Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment

For:	**Scoil Náisiúnta Bhríde**	*(School Name)*
At:	**Prosperous Rd, Clane, Co. Kildare**	*(School Address)*

This school is a: (tick appropriate) ☒primary ☐post-primary ☐ special school

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):

Eimear Hennessy

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

Niamh Heneghan

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

Name of Relevant Person

Eimear Hennessy

(In schools this person is the DLP)

Relevant Person can be contacted on:

045 868614	*info@scoilbhrideclane.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

Peter Connolly

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,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 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

In accordance with section 11 of the Children First Act 2015 and with the requirements of the *Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025*, the following is the written Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment.

In undertaking this Child Safeguarding Statement and 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 or remove all risks of harm, the school has in place the procedures listed in this risk assessment to manage and reduce risk to the greatest extent possible.

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
1.	Training of school personnel in Child Protection Matters	Potential Harm not recognised or reported promptly Inadequate or training missed by staff	Child Safeguarding and DES procedures made available to all staff. The Child Protection Procedures 2025 are made available to all school personnel – link sent on Aladdin. DLP and DDLP attended Oide face to face training in New Procedures September 25 Whole staff training by Oide 14.09.2026 All staff have viewed Tusla Children First Child Protection Training Module. Records kept of all staff and Board training and ensures any training missed is facilitated.
2.	One to one teaching	Potential harm by school personnel False accusations	Glass in the door of all rooms. Work being carried out by SNA's will be carried out on the direction of the class teacher. Code of conduct for teachers (teaching council)
3.	Care of children with special needs, including intimate care needs	Potential harm by school personnel	Policy on Intimate care Toileting and intimate care plan in place for individual children. Care plans in place and signed by staff and parents.
4.	Use of toilet areas at break time in school	Inappropriate behaviour	Children must ask permission from the teacher on yard duty to enter the school to use the bathroom.

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
			The teacher on first aid monitors the toilets.
5.	Curricular provision in respect of SPHE, RSE and Stay Safe	Non-teaching of SPHE, RSE and Stay Safe	The school implements the SPHE, RSE and Stay Safe in full. Parents are advised to familiarise themselves with the content of the Stay Safe programme. Parents are required to discuss with their child and sign the home school link stay safe worksheets. A record of the signed worksheets are kept by the class teacher and then sent home.
6.	Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils	Potential harm from other children or unknown adults	Arrival supervised by Principal and members of the ISM team. Dismissal supervised by members of ISM team. Rota in place. Children go straight to classrooms once the gates open and the bell goes.
7.	Teacher toilet breaks	Potential harm from other pupils	Teachers leave the door open to the classroom next door.
8.	Managing of challenging behaviour amongst pupils	Injury to staff and pupils	Health and Safety policy Code of Behaviour
9.	Sports coaches/ sporting activities	Potential harm to pupils	Sports coaches are garda vetted for the school. A teacher is present at all times. Provided with copy of risk assessment and child safeguarding statement.
10.	Students participating in work experience	Potential harm by students	All students over 16 are Garda vetted. The school will only accept students once Garda vetting is in place. Students are never left on their own with pupils.

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
11.	Recreation breaks for pupils	Potential harm by other children	Classroom rules Children are supervised at break times. Gates are closed.

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
		Inappropriate behaviour	Yard duty rota in place Bí Cinéalta / Kiva policy
12.	Outdoor teaching activities	Injury/ harm to pupils and staff Stranger on schools grounds	Code of behaviour Bí Cinéalta/ Kiva policy Teacher is present at all times
13.	Sensory room	Potential hard to pupils	SNA's must be requested by a teacher rob ting a child to the sensory room. The sensory room is timetabled for parts of the day.
14.	Children doing a task outside a classroom	Risk to pupils	Children always go in pairs
15.	School outings	Potential harm to pupils inadequate supervision ratio Strangers at site Risk of devices brought Road safety	Supervision ration of 15:1 for 1st to 6th class. Ration is 10:1 for Junior and Senior Infants Code of Behaviour Risk assessment for trips
16.	Participation by pupils in religious ceremonies external to the school	Children off site during school day – risk	Parents have consented to children attending during the school day. Code of Behaviour
17.	Use of off-site facilities for school activities e.g swimming, Clane GAA, athletic track	Potential harm to pupils risk of harm due to possible inadequate supervision of pupils while attending out of school activities.	Proper supervision. Teacher is always present. Swimming – designated changing areas supervised by class teacher. Swimming Policy School tour policy
18.	School transport arrangements including bus escorts	Potential harm to pupils from school personnel	Bus driver is Garda vetted. Bus escort is Garda vetted. Two adults always present. The driver is never on his own with a child.
19.	Use of external personnel to supplement the curriculum	Potential harm to pupils from personnel	All extra personnel to be Garda vetted. The teacher is always present.

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
20.	Use of school by other organisations during the school day	Potential harm to pupils	Members of external organisations are garda vetted
21.	Use digital technologies by pupils and staff in school including internet access and use of social media	Risk of inappropriate content and contact with other children and adults. Risk to staff Cyber bullying	Phone free school with PA AUP policy Bí Cinealta policy Mobile Phone policy – banned in school School ipads use apple manager to monitor usage Appropriate supervision while using devices Clear expectations set Firewalls set
22.	Visitors present in school during school hours	Risk to child of inappropriate contact	All adults report to reception Visitors sign in at office Keypad on main entrance doors
23.	Emergency situation	Harm to pupils	Critical incident plan
24.	School transport arrangements including use of bus escorts	Harm by pupils Harm by adults	Bus escorts attended Child Protection training 22.09.2026 Vetting procedures Code of Behaviour
25.	Administration of medicine Administration of First Aid	Injury to pupils	Administrations of Medication policy Training for ISM members on First Aid. Last training 15.09.2026
26.	Care of pupils with specific vulnerabilities/ needs such as: • Pupils from ethnic minorities/ migrants • Members of the travelling community • Pupils of minority religious faiths • LGBT children • Pupils perceived to be LGBT • Children in care • Children on CPNS	Exclusion and discrimination Bullying Harm by school personnel Harm by pupils	Admissions policy Code of Behaviour Bí cinéalta/ Kiva policy School implements SPHE, RSE. Stay safe in full. Right to withdraw or not participate in religious instruction.

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
27.	Use of video/ photography / other media to record school events	Harm to pupils/ staff Invasion of privacy Parents videoing children and uploading same	AUP policy Reminder at events not to share on social media.

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In accordance with Section 11 of the Children First Act 2015 and with the requirements of Chapter 9 of the Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025, the following is the written Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment.

In undertaking this Child Safeguarding Statement and 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 Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment was reviewed by the board of management on 22nd September 2026 (*most recent review date)*

Signed:*		**Date**: 22.09.2026

Chairperson of the board of management

Signed:*	Eimear Hennessy	**Date**: 22.09.2026

Principal/Secretary to the board of management

This Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment is expected to be reviewed again on September 2027. *(expected review date)*

Appendix - Location of copies of the Child Protection Procedures and Children First Guidance

There is one hard copy of the Child Protection Procedures and Children First Guidance in the principal's office.

The Child Protection Procedures 2025 and Children First Guidance 2017 documents can be viewed online on the Department of Education and Youth website:

www.gov.ie/childprotectionschools

Children_First_National_Guidance_2017.pdf