Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment 2026-2027

For:	**St Brigid's National School**
At:	**Old Finglas Road, Glasnevin, Dublin 11**

This school is a: ☒primary

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) and 2025, Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025 and Child Safeguarding: A Guide for Policy, Procedure and Practice, 2nd ed. (Tusla, 2024), the board of management has adopted the Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment 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 Schools 2025 as part of this overall Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment.

Name of the Designated Liaison Person (DLP):

Darina Burke

Name of the Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP/DDLP):

Catherine Lafferty

In the absence of the DLP, the Deputy DLP shall assume responsibilities of the DLP

Name of Relevant Person

Darina Burke

(In schools this person is the DLP)

Relevant Person can be contacted on:

01-8376653	info@stbrigid.ie

Under the Children First Act 2015 Relevant Person means a person who is appointed by a provider of a relevant service to be the first point of contact in respect of the Child Safeguarding Statement. This person is nominated by the board of management to manage and provide oversight of child protection concerns/allegations of child abuse.

Name of Chairperson of the board of management, or in an ETB school the Chief Executive or their delegate:

Margaret Lennon

In the event that both DLP and DDLP are absent and unavailable, and where there is no staff member formally acting in their role, the chairperson of the board of management, or in an ETB school the chief executive or their delegate, assumes the role of DLP.

The board of management recognises that child protection and safeguarding permeate all aspects of school life and must be reflected in all of the school's policies, procedures, practices and activities. In all of these, 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 happening to children and protect members of school personnel from the necessity to take unnecessary risks that may leave themselves open to accusations of child abuse.
- Develop a practice of openness with parents and encourage parental involvement in the education of their children.
- Fully respect confidentiality requirements as set out in the Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025 in dealing with child protection matters.
- Adhere to the above principles in relation to any vulnerable adult.

Procedures and Measures in Place

Our Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment has been developed in line with requirements under the Children First Act 2015, the *Children First: National Guidance 2017*, and *Child Safeguarding: A Guide for Policy, Procedure and Practice, 2nd ed. (Tusla, 2024),* and the *Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025.* In addition to the procedures listed in our risk assessment, the following procedures support our intention to safeguard children while they are availing of our service:

Procedure for the Management of Allegations of Abuse or Misconduct against School Personnel Relating to a Child Availing of Our Service

~ Where any member of school personnel is the subject of any investigation in respect of any act, omission or circumstance in relation to a child attending the school, the school is required to adhere to the relevant procedures set out in Chapter 7 of *the Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025* and to the relevant agreed disciplinary procedures for school staff which are published on the gov.ie website.

Procedure for the Safe Recruitment and Selection of School Personnel to Work With Children

The school is required to adhere to the requirements of the Vetting Act. The selection or recruitment of staff and their suitability to work with children, requires the school to adhere 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 Youth and available on the gov.ie website and as outlined in Chapter 10 of the procedures.

A written protocol is in place authorising immediate action for cases which require an employee to be immediately absented from school for child safeguarding reasons.

Procedure for Provision of and Access to Child Safeguarding Training and Information, Including the Identification of the Occurrence of Harm

The school provides information and training to members of school personnel in relation to the identification of the occurrence of harm (as defined in the 2015 Act) as follows:

The school has provided each member of school personnel, including any new members of school personnel, (employees and volunteers, board of management members, student teachers and those on work experience) with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment.

The school ensures that members of school personnel have availed of relevant training and completed child protection training.

The school encourages board of management members to avail of any relevant training and complete child protection training.

The board of management ensures that records of all staff and board member child protection training are maintained.

Procedure for the Reporting of Child Protection or Welfare Concerns to Tusla

All members of school personnel are required to adhere to the procedures set out in the *Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025*, in relation to reporting of child protection concerns to Tusla. Mandated reporting applies to all registered teachers and any other mandated person who may be employed by the school, for example a chaplain or nurse. A full list of those people who are mandated persons is set out in Appendix 1 procedures.

Procedure for Maintaining a List of the Persons (if any) in the Relevant Service Who Are Mandated Persons

There is a procedure in place to maintain a list of mandated persons. Schools may on occasion employ additional staff who are mandated by virtue of their profession. This list will include all registered teachers and identify additional employees that are not registered teachers.

Procedure for Appointing a Relevant Person (In schools this person is the DLP)

There is a procedure in place for appointing a relevant person.

The various procedures referred to in this Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment can be accessed via the school's website, the gov.ie website or will be made available on request by the school.

In accordance with the Children First Act 2015, the Addendum to Children First 2019 and 2025, and the *Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025,* the board of management 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.

Note: The procedures and measures in place outlined above, are not intended as an exhaustive list. Individual boards of management shall also include in this section such other procedures and measures that are of relevance to the school.

This statement has been published on the school's website or will be made available on request by the school. It has been provided to all members of school personnel, the parents' association (if any), the patron and parents. A copy of this statement and risk assessment will be made available to Tusla and the department if requested.

This Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment will be reviewed annually or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which this statement refers

Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment 2026-2027

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
1.	Curricular provision in respect of SPHE, RSE and Stay Safe programmes	Curricular provision in respect of SPHE, RSE and Stay Safe programmes Where absent, pupils vulnerable to threats to personal safety and lacking skill sets to recognise, resist and report abuse	• SPHE over a two year cycle - which allows exposure to all strand units. • RSE programme is taught annually on a whole school basis during March. • Stay Safe in its entirety taught every two years [January –February] with a recap of the main messages in the intervening year. Junior Infant programme taught annually in its entirety.
2.	Recruitment of all school personnel: Teachers (including substitute teachers, and pupils on placement) SNAs Caretaker/Secretary/Cleaners Sports coaches External tutors/Guest speakers Volunteers Creche workers/Taxi drivers who collect pupils from classroom doors	Inappropriate/unauthorised access to and possible contact with pupils	• DES/Teaching Council registration/qualifications/Statutory Declaration • Employers to provide particular information to us, as soon as practicable, in circumstances where a registered teacher: -is dismissed by his or her employer, or -resigns and that resignation follows upon the making of a complaint in relation to that teacher (other than a

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			complaint made in relation to a teacher under section 42 of the Teaching Council Act 2001 (No. 8 of 2001), or the invoking of procedures under section 24 of the Education Act 1998 (No. 51 of 1998), or such other procedures as may be invoked, in respect of the teacher.
3.	Training of all teachers/SNAs/Secretary in Child Protection	Child protection issues not sufficiently recognised and/or promptly reported	● Induction Pack/ Padlet (new teachers) ● National Vetting Bureau Requirements ● All staff trained in new Child Protection Procedures (September 2026) ● Child Protection Procedures reminders as part of Croke Park Staff Planning day annually ● Garda vetting for PA members ● Pupils are supervised at all times ● Child Safeguarding Statement and referenced DES Child Protection Procedures 2025 made readily available to all school personnel (via google drive) ● All new school personnel engage in e-learning programmes provided by Túsla ● Existing personnel engage in e-learning programme provided by Túsla every 3 years. ● DLP/Deputy DLP completed training (September 2025/September 2026) ● Records of all training maintained by BOM

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4.	Visitors/Parents/Contactors and/or other entrants may be present in school during school hours and after school hours	Inappropriate access to pupils by being in school without knowledge and/or authorisation	• Visitors/Parents/Contractors are not permitted to enter the school building except in exceptional cases and are advised to make prior contact with the school • Visitors/Parents/Contractors sign in, using our visitors book, once they enter the school building • Visitors required to wear a 'Visitor Lanyard • Visitors/Parents/Contractors can communicate with the school by phone or email at info@stbrigid.ie prior to arrival • 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 • Access codes changed 2026 • All access doors to the school will be kept closed during the day except at designated times eg arrivals/dismissal time. • Staff (ISM) will be allocated responsibility for keeping the doors closed during the day.
5.	Personnel providing therapy e.g. counsellors/project workers	Inappropriate harm or contact	• Garda Vetting • Familiarity with Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment
6..	Daily Arrival and Dismissal of Pupils	Inappropriate behaviour by older pupils or others	Arrival Procedures:

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		Entrants to school without knowledge 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 Arrival at school gate earlier than 8:40 am	● School gates will open at 8:40 am. There will be a 10 minute window between 8:40 am and 8:50 am within which pupils can enter the school grounds and make their way to their classrooms under supervision both inside and outside the building. ● Parents/Guardians will be notified, via letter, newsletter and parent update, that the Board of Management cannot take responsibility for pupils who arrive and wait outside the school gate and are left unsupervised before 08:40 am each morning. They will also be reminded that they can avail of the breakfast club if they have to drop-off early. ● 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,,4, 7, 8,9, 10, 11, 12 and 20 will enter via the vehicle entrance gate ● Pupils entering via the vehicle entrance gate will walk along the railings inside the yellow line ● Both the pedestrian gate and vehicle entrance gate will be supervised by a staff member(s) between 08:40 am and 08:50 am ● Parents are asked to refrain from entering the grounds of the school (with the exception of Junior Infant parents) Parents are asked not to congregate at the gate

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			• Pupils will go directly to their classrooms. Teachers and SNAs are scheduled to supervise allocated stations around the school as the pupils make their way to their Dismissal Procedures: • Junior/Senior Infants released individually to parent/guardian/designated person at Exit Door 3/4 • Bus/Taxi Drivers and creche personnel collect junior/senior infants at classroom doors at 1:25 pm (class teacher will have list inside the door of those pupils travelling by bus/taxi together with a list of those collected by the creche personnel also • 1st class will be dismissed at 2:25 pm. The 2 classes will line up at 2 designated points, the vehicle entrance gate and the pedestrian gate. 2nd class will be dismissed from the pedestrian gate at 2:27 pm. - 3rd/4th/5th/6th class pupils will be dismissed from the pedestrian gate at 2:30 pm • Pupils who collect bikes/scooters walk up the ramp. • For those pupils who have not been collected on time by their parent/guardian/designated person, their class teacher will accompany the pupils to the office where their parents/guardians will be called • Pupils are advised to walk back to school if they are not collected at collection point • Class teachers are aware of collection arrangements for the pupils in their classes

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7..	One-to-one teaching and involvement	Inappropriate behaviour by school personnel	• 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 (relevant to the prefab only) • Glass panelling in all classrooms, except for the Sensory Room, pre-fab classroom. • Work carried out by SNA is under the direction of the class teacher • Glass panelling in SNA room • Where possible, SNA's work in pairs if they are withdrawing pupils in the multi-sensory space
8.	Pupils with intimate care needs	Inappropriate behaviour by school personnel	• Toilets in classrooms • In the first instance, the pupil will be offered fresh clothing to clean and change themselves • If possible, 2 adults are present if pupils need to be washed or changed. Given, this is not possible, SNA leaves the cubicle door/disabled toilet door open when attending to pupils. • Intimate care policy
9.	Toilet Areas/Toileting at break times	Inappropriate behaviour by pupils Inappropriate behaviour by school personnel	Breaktime Procedures: **10:35 break** Junior Yard: (7 classes) • The junior pupils can use the toilet in Room 20 Senior Yard: (10 classes) • The senior pupils walk independently to use the toilets in Room 20

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			*Toilet use is discouraged at the 10:35 break but Room 20 can be used in the event of an emergency **<u>12:30 break</u>** Junior Yard: (6 classes) ● The junior pupils use the toilet in Room 20 Senior Yard: (10 classes) ● The senior pupils use the toilet in Room 20
10.	Administration of Medication	Inappropriate behaviour or contact	● Administration of Medication Policy in place ● Diabetes training for staff supporting pupils with diabetes
11.	Administration of First Aid	Inappropriate behaviour or contact	● 4 members of staff trained in paediatric first aid. ● 4 members of staff trained in general first aid ● First aid station, inclusive of the defibrillator, beside office in view of Principal/Secretary ● Small first aid kits in all classrooms and larger kits on both floors.
12.	Participation in Sports and Other Activities e.g. Coaching/Specialist lessons/Irish dancing Matches outside of school grounds Sports day Religious ceremonies	Inappropriate behaviour or contact	● All activities always under supervision of teacher ● 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 ● Garda vetting for all external coaches/teachers

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	Swimming		• Three adults (class teacher and 2 parents) to accompany class swimming • Use of 2 communal changing rooms before the session, with 1 adult supervising outside each of the communal rooms • Signage highlighting *school or group changing room* • Lockable doors in the communal changing rooms • Signage has been added to advise carers they must stay with people in their care at all times whilst using the centre.
13.	School Tours	Risk of pupil being harmed by a member of school personnel, a member of staff of another organisation or other person Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of pupils while attending out of school activities	• All school tours and out-of-school activities are organised in accordance with the school's policies and procedures, including the Child Safeguarding Statement, Code of Behaviour and Health & Safety policy. • Appropriate risk assessments are completed in advance of school tours and activities, taking account of the venue, activities, transport arrangements and the specific needs of pupils. • Emergency contact details and relevant medical information available to the designated school staff • A ratio of 15:1 is required for adequate supervision (with a parent permitted as the second adult) • Clear arrangements are established for supervising pupils during transport, entry to and exit from venues, transitions between activities and any movement between locations.

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			• School Tour Policy
14..	Transition year/Gaisce pupils on work experience	Inappropriate behaviour or contact	• Guidelines for TY students on work experience • No unsupervised access to pupils • Work under the supervision of the teacher
15..	School Transport arrangements including bus escorts	Inappropriate behaviour or contact	• Bus Escorts vetted and reference checked • Taxi-drivers (employed as part of the bus escort system) recruited via the School Transport System
16.	Morning clubs/after-school clubs	Inappropriate behaviour or contact	• The children are supervised at all times • Pupil/SNA-teacher ratio (maximum 20 pupils) • Pupils accompanied to the gate when after-school club finishes
17.	Movement of pupils around the school building	Inappropriate behaviour or contact	• If parents arrive to collect pupils early, two pupils accompany the pupil to be collected down to reception after an announcement is made over intercom • Children on messages go in pairs • SET teachers collect/drop off all pupils junior infants-second class to/from class • All pupils who are withdrawn individually are collected/dropped from/to class by SET
18..	Use of Information and CommunicationTechnology	Inappropriate communication with inappropriate persons. Access to age-inappropriate material Access to images/video	• Acceptable Usage Policy • Stay Safe programme • Data Protection policy • Bi Cineálta • Workshops re Internet Safety for/3rd/4th/5th/6th class annually and, for parents every two years

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			• Mobile phones/Smart watches must be kept powered off and in schoolbags during the school day
19.	Use of video/photography		• Parents are requested not to share video footage of class at school events on social media etc • Photographs/video used by school personnel for school purposes only • Children are photographed in groups/whole class setting only and full names are not added to any school posts on our school Instagram account and /website • Acceptable Usage Policy
20..	Remote Teaching and Learning	Inappropriate communication with inappropriate persons. Access to age-inappropriate material Access to images/video Risk of harm due to inappropriate use of online remote teaching and learning communication platform such as an uninvited person accessing the lesson link, students being left unsupervised for long periods of time in breakout rooms	• Remote Teaching and Learning Policy
21..	Management of provision of hot school meals	Harm to pupils by personnel outside of school staff	• Garda vetting for all personnel employed as part of the Hot Meals Scheme • Familiarity with Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment

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22..	Management of challenging behaviour amongst pupils, including appropriate use of restraint where required	Risk of harm to pupils and staff	● SNA Training on Managing Behaviours of Concern ● NCSE input for some staff on managing escalating behaviours of concern through the NCSE portal request system ● Physical restraint reported to BoM as per NCSE guidelines ● The school has complied with the *Understanding Behaviours of Concern* and *Responding to Crisis Situations* system documents