



## **Mandatory Template 1: Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment Template**

### **Child Safeguarding Statement**

Scoil Naomh Bríd is a primary school providing primary education to pupils from Junior Infants to Sixth Class.

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\(revised 2023\)](#) and [Tusla Guidance on the preparation of Child Safeguarding Statements](#), the Board of Management of Scoil Naomh Bríd 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 (revised 2023)* as part of this overall Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment
- 2 The Designated Liaison Person (DLP) is Delia O'Donnell (Principal)
- 3 The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is Breeda Meleady.
- 4 The Relevant Person is: Delia O'Donnell  
(The relevant person is the one who can provide information in respect of how the child safeguarding statement was developed and will be able to provide the statement on request)In a school setting the relevant person is the designated liaison person)
- 5 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.

6 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 (revised 2023) and to the relevant agreed disciplinary procedures for school staff which are published on the [www.gov.ie](http://www.gov.ie) 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 [www.gov.ie](http://www.gov.ie) 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 (revised 2023), including in the case of registered teachers, those in relation to mandated reporting under the Children First Act 2015.
- 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 [www.gov.ie](http://www.gov.ie) 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.

- 7 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.
- 8 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 01/10/2019.

This Child Safeguarding Statement was reviewed by the Board of Management on 01/02/2022.

This Child safeguarding Statement was reviewed by the Board of Management on 26/09/2023

## Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment

### Written Assessment of Risk of Scoil Naomh Bríd

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 revised 2023*, the following is the Written Risk Assessment of Scoil Naomh Bríd.

1. List of school activities	2. The school has identified the following risk of harm in respect of its activities –	3. The school has the following procedures in place to address the risks of harm identified in this assessment -
1. Training of school personnel in Child Protection Matters.	Harm not recognised and reported promptly	Child Safeguarding Statement and DES Child Protection Procedures 2017 made available to all staff. DLP and DDLP to attend PDST face to face training. All staff have viewed Tusla training module in 2018 and again 2021. Teaching Staff have viewed the training module offered by PDST. BOM retains all records of staff and Board Training. Visiting staff and part-time teachers to comply with Garda vetting and to be familiar with Child Safeguarding Statement.
2. Classroom teaching  2.1 One to one teaching  2.2 One to one learning support  2.3 Online teaching /learning remotely	Harm by school personnel    Privacy and security settings on the platform being used. The authenticity of links being used. Parents not available during viewing of videos.	All teachers Garda vetted. Have relevant qualifications. Child Protection E-Learning module completed and Cert provided to the school. School has a policy in place for one to one teaching. Open classroom door during one to one teaching. Glass panel in resource room doors. Open door in resource rooms that do not have a glass panel in the door.  All staff using Aladdin homework portal which is approved by the DES. Pre-recorded loom videos for instruction and teaching were recorded in appropriate settings as per guidelines discussed with staff. Pre-

2.4 Outdoor teaching activities	<p>Inappropriate settings for online learning.</p> <p>Risk of inadequate supervision should an accident happen while outdoors. Preventative medication not available if going to the field.</p>	<p>recorded loom videos enabled parents to supervise viewing and allowed children to revisit the lesson as needed. All links previewed by teachers in advance of uploading for suitability of content.</p> <p>Teacher will send two children into the office to alert school personnel and seek assistance. Class teacher will bring the necessary medication with her if going to the field.</p>
3.Care of children with special needs including intimate care needs	Harm by school personnel	<p>Two adults present for all intimate care need procedures. This may be SNA's or teachers depending on availability. RSE and SPHE can be differentiated as appropriate</p>
4.Toilet areas	Inappropriate behaviour	Toilet Procedure. Code of Behaviour
5.Recruitment of new staff  6 Substitute Teachers	<p>Lack of knowledge/training in</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Children First National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children</li> <li>-The Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary School (reviewed 2023)</li> <li>-Tusla E-Learning Module</li> </ul>	<p>Garda Vetting Cert, relevant qualifications in place Child Safeguarding Statement and Child Protection Procedures (DES) made available to all staff. Staff to view Tusla training module and any other online training offered by PDST (Professional Development Services for Teachers) or provide certificate to prove training has been undertaken.</p> <p>Garda Vetting Cert, relevant qualifications in place. Given copy of Child Safeguarding Statement/risk assessment. Made aware of DLP and DDLP. Informed of medical issues, allergies or special care needs in the class.</p>
7.Management of challenging behaviour amongst students	Injury to pupils and staff	<p>Health and Safety Policy Code of Behaviour</p>

8.External Sports coaches-including extra - curricular activities coaches /teachers/ facilitators/ organisations	Harm by said personnel	Garda vetting procedures in place Teachers/coaches given a copy of the Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment Only coaches/ external tutors and partaking children given access to school premises during the activity. Class teachers present if events/coaching taking place during school hours.
9.Cycle Safety Training	Harm by external personnel	Garda vetting procedures in place Class teacher present during the cycle safety session
10.Students participating in work experience /Transition Year students	Harm by work experience /TY students	All students over 16 years of age Garda vetting. Student under 16 years of age not accommodated School has signed agreement to accept St. Wolstan's Girls Community School as a vetting partner Child Safeguarding Statement given to each student
11.Third Level students participating in school placement	Harm by students	All students over 16 years of age Garda vetted Letter of agreement completed with 3 <sup>rd</sup> Level College Child Safeguarding Statement
12.Volunteers/parent Helpers	Harm by volunteer/parent helpers	Supervised by staff
13.Swimming Lessons	Harm by coaches /parent volunteer helpers/staff	Coaches have completed Garda vetting Teacher providing supervision as appropriate / needed. Staff do not assist with drying/dressing with the exception of children who are assisted by an SNA, in view of the accompanying teacher. No child to be alone with a coach or staff member at any time.
14. Sporting Activities: Cumann na mBunscoile, Athletics, Charity Cycle.	Harm due to inadequate supervision of children while attending out of school activities. Harm by a member of school personnel, a member of staff of another organisation or person while child participating in an out of school activities.	Fully supervised by teachers. School personnel are required to adhere to the Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools ( revised 2023) and all registered teaching staff /SNAs are required to adhere to the Children First Act 2015 and its Addendum 2019

15.Sports Day	Harm by parents/spectators /others attending sports day	Supervision by teachers Children remain with their teacher and class at all times Information letter sent to parents/guardians outlining roles, responsibilities and designated areas etc.
16. Supervision of Children in the morning 9.00-9.10am and at playtimes during the school day.	Harm from other pupils/Bullying	Supervision procedures in place. Rota maintained by the Deputy Principal.
17.Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils	Harm from other pupils, unknown adults in the playground Inappropriate behaviour Traffic on the Avenue	Arrival and dismissal procedures in place Code of Behaviour policy in place Traffic management procedures in place
18.Visits to the Parish Church Visits to Celbridge Library	Harm from other people using these facilities Traffic	Children are always supervised by teachers when using the church or when visiting the local library
19. External personnel/Visiting Speakers	Harm by visiting personnel /visiting speakers Harm not recognised or properly reported	Teachers remain in class when external personnel or visiting speakers are present.
20.Use of ICT by pupils or staff  20.1 Use of video /photography/other media to record school events	Inappropriate use  Harm caused by member of school personnel/external personnel accessing /circulating inappropriate material via social media, texting, digital device or other manner.	ICT and Acceptable Use Policy in place. Internet Content Filtering Level --- provided by the schools' Broadband Service. Internet Safety lessons taught.  Permission sought from parents before photographs are taken or videos recorded. Parents reminded at school events that photos / videos taken are not to be shared in the public arena in keeping with our Acceptable Use Policy.
21.Use of mobile phones by pupils	Inappropriate use. Bullying	Mobile phone use covered under our Code of Behaviour Policy. Student mobiles must remain switched off and

		in their schoolbag during the school day. Not permitted to be used without authorisation
22.Bullying	Harm due to bullying of child	Anti-Bullying Policy and Procedures in place
23.LGBT pupils, trans -pupil, ethnic minorities , minority religious faiths etc.	Bullying	Anti-Bullying Policy Code of Behaviour, SPHE Programme, Stay Safe Programmes in place. Our school ethos and mission statement advocates for an inclusive and respectful school environment for all.
24.Administration of First Aid/ Medicines	Incorrect administration of medicine	Administration of Medicine Policy Training provided on specific conditions as necessary. First Aid kits available
25.School Trips	Harm from unknown adults /children attending the same site Bullying	Fully supervised by teachers. Venues chosen after careful consideration of safety and educational value.
26.School Access	Harm from unknow or unannounced visitors to the school in particular during arrival and dismissal times as the school gates are open and it's easy to gain access.  Harm from rubbish, broken bottles, used syringes etc. that are left on the Avenue or school premises by people who come onto the premises after schools hours or during the night.	Teacher supervision Front door access by bell Security cameras around the school Gates locked during the rest of the school day. Access to classrooms during the school day is restricted. Deliveries during the school hours through reception or if by another entrance this is supervised by ancillary staff or a member of staff.  Caretaker checks the Avenue and the premises each morning before pupils arrive to ensure as far as possible that all areas are clear and free from any objects or substances that could cause harm.



