

Mandatory Template 1: Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment Template

Child Safeguarding Statement

Barnashrone National School is a primary school providing primary education to pupils from Junior Infants to Sixth Class with 2 additional special classes for children with ASD.

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 Barnashrone National School 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 Aileen Delaney
- 3 The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is Noel Reynolds.
- 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.

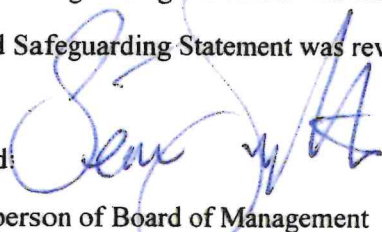
- In relation to the provision of information and, where necessary, instruction and training, to staff in respect of the identification of the occurrence of harm (as defined in the 2015 Act) the school-
 - Has provided each member of staff with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement
 - Ensures 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 school's 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.

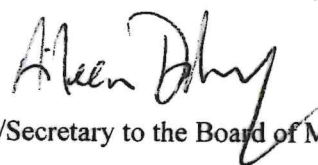
- 6 This statement has been published on the school's website and has been provided to all members of school personnel, the Parents' Association (if any) and the patron. It is readily accessible to parents and guardians on request. A copy of this Statement will be made available to Tusla and the Department 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 19/3/2024

This Child Safeguarding Statement was reviewed by the Board of Management on 19/3/2024.

Signed: 
Chairperson of Board of Management

Date: March 19th 2024

Signed: 
Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Date: March 19th 2024

Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment

Written Assessment of Risk of Barnashrone National School

In accordance with section 11 of the Children First Act 2015 and with the requirements of Chapter 8 of the *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017*, the following is the Written Risk Assessment of Barnashrone National School.

1. List of school activities

- Training of school personnel in Child protection matters
- One to one teaching
- Care of children with recognised special/additional needs, including intimate care needs
- Care of children from varying ethnic backgrounds
- Care of migrant children
- Recruitment of school personnel including-
 - Teachers
 - Special Needs Assistants
 - Caretakers/cleaners
 - Visiting sports coaches
 - External tutors
 - Guest speakers
 - Volunteers/parents in school activities
 - Visitors/contractors present in school during school hours
 - Visitors/contractors present in school after school activities
 - Opening/closing times and break times
 - Visitors/ visiting tutors
 - School tours/outings
 - Access/Egress
 - Swimming lessons/sports events
 - Social media
 - Administrators of medicine/First Aid
 - Application of sanctions under the school's Code of Behaviour including detention of pupils, confiscation of phones etc

2. The school has identified the following risk of harm in respect of its activities -

- Harm not recognised or reported promptly
- Harm by school personnel
- Harm not recognised or reported promptly
- Access to pupils by strangers or other adults
- Risk of harm from other pupils
- Tutors behaving inappropriately
- Tutors lacking awareness of child safety issues
- Inappropriate activity by pupils
- Dangers posed by unfamiliar environment
- Flight risk involving some pupils
- Potential for unsupervised times in changing areas
- Potential for bullying from children in school or at external events outside of school
- Potential for grooming of pupils
- Potential of harm while administering hot food at break times
- Administration of Medicine

- Administration of First Aid
- Supervision of pupil/pupils during periods of detention/suspension
- Risk of racism

3. The school has the following procedures in place to address the risks of harm identified in this assessment -

- Child Safeguarding Statement and DES publications made available to all staff
- All staff to view Tusla training module and any other online training offered by PDST
- Open doors while teaching on a one to one basis where possible
- Table/appropriate space existing between pupil and teacher
- Ensure the child is encouraged to do as much as possible independently and that partner staff member is always in full view at all times
- Vetting procedure of future/incoming staff is strictly adhered to at all times
- Staff members are to be on school premises from 8.50am
- Adequate supervision at all break times
- Staff members only to administer provision of hot food in classrooms
- Children are required to be in line not before 8.50am
- Children are escorted from classrooms by staff members at home time and staff member supervise collection
- Visiting tutors from reputable organisations will require appropriate vetting
- Doors remain open while tutors are present
- Adequate teacher supervision while tutor is present
- Magnetic and twist locks on main entrance doors. Entrance code for inside door. Other door cannot be opened from outside without a key
- Gates to be shut at break times
- Adequate supervision provided during swimming lessons/sports events
- Younger children change together in communal changing rooms with adult supervision and minimum assistance if needed. Older children to change in private individual cubicles
- Trained lifeguards present at poolside
- Pupil's mobile phones handed to class teacher in the morning and returned at the end of the school day
- When travelling on school bus, phone to be given to bus escort
- Anti-Bullying Policy shared with all staff members and parents
- Correspondence with parents via text/phone/notes home/Seesaw
- Children to be supervised at all times while accessing the internet
- Designated member of staff to administer medicine/First Aid
- The school implements in full the Stay Safe Programme
- The school implements in full the SPHE curriculum
- The school adheres to a Health and Safety policy
- Adequate supervision at external events eg. school tours/outings/visits to the church

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.