



Child Safeguarding Statement

(Available in full on school website. www.stbrigid.ie or on request at the school office)

1. Vision

St Brigid's Girls National School Glasnevin, is a primary school providing education to pupils from Junior Infants to Sixth Class.

The Catholic ethos of St. Brigid's prioritises the creation of a school climate of love, trust, respect and tolerance, which recognises the need for the cooperation and involvement of the whole school community, to establish our school as a centre of excellence in the provision of educational opportunities. The school places each pupil and their best interests, in particular, their safety, protection and welfare, as its central and paramount consideration, whilst fostering the development of positive self- esteem and reliance.

2. Rationale

To comply with the new 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: The Child and Family Agency guidance on the preparation of Child Safeguarding Statements and to provide for best future reference for whole school community, the Board of Management (BOM), has agreed and ratified this Child Safeguarding Statement.

3. Liaison/Contact persons

The following school personnel have been appointed, as relevant persons to liaise with outside agencies, to act as first contact and resource support in addressing any child protection concerns:

The Designated Liaison Person (DLP) is Darina Burke

The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is Catherine Lafferty

4. Principles of best practice

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 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 to protect staff from the necessity to take unnecessary risks that may leave themselves open to accusations of abuse or neglect;
- practice openness with parents and encourage parental involvement in the education of their children; and
- fully respect confidentiality requirements in dealing with child protection and welfare matters.

5. Written Risk Assessment

In accordance with the Children First Act 2015, the BOM has carried out an assessment of any potential risks that would cause harm to a child while attending the school and/or participating in school activities. A written Risk Assessment setting out the areas of risk currently identified and the school's procedures for managing these is shown overleaf.

“Harm” is that of the Children First Act, 2015, which defines “harm” in relation to a child as follows: –

(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;

In undertaking this Risk Assessment, the BOM, in consultation with the teaching staff and parents, has endeavoured to identify as far as possible the risks of harm that are relevant to our school and to ensure that adequate procedures are in place to manage and reduce the likelihood of such risks occurring.

While it is not possible to foresee, identify and remove all potential risk of harm, the school has in place the procedures listed in this Risk Assessment, to manage and reduce any risks identified to the greatest possible extent.

School Activity	Potential Risk of Harm	Level of Risk	Procedures in place to address to address Risk
Curricular provision in respect of SPHE, RSE and Stay Safe programmes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Where absent, pupils vulnerable to threats to personal safety in lacking skill sets to recognise, resist and report abuse ● Spread of the COVID-19 virus 	Medium	<p>School implements comprehensive Policies and Programmes for SPHE, RSE and Stay Safe;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● SPHE over a two year cycle - which allows exposure to all stand units (with an increased focus on hygiene etiquette) ● RSE annually on a whole school basis during March. During the 2020/2021 school year RSE will be taught in Term 1 and Term 3. Pupils missed out on RSE instruction during the 2019/2020 school year so this section will be covered in Term 1. ● Stay Safe in entirety every two years [January –February] with recap in intervening year
<p>Recruitment of all school personnel:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Teachers (including substitute teachers, and students on placement) ○ SNAs ○ Caretaker/Secretary/Cleaners 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Inappropriate/unauthorised access to and possible contact with pupils ● Spread of the COVID-19 	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● DES/Teaching Council Registration and Qualifications ● Induction Pack ● National Vetting Bureau Requirements ● Guidelines for helpers

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Sports coaches ○ External tutors/Guest speakers ○ Volunteers/Parents/Guardians 	virus		accompanying classes on tours <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Garda vetting for PA members ● All school personnel will be inducted on our procedures for preventing the spread of the COVID-19 virus to ensure the safety of all pupils
School Activity	Potential Risk of Harm	Level of Risk	Procedures in place to address to address Risk
Training of all school personnel in Child Protection	Child protection issues not sufficiently recognised and/or promptly reported	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Child Safeguarding Statement and referenced DES Child Protection Procedures made readily available to all school personnel (google drive) ● All engage in e-learning programmes provided by Túsla and avail of other opportunities provided to engage in ● DLP attended PDST training ● Deputy DLP – training Oct 15 2019 ● Principal and one other BOM member attended training – February 2018 ● Records of all training are maintained by BOM
Visitors/Parents/Contractors and/or other entrants may present in school during school hours and after school hours unauthorised	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Inappropriate access to pupils by being in school without knowledge and/or authorisation ● Spread of the COVID-19 	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Visitors/Parents/Contractors are not permitted to enter the school building, only in exceptional cases and prior to making contact with the school ● Visitors/Parents/Contractors can

	virus		<p>communicate with the school by phone or email at stbrigid.glasnevin@gmail.com</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The principal is contactable at principal@stbrigid.ie • Parents can communicate with the class teacher via their dedicated school email • If Visitors/Parents/Contractors have been given approval to visit the school, after arriving at the school, they must press the buzzer at the main entrance door to the school and then wait until further instruction is given • The contact details of the Visitors/Parents/Contractors will be recorded by the school principal/secretary for the purpose of contact tracing. For substitute staff and those who are here longer than 15 minutes, they are obliged to fill out a full contact tracing log via a dedicated link. • All access doors to the school will be closed
School Activity	Potential Risk of Harm	Level of Risk	Procedures in place to address to address Risk
Daily Arrival and Dismissal of pupils	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Inappropriate behaviour by older pupils or others ○ Entrants to school without 	Medium	<p>Arrival Procedures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School gates will open at 8:40 am. There will be a 20 window between

	<p>knowledge</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Junior pupils collected by person other than parent/guardian/designated person ○ Overpopulating the main entrance and exit to the school at arrival and dismissal time which would increase the risk of spreading the virus 		<p>8:40 am and 9:00 am within which pupils can arrive in school</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Both the small pedestrian gate and the large car-park gate will be used to gain entry to the school building. Pupils in Rooms 5, 6, 13, 14, 15 and 16 will enter via the small pedestrian gate. Pupils in Room 1, 2, 3, 4, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12 and 20 will enter via the large car-park gate ● Pupils entering via the large car-park gates will walk along the railings inside the yellow line ● The gates will be supervised by a staff member(s) ● In line with public health guidelines and the Return to Schools Guidance document parents are asked not to enter the grounds of the school (with the exception of Junior Infant parents). Parents are asked not to congregate at the gate ● Pupils will go straight to their classes. Class teachers will be in their classroom to receive pupils ● Pupils will access their classrooms via exit doors as follows: Exit Door 1 (Main Door): Rooms 13, 14, 15 and 16. Exit Door 2: (Electric Doors): Rooms 10, 11 and 12. - Exit Door 3: Rooms 5 and 6. Exit Door 4: Rooms 2, 3, 4. - Exit Door 5: (Side Entrance at end of ramp): Room 1, 7, 8 and 9. - Room 20 will enter via the classroom door that looks onto the
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			<p>small yard.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Each of the exit doors will be supervised by a staff member. ● Pupils will sanitise their hands upon entry to the classroom <p>Dismissal Procedures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Junior/Senior Infants released individually to parent/guardian/designated person at Exit Door 2/3/4 ● 1st class will be dismissed at 2:15 pm. The 2 classes will line up at 2 designated points on either side of the gates. 2nd class will be dismissed from the pedestrian gate at 2:20 pm. - 3rd/4th class will be dismissed from the pedestrian gate at 2:25 pm. - 5th/6th class pupils will be dismissed from the pedestrian gate at 2:30 pm ● If pupils who have not been collected on time by their parent/guardian/designated person, their class teacher will accompany them to the main entrance of the school where they will wait with an SNA who is on duty until the parent/guardian/designated person collects the pupil ● Pupils are advised to walk back to school if they are not collected at collection point
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<p>One to One teaching and involvement</p> <p>Care of pupils with special educational needs and/or intimate care of those with special vulnerabilities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inappropriate behaviour by school personnel • Spread of the COVID-19 virus 	<p>Medium</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If a teacher is, for any reason, alone in a classroom with one pupil and there is no glass panel on the door, the door will be kept open, with occupants visible at all times. • Glass panelling in all SET rooms except for the prefab where our visiting Special Education Teacher will be teaching each Thursday from 09:00 to 13:30. The classroom door will be left open at all times • Work carried out by SNA is under the direction of the class teacher <p>Social distancing measures will be adhered to/teachers will be provided with the necessary PPE gear</p>
<p>School Activity</p>	<p>Potential Risk of Harm</p>	<p>Level of Risk</p>	<p>Procedures in place to address to address Risk</p>
<p>Toilet Areas/Toileting</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inappropriate behaviour • Mixing of children between class bubbles, spreading the COVID-19 virus 	<p>Medium</p>	<p>Procedures for recreational break:</p> <p><u>11:50 break</u> Junior Yard: (4classes)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The junior children walk in pairs to use the toilet in Room 7 (located in the main school building) <p>Senior Yard: (5 classes)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The senior children walk independently to use the toilets in Room 7 (located in the main school

			<p>building)</p> <p>12:30 break</p> <p>Junior Yard: (3 classes)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The junior children use the toilet in Room 20 (located just off the school playground) <p>Senior Yard: (5 classes)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The senior children use the toilet in Room 20 (located just off the school playground)
<p>Participation in sports and other activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coaching Matches outside Sports day Religious ceremonies School tours Swimming 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inappropriate behaviour/contact Spreading of the COVID-19 virus 	Medium	<p>All activities always under supervision of teacher</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Class teacher remains with class for duration of lesson Two adults accompany pupils at sports events outside the school Class teacher accompanies class outside for outdoor external coaching School Tour Policy Swimming Guidelines <p>The children remain in their pods and social distancing measures are adhered to, where applicable</p>
Movement around the building	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inappropriate behaviour/contact 	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If parents arrive to collect pupils early, two pupils within the pupil's pod, accompany the pupil to be

			collected down to reception after an announcement is made over intercom
School Activity	Potential Risk of Harm	Level of Risk	Procedures in place to address to address Risk
Use of Information and Communication technology	Inappropriate communication with inappropriate persons. Access to age-inappropriate material	Medium/High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Acceptable Usage Policy ● Stay Safe programme ● Data Protection policy ● Anti -Bullying Policy ● Workshops re Internet Safety for 2nd/3rd/4th/5th/6th class, for parents and for staff to take place every two years (last workshops were February 2020) <p>All technology will be cleaned after use</p>

6. Procedures/Measures to support the safeguarding of pupils

The procedures referred to in this Child Safeguarding Statement can be accessed via the school's website: www.stbrigid.ie and/or the DES website: www.education.ie and can be made available on request.

Selection and recruitment of staff

In the selection and 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 their website www.education.ie

Provision of information, instruction and training

To demonstrate commitment and provide necessary information, instruction and training to staff in order to identify the possible occurrence of harm as defined in the Children First Act 2015, the school;

- Displays Page One only, of this Child Safeguarding Statement in the reception foyer;
- provides each member of staff, including all new staff with a copy of this Child Safeguarding Statement;
- ensures all staff receive relevant and identified training in its contents;
- ensures the members of the BOM avail of any relevant and available training; and
- maintains records of all staff and BOM member training.

Investigations

Where any member of staff is the subject of any investigation (howsoever described) in respect of any alleged act, omission or circumstance in respect of a child attending the school, the school will adhere to the relevant procedures as 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 staff as published on the DES website.

Reporting

In reporting of child protection concerns to Tusla: The Child and Family Agency, 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, as mandated persons under the Children First Act 2015. The BOM has appointed the above named DLP and Deputy DLP as the “relevant person”, defined in the Children First Act 2015, to be the first points of contact in respect of this Child Safeguarding Statement.

The procedures referred to in this Child Safeguarding Statement can be accessed via the school's website: www.stbrigid.ie or the DES website: www.education.ie and can be made available on request.

7. Programmes and Policies

The following school policies support this Child Safeguarding Statement and were drawn up in consultation with staff/parents/guardians and the BOM

- Stay Safe Programme
- Anti-Bullying Policy
- Enrolment & Admissions Policy
- Health and Safety Statement
- Relationships and Sexuality Education Policy
- Acceptable Usage Policy
- Social Personal Health and Education (SPHE) Policy
- Data Protection Policy

8. Communication

This Child Safeguarding Statement is published on the school's website and has been provided to all members of school personnel, the Parents' Association and to the Patron and is readily available to parents, guardians, Tusla and the DES on request.

Page One only, is prominently displayed in the foyer.

9. Roles and Responsibilities

All registered teachers employed by the school are “mandated persons” for the reporting of child protection concerns, normally through the DLP.

The BOM is responsible for carrying out a Written Risk Assessment setting out the areas of risk identified and the school’s procedures for managing those risks. They are also responsible for ratifying the Child Safeguarding Statement and overseeing its implementation and regular review.

The Principal is responsible for the implementation of this Child Safeguarding Statement, acting as DLP and for providing confidentially to the BOM, a Child Protection Oversight Report, containing information details of any:

- Allegations of any abuse made against members of school personnel
- Any other child protection concerns in respect of pupils in the school (i.e. concerns that do not involve any allegation of abuse against a member of school personnel)
- Any Child protection concerns arising from alleged bullying behaviour amongst pupils, and
- Reporting summary data

The wider school community also have a role to play in supporting the social, personal and health development of pupils and in reporting any alleged child protection concerns.

Parents play a very important role in supporting the school efforts through, for example, involvement in homework and attending school events.

10. Ratification and Review

The BOM has adopted and commits to 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.

This Child Safeguarding Statement was adopted and ratified by the Board of Management on March 3rd 2018 and will be reviewed annually or after there has been a material change in any matter to which it refers.

The BOM will notify the Parents Association of this review using the Form given in **Appendix 2**.

Signed: _____
Chairperson of Board of Management

Signed: _____
Principal

Date: _____

Date: _____

Appendix 1

Checklist for Review of the Child Safeguarding Statement

	Yes/No
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1. Has the Board formally adopted a Child Safeguarding Statement in accordance with the 'Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools 2017'?	
2. As part of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement, has the Board formally adopted, without modification, the 'Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools 2017'?	
3. Does the school's Child Safeguarding Statement include a written assessment of risk as required under the Children First Act 2015?	
4. Has the Board reviewed and updated where necessary the written assessment of risk as part of this overall review?	
5. Has the DLP attended available child protection training?	
6. Has the Deputy DLP attended available child protection training?	
7. Have any members of the Board attended child protection training?	
8. Are there both a DLP and a Deputy DLP currently appointed?	
9. Are the relevant contact details (Tusla and An Garda Síochána) to hand?	
10. Has the Board arrangements in place to communicate the school's Child Safeguarding Statement to new school personnel?	
11. Is the Board satisfied that all school personnel have been made aware of their responsibilities under the 'Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools 2017' and the Children First Act 2015?	
12. Has the Board received a Principal's Child Protection Oversight Report at each Board meeting held since the last review was undertaken?	
13. Since the Board's last review, was the Board informed of any child protection reports made to Tusla/An Garda Síochána by the DLP?	
14. Since the Board's last review, was the Board informed of any cases where the DLP sought advice from Tusla/and as a result of this advice, no report to the HSE was made?	
15. Since the Board's last review, was the Board informed of any cases where an allegation of abuse or neglect was made against any member of school personnel?	
16. Has the Board been provided with and reviewed all documents relevant to the Principal's Child Protection Oversight Report?	
17. 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?	

18. 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?*	
19. Were child protection matters reported to the Board appropriately recorded in the Board minutes?	
20. Is the Board satisfied that all records relating to child protection are appropriately filed and stored securely?	
21. 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 'Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools 2017'	
22. In relation to any cases identified at question 21above, has the Board ensured that any notifications required under section 5.6 of the 'Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools 2017' were subsequently issued by the DLP?	
23. Has the Board ensured that the Parents' Association (if any), has been provided with the school's Child Safeguarding Statement?	
24. Has the Board ensured that the patron has been provided with the school's Child Safeguarding Statement?	
25. Has the Board ensured that the school's Child Safeguarding Statement is available to parents on request?	
26. Has the Board ensured that the Stay Safe programme is implemented in full in the school? (applies to primary schools)	
27. Has the Board ensured that the Wellbeing Programme for Junior Cycle students is implemented in full in the school? (applies to post- primary schools)	
28. Has the Board ensured that the SPHE curriculum is implemented in full in the school?	
29. Is the Board satisfied that the statutory requirements for Garda Vetting have been met in respect of all school personnel (employees and volunteers)? *	
30. 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?*	
31. 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 (employees and volunteers)?*	
32. Has the Board considered and addressed any complaints or suggestions for improvements regarding the school's Child Safeguarding Statement?	
33. 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 'Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools 2017'	
34. Has the Board sought the feedback of pupils in relation to the school's child safeguarding arrangements?	
35. Is the Board satisfied that the 'Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools 2017' are being fully and adequately implemented by the school?	
36. Has the Board identified any aspects of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement and/or its implementation that require further improvement?	
37. 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 ?	
38. 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?	

Signed: _____

Chairperson of Board of Management

Signed: _____

Principal

Date: _____

Date: _____

Appendix 2

Notification regarding the Board of Management's review of the Child Safeguarding Statement

To: _____

The Board of Management of _____ 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 _____.
- 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

Signed: _____
Chairperson of Board of Management

Signed: _____
Principal

Date: _____

Date: _____