the school? ( <i>applies to primary schools</i> )	YES
30. Has the Board ensured that the Wellbeing Programme for Junior Cycle students is implemented in full in the school? ( <i>applies to post-primary schools</i> )	N/A

31. Has the Board ensured that the SPHE curriculum is implemented in full in the school?	YES
32. Is the Board satisfied that the statutory requirements for Garda Vetting have been met in respect of all school personnel (employees and volunteers)? *	YES
33. Is the Board satisfied that the Department's requirements in relation to the provision of a child protection related statutory declaration and associated form of undertaking have been met in respect of persons appointed to teaching and non-teaching positions?*	YES
34. Is the Board satisfied that, from a child protection perspective, thorough recruitment and selection procedures are applied by the school in relation to all school personnel ( <i>employees and volunteers</i> )?*	YES
35. Has the Board considered and addressed any complaints or suggestions for improvements regarding the school's Child Safeguarding Statement?	N/A
36. Has the Board sought the feedback of parents in relation to the school's compliance with the requirements of the child safeguarding requirements of the <i>Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools (revised 2023)</i> ?	YES
37. Has the Board sought the feedback of pupils in relation to the school's child safeguarding arrangements?	YES
38. Is the Board satisfied that the ' <i>Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools Post-Primary Schools (revised 2023)</i> ' are being fully and adequately implemented by the school?	YES
39. Has the Board identified any aspects of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement and/or its implementation that require further improvement?	NO
40. Has the Board put in place an action plan containing appropriate timelines to address those aspects of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement and/or its implementation that have been identified as requiring further improvement?	N/A
41. Has the Board ensured that any areas for improvement that were identified in any previous review of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement have been adequately addressed?	N/A

\*In schools where the ETB is the employer, the responsibility for meeting the employer's requirements rests with the ETB concerned. In such cases, this question should be completed following consultation with the ETB.

Signed Eimear Berry

Date 09/12/24

Eimear Berry  
Chairperson, Board of Management

Signed Jim Ryan

Date 9<sup>th</sup> Dec 2024

Jim Ryan  
Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

**Note:** Where a school is undertaking its first review, references in this checklist to the "last review" shall be taken to refer to the date on which the Child Safeguarding Statement was first put in place.



## 5.6 Child protection concern about a member of school personnel raised by a parent

- 5.6.1 Where a parent of a pupil in the school makes an allegation of abuse (as described in [chapter 2](#) of these procedures) against a member of school personnel the following additional procedures shall be followed by the DLP and the board of management as applicable.
- 5.6.2 The DLP shall, within 10 school days of the parent making the allegation (whether to the DLP, the board of management or another member of school personnel) issue a written notification to the parent concerned which sets out;
- (a) that in accordance with the requirements of the *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017*:
    1. the matter has been reported by the DLP to Tusla or
    2. Tusla advice has been sought in respect of the matter by the DLP and on foot of that advice the matter was not reported to Tusla or
    3. the DLP determined that the matter did not constitute reasonable grounds for concern as set out under these procedures and therefore did not require reporting to Tusla and the reasons for that determination,
  - (b) that it is open to the parent concerned to contact Tusla directly in relation to the matter, should the parent wish to do so and,
  - (c) that any allegation of abuse (as described in [chapter 2](#) of these procedures) against a school employee reported to Tusla falls to be dealt with under the relevant