



Mandatory Template 1: Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment Template

Child Safeguarding Statement 2023/24

Scoil Bhríde, Straffan is a primary school providing primary education to pupils from Junior Infants 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 2017](#) and [Tusla Guidance on the preparation of Child Safeguarding Statements](#), the Board of Management of Scoil Bhríde, Straffan 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 2017 as part of this overall Child Safeguarding Statement
- 2 The Designated Liaison Person (DLP) is _____ Caroline Colleran _____
- 3 The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is _____ Breda McAuliffe _____
- 4 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.

5 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 2017 and to the relevant agreed disciplinary procedures for school staff which are published on the DE 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 DE 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 2017, including in the case of registered teachers, those in relation to mandated reporting under the Children First Act 2015.
- In this school the Board has appointed the above named DLP as the “relevant person” (as defined in the Children First Act 2015) to be the first point of contact in respect of the schools child safeguarding statement.

- 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 DE 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.

- 6 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.
- 7 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 12/6/23 [date].

This Child Safeguarding Statement was reviewed by the Board of Management on 12/6/23 [most recent review date].

Signed: POBrien

Signed: CColleran

Chairperson of Board of Management

Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Date: 12/6/23

Date: 12/6/23

Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment

Written Assessment of Risk of Straffan National School #18644U

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 2017*, the following is the Written Risk Assessment of [name of 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 –
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils ● Recreation breaks for pupils ● Classroom teaching ● Remote teaching ● One-to-one teaching (withdrawal and Special Class) ● Group teaching (withdrawal and Special Class Teaching) ● Movement Breaks for Children with Complex Needs ● Special Class for ASD teaching and supervision of children in Sensory Room and Quiet Room ● Outdoor teaching activities ● Outdoor Sensory Space, school garden and playground: Tír na nÓg ● Sporting Activities ● Swimming* ● School tours and outings* 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Risk of harm not being recognised by school personnel ● Risk of harm not being reported properly and promptly by school personnel ● Risk of child being harmed in the school by a member of school personnel ● Risk of child being harmed in the school by another child ● Risk of child being harmed in the school by volunteer or visitor to the school ● Risk of child being harmed by a member of school personnel, a member of staff of another organisation or 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● All school personnel are provided with a copy of the school's <i>Child Safeguarding Statement</i> ● The <i>Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017</i> are made available to all school personnel ● School Personnel are required to adhere to the <i>Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017</i> and all registered teaching staff are required to adhere to the <i>Children First Act 2015</i> ● The school implements in full the Stay Safe Programme ● The school implements in full the SPHE curriculum ● The school implements a selection of programmes such as "Restorative Circle Programme (pilot)", "Zippy's Friends", "Stay Safe", "RSE:", "Webwise", "ABI Care Schools Initiative", "Weaving Wellbeing", "Walk Tall" and

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● School trips involving overnight stay* ● Use of toilet in schools ● Annual Sports Days* ● Fundraising events involving pupils such as Christmas Fayre/ Sale of Work* ● Use of off-site facilities for school activities such as Straffan GAA Astro Turf, Community Hall, Local walks etc ● School transport arrangements ● Care of children with special educational needs, including intimate care where needed and toileting accidents ● Management of challenging behaviour amongst pupils, including appropriate use of restraint where required ● Administration of Medicine ● Administration of First Aid ● Curricular provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe ● Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst pupils ● Training of school personnel in child protection matters ● Use of external personnel to supplement curriculum ● Use of external personnel to support sports and other extra-curricular activities * 	<p>other person while child participating in out of school activities e.g. school trip, swimming lessons</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Risk of harm due to bullying of child ● Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children in school ● Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children while attending out of school activities ● Risk of harm due to inappropriate relationship/communications between child and another child or adult ● Risk of harm due to children inappropriately accessing/using computers, social media, phones and other devices while at school ● Risk of harm to children with SEN who have particular vulnerabilities ● Risk of harm to child while a child is receiving intimate care ● Risk of harm due to inadequate code of behaviour 	<p>the Relationship and Sexuality Education(RSE) programme.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 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> ● The school staff are trained in the ABI Care School Intervention and fully implement this Care Approach across the school as part of the Anti- Bullying Policy to support and encourage a positive school climate. From Spring 2023, the school is piloting “Restorative Circle Programme” and will be phasing this across the school from September 2023. ● The school has a classroom/yard/playground supervision policy to ensure appropriate supervision of children during arrival, assembly, dismissal and breaks ● In the past, all visitors must report to reception, sign in the visitors book and wear a badge/ lanyard. All visitors must sign in through the office. ● Children must be signed in/out by a parent/ guardian if leaving early or arriving late. Children are collected from the classroom only by staff. ● The school has clear procedures in respect of school outings * ● The school has a Health and Safety Statement ● The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation and relevant DES
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Care of pupils with specific vulnerabilities/ needs such as ● Pupils from ethnic minorities/migrants ● Members of the Traveller community ● Pupils perceived to be LGBT ● Pupils of minority religious faiths ● Children in care ● Children on CPNS (Child Protection Notification System) ● Recruitment of school personnel including - ● Teachers/SNA's ● Caretaker/Secretary/Cleaners ● Sports coaches ● External Tutors/Guest Speakers ● Volunteers/Parents in school activities ● Visitors/contractors present in school during school hours ● Visitors/contractors present during after school activities ● Participation by pupils in religious ceremonies external to the school* ● Use of Information and Communication Technology by pupils for school purposes/ educational purposes ● Application of sanctions under the school's Code of Behaviour ● Students participating in work experience in the school* 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Risk of harm in one-to-one teaching, counselling, coaching situations and secluded spaces around the school. ● Risk of harm caused by member of school personnel communicating with pupils in appropriate manner via social media, texting, digital device or other manner ● Risk of harm caused by member of school personnel accessing/circulating inappropriate material via social media, texting, digital device or other manner 	<p>circulars in relation to recruitment and Garda vetting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The school has a code of conduct for school personnel as agreed with the relevant partners such as INTO, IMPACT and the Teaching Council. ● The school complies with the agreed disciplinary procedures for teaching staff as guided by the DES and the INTO. ● The school has a Special Educational Needs policy ● The school has an intimate care procedure in respect of students who require such care ● The school has in place a policy for the administration of medication to pupils ● The school – <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Has provided each member of school staff with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement</i> 2. <i>Ensures all new staff are provided with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement</i> 3. <i>Has ensured all staff have completed the Tusla Children First Training and encourages staff to avail of other relevant training</i> 4. <i>DP and DLP attend regular CPD in this area.</i> 5. <i>Encourages Board of Management Members to avail of relevant training</i> 6. <i>All BOM members have been trained in Stay Safe.</i>
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Student teachers undertaking training placement in school ● Trainee SNAs on work experience in the school. ● Use of video/photography/other media to record school events ● After school use of school premises by other organisations * ● Use of school premises by other organisation during school day* ● Use of appropriate media by teachers in classroom- photos, videos <p><i>*These will be under constant review in line with Public Health advice.</i></p>		<p>7. <i>Maintains records of all staff and board member training</i></p> <p>8. <i>Child Safeguarding Oversight report is completed at every BOM Meeting.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The school has in place a procedure for the administration of First Aid. ● Staff are offered First Aid Training every two years as part of the school CPD programme. ● The school has in place a code of behaviour for pupils. ● The school has in place an AUP policy in respect of usage of ICT by pupils ● Internet Safety is taught as part of Stay Safe and Internet Safety Day ● The school has in place a mobile phone/ electronic devices policy in respect of usage of mobile phones by pupils and is currently being reviewed for 23/24. ● The school has in place a Critical Incident Management Plan ● The school has in place a procedure for the use of external sports coaches ● The school has in place a clear procedure for one-to-one teaching activities. Staff visiting Tír na nÓg (school wellbeing space) are encouraged to abide by such procedures and remain visible to the CCTV cameras and be visible at the
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		<p>windows/doors. Such procedures will be extended to our Special Class .</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● The school has in place a policy and procedures in respect of student teacher placements● The school has in place a policy and procedures in respect of students undertaking work experience in the school*● The school has in place a policy and procedure in respect of Accident and Incident reporting and investigation policy.● The school ensures that all parent volunteers (Parents Association) are Garda Vetted where required*.● School Fundraising Events involving the children are always done as part of the school day with staff present.*● The school always uses a reputable Bus Company and the teachers are always present on the bus when supervising the children.*● Permission is sought for the use of photographs for use on the school App and the school website.● The School Twitter account is only used for school information purposes and no images of children are shared using this platform.● The school adheres to the Data Protection Policy <i>*These will be under constant review in line with Public Health advice.</i>
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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 2017*

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.