

## **Child Safeguarding Statement**

### **Scoil Bhride, Straffan**

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Scoil Bhride, Straffan is a primary school providing primary education to pupils from Junior Infants to Sixth Class. We will be opening our first Special Classroom for children with ASD in September 2022.

In accordance with the requirements of the Children First Act 2015, Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children 2017, 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 Bhride, Straffan has agreed the Child Safeguarding Statement set out in this document.

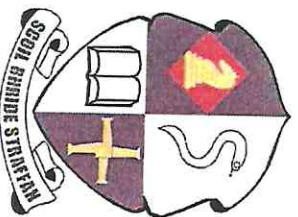
The Board of Management has adopted and will implement fully and without modification the Department's Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools 2017 as part of this overall Child Safeguarding Statement

The Designated Liaison Person (DLP) is Caroline Colleran

The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is Breda McAuliffe

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:

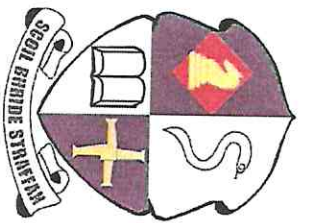
The school will:



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- 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 matter
  - 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.
- 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 DES 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 DES and available on the DES 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;



## Child Safeguarding Statement Scoil Bhride, Straffan

2. 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 3/5/22 and will be reviewed on June 23.

Signed: [Signature] Date: 3/5/22

Chairperson of Board of Management/Principal

[Signature] Date: 3/8/22

Date of next review:



## Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment Template

### Written Assessment of Risk of Scoil Bhríde, Straffan

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 Scoil Bhríde, Straffan

#### UNDERSTANDING WHAT RISKS TO ASSESS

Section 11(1)(a) of the Children First Act 2015 defines risk as "any potential for harm to a child while availing of the service." Section 2 of the Act defines harm as follows:

"harm means in relation to a child -

- (a) Assault, ill-treatment or neglect of the child in a manner that seriously affects or is likely to seriously affect the child's health, development or welfare, or
- (b) Sexual abuse of the child,

whether caused by a single act, omission or circumstance or a series or combination of acts, omissions or circumstances or otherwise."

Taken from [https://www.tusla.ie/uploads/content/Children\\_First\\_National\\_Guidance\\_2017.pdf](https://www.tusla.ie/uploads/content/Children_First_National_Guidance_2017.pdf)  
Department of Children and Youth Affairs, Children First. National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children. Page 32

#### **1. List of school activities**

- 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: Tír na nÓg
- Sporting Activities
- Swimming\*
- School tours and outings\*
- School trips involving overnight stay\*
- Use of toilet in schools
- Annual Sports Day\*
- Fundraising events involving pupils such as Christmas Fayre\*
- 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 \*
- 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\*
- 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

*\* some activities have been paused or changed in line with COVID 19 plan due to the current pandemic. These will be under constant review in line with Public Health advice.*

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

- 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 other person while child participating in out of school activities e.g. school trip, swimming lessons
- 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
- 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

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

- All school personnel are provided with a copy of the school's *Child Safeguarding Statement*
- The *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017* are made available to all school personnel
- School Personnel are required to adhere to the *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017* and all registered teaching staff are required to adhere to the *Children First Act 2015*
- 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 "Zippy's Friends", "Stay Safe", "RSE:", "Webwise", "ABI Care Schools Initiative", "Weaving Wellbeing" and "Walk Tall".
- The school has an Anti-Bullying Policy which fully adheres to the requirements of the Department's *Anti-Bullying Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools*
- 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.
- The school has a yard/playground supervision policy to ensure appropriate supervision of children during, assembly, dismissal and breaks
- In the past, all visitors must report to reception, sign in the visitors book and wear a badge. However since the current pandemic occurred no visitors are allowed into the school unless a prior appointment has been arranged through the office. 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 circulars in relation to recruitment and Garda vetting
- 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 –
  - Has provided each member of school 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
  - Has ensured all staff have completed the Tusla Children First Training and encourages staff to avail of other relevant training
  - DP and DLP attend regular CPD in this area.
  - Encourages Board of Management Members to avail of relevant training
  - All BOM members have been trained in Stay Safe.
  - Maintains records of all staff and board member training
  - Child Safeguarding Oversight report is completed at every BOM Meeting.
- 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
- 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 windows/doors. Such procedures will be extended to our Special Class when it opens in 2022.
- 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\*.
- School Fundraising Events involving the children are always done as part of the school day with staff present.\*

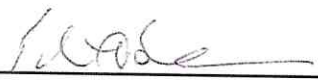
- The school always uses a reputable Bus Company and the teachers are always present on the bus when supervising the children.\*
- Permission is sought for the use of photographs for use on the school App and the school website.
- The School Twitter account is only used for school information purposes and no images of children are shared using this platform.
- The school adheres to the Data Protection Policy

*\* some activities have been paused or changed in line with COVID 19 plan due to the current pandemic. These will be under constant review in line with Public Health advice.*

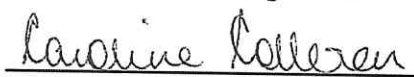
**Important Note:** It should be noted that risk in the context of this risk assessment is the risk of "harm" as defined in the Children First Act 2015 and not general health and safety risk. The definition of harm is set out in Chapter 4 of the *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post- Primary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

This risk assessment has been completed by the Board of Management on ..... . It shall be reviewed as part of the school's annual review of its Child Safeguarding Statement.

Signed  Date 31/5/22

Chairperson, Board of Management

Signed  Date 31/8/22

Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Mandatory Template 3: Notification regarding the Board of Management's review of the Child Safeguarding Statement


To: School Community, Scoil Bhríde

The Board of Management of Stratton N.S. wishes to inform you that:

- The Board of Management's annual review of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement was completed at the Board meeting of 31/8/22 [date].
- This review was conducted in accordance with the "Checklist for Review of the Child Safeguarding Statement" published on the Department's 'website [www.education.ie](http://www.education.ie)

Signed  Date 31/8/22

Chairperson, Board of Management

Signed  Date 31/8/22

Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management