



BREAFFY NATIONAL SCHOOL

Mandatory Template 1:

Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment Template

Child Safeguarding Statement

Breaffy NS (St John's) is a primary school providing primary education to pupils from Junior Infants to Sixth

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 Breaffy NS 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
- 2 The Designated Liaison Person (DLP) is Brendan Duignan Deputy Principal
- 3 The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is John Moran
- 4 The Relevant Person is Brendan Duignan, Deputy Principal.
(The relevant person is 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 shall be 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.

The school will also adhere to the above principles in relation to any adult pupil with a special vulnerability.

- 6 The following procedures/measures are in place:

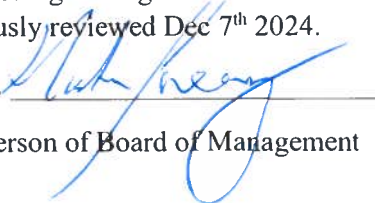
- In relation to any member of staff who is the subject of any investigation (howsoever described) in respect of any act, omission or circumstance in respect of a child attending the school, the school adheres to the relevant procedures set out in Chapter 7 of the *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools (revised 2023)* and to the relevant agreed disciplinary procedures for school staff which are published on the 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 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 gov.ie website or will be made available on request by the school.

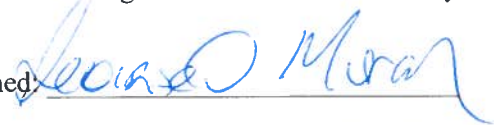
Note: The above is not intended as an exhaustive list. Individual Boards of Management shall also include in this section such other procedures/measures that are of relevance to the school in question.

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 reviewed by the Board of Management on Wed 22nd January 2025 and was previously reviewed Dec 7th 2024.

Signed: 
Chairperson of Board of Management

Signed: 
Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management



BREAFFY NATIONAL SCHOOL

Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment

Written Assessment of Risk of Breaffy NS:

In accordance with section 11 of the Children First Act 2015 and with the requirements of Chapter 8 of the *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools (revised 2023)*, the following is the Written Risk Assessment of [name of school].

1. List of school activities

1. Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils
2. Recreation breaks for pupils
3. Classroom teaching
4. One-to-one teaching
5. Outdoor teaching activities
6. Sporting activities
7. School outings
8. Use of toilet / changing areas in schools
9. Annual Sports Day
10. Summer Provision
11. Use of off-site facilities for school activities
12. Use of Photocopier/mechanical devices
13. School transport arrangements including use of bus escorts
14. Care of children with special educational needs, including intimate care where needed.
15. Administration of medicine
16. Curricular provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe
17. Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst pupils
18. Training of school personnel in child protection matters
19. Use of external personnel to supplement curriculum
20. Use of external personnel to support sports and other extra-curricular activities
21. Care of pupils with specific vulnerabilities/ needs such as: -Pupils from ethnic minorities / migrants
 - Members of the Traveller Community
 - Lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender (LGBT) children
 - Pupils perceived to be LGBT
 - Pupils of minority religious faiths
 - Children in care
 - Children on CPNS
22. Recruitment of school personnel including-
 - Teachers / SNA
 - Caretaker / Secretary / Cleaners
 - External Tutors/ Guest Speakers
 - Volunteers / Parents in school activities
 - Visitors / Contractors present in school during school hours
23. Participation by pupils in religious ceremonies/ religious instruction external to the school.
24. Use of Information and Communication Technology by pupils in school
25. Students participating in work experience in the school
26. Student teachers undertaking training placement in school
27. Use of video/ photography / other media to record school events
28. Road crossing main road
29. Road crossing to church on school/church activities

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

- Risk of harm not being recognised by school personnel (2,8,18,19)
- Risk of child being harmed in the school by a member of school personnel (4,13,14,20)
- Risk of child being harmed in the school by another child (1,2,6,7,9)
- Risk of child being harmed in the school by volunteer or visitor to the school (18.19.22.,24.25.26)
- Risk of child being harmed by a member of school personnel, a member of

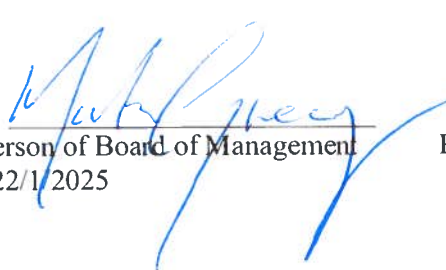
Staff of another organisation or other person while child participating in out of School activities e.g. school trip, swimming lessons (3,4,5,18,19)

- Risk of harm due to bullying of child (2,6,7,8)
- Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children while attending out of School activities (11)
- Risk of harm due to inappropriate relationship/communications between child and another child or adult (18,19,23,26)
- Risk of harm due to children inappropriately accessing / using computers, social Media, phones and other devices while at school (23,26)
- Risk of harm to children with SEN who have particular vulnerabilities (4,13,20)
- Risk of harm to child while a child is receiving intimate care (13)
- Risk of harm due to inadequate code of behaviour (7,11)
- Risk of harm in one-to-one teaching, counselling, coaching situation (4,19)

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

- School informs parents of school opening and closing times and has provision for assembly and dismissal supervision.
- The Child Protection Procedure for Primary and Post Primary schools 2017 updated 2023 are made available to all registered teaching staff and all staff are required to be familiar with same.
- School personnel are required to adhere to the Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary School 2017 and all registered teaching staff are required to adhere to the Children First act 2015.
- The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda Vetting Legislation and the relevant DES Circulars in relation to recruitment of staff and Garda vetting.
- We have an updated SEN Policy. This policy regulates one to one teaching situations on an open teaching environment. All teaching/office settings have vision panels in line with Department of Education Building Technical Design criteria. Vision Panels must not be obstructed in any way.
- One -to -one teaching situations are held in an open teaching environment as per our AEN Policy.
- The school will develop an Intimate Care Plan policy when needed.
- Staff will be familiar with and implement in full our Code of Behaviour /AUP and Anti-Bullying Policy.
- A Social Media Policy has been developed for publishing school events.
- The school requires staff to be familiar with the Anti-bullying Policy and its implementation.
- Internet safety pledge/ Friendship workshops. Internet safety workshops for all pupils from 1st to 6^t
- Pupils will be supervised by school teaching staff on out of school activities.
- Staff will be familiar with and implement in full our Code of Behaviour /AUP and Anti-Bullying Policy.
- School staff is obliged to be familiar with and implement in full our Anti-bullying Policy /Code of Behaviour and AUP.

- All school personnel are provided with a copy of the school's *Child Safeguarding Statement* and it is clearly visible at our school main entrance, shared with all staff and on our school website.
- The *Child Protection Procedures for Primary & Post-Primary Schools 2017 updated 2023* are made available to all school personnel and all personnel are to be familiar with same.
- School Personnel are required to adhere to the *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary School 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, termly SPHE themes are shared at our Staff/ SIP / ISM meetings.
- Student teacher placements are supervised by the class teacher.
- The school has in place a procedure in respect of students undertaking work experience in the school.
- The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda Vetting Legislation of external visitors/ coaches and the relevant DES Circulars in relation to recruitment of staff and Garda vetting.
- School Staff in line with best Practice will stay with external personnel to support sports and other extra-curricular activities.
- Our school will review and implement in full the SPHE curriculum.
- The school has an Anti-Bullying Policy which full adheres to the requirements Of the Department's *Anti-Bullying Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary We will Be developing and introducing the 'Bí Cineálta' Guidelines. Planning time will be allowed for this in this current school year. These updated guidelines and policy will include a child friendly version. The process will include consultation with all relevant stakeholders including student voice. The policy will be reviewed and ratified by our BOM in this current school year 24/25.*
- All teachers are required to be familiar with policy and its implementation.
- The Principal will review yard/playground supervision / contact time supervision to ensure appropriate supervision of children during, contact time, break time assembly and dismissal and in respect of specific areas such as toilets in conjunction with our Code of Behaviour review and our duty of care.

Signed: 
 Chairperson of Board of Management
 Date: 22/1/2025

Signed: 
 Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management
 Date: 22/1/2025

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 (revised 2023)

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.



BREAFFY NATIONAL SCHOOL

Breaffy NS (St John's) Checklist for Review of our Child Safeguarding Statement January 20th 2025.

The *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2023* require the Board of Management must undertake a review of its Child Safeguarding Statement and that the following checklist shall be used for this purpose. The review must be completed every year or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which the Child Safeguarding Statement refers. Undertaking an annual review will also ensure that a school also meets its statutory obligation under section 11(8) of the Children First Act 2015, to review its Child Safeguarding Statement every two years.

The checklist is designed as an aid to conducting this review and is not intended as an exhaustive list of the issues to be considered. Individual Boards of Management shall include other items in the checklist that are of relevance to the school in question.

As part of the overall review process, Boards of Management should also assess relevant school policies, procedures, practices and activities vis a vis their adherence to the principles of best practice in child protection and welfare as set out in the school's Child Safeguarding Statement, the Children First Act 2015 and the *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools updated Sept 2023*

	Yes/No
1. Has the Board formally adopted a Child Safeguarding Statement in accordance with the 'Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools 2017'?	Yes
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'?	Yes
3. Does the school's Child Safeguarding Statement include a written assessment of risk as required under the Children First Act 2015?	Yes
4. Has the Board reviewed and updated where necessary the written assessment of risk as part of this overall review?	Yes
5. Has the DLP attended available child protection training?	Yes (BD Jan 25)
6. Has the Deputy DLP attended available child protection training?	Yes (JM Spring 23)
7. Have any members of the Board attended child protection training?	Yes, Chair, PO & Teacher nominee.....Fr Conal, Fiona Murphy
8. Are there both a DLP and a Deputy DLP currently appointed?	Yes Brendan Duignan (Deputy Principal) 7/1/2025

	Yes/No
	John Moran DDLDP
9. Are the relevant contact details (Tusla and An Garda Síochána) to hand?	Yes
10. Has the Board arrangements in place to communicate the school's Child Safeguarding Statement to new school personnel?	Yes
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?	Yes
12. Has the Board received a Principal's Child Protection Oversight Report at each Board meeting held since the last review was undertaken?	Since March 2018 Included in Principal's Report
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?	Yes
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?	Yes
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?	No
16. Has the Board been provided with and reviewed all documents relevant to the Principal's Child Protection Oversight Report?	Yes
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?	Yes
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?*	n/a
19. Were child protection matters reported to the Board appropriately recorded in the Board minutes?	Yes In Principal's report/appendix as part of minutes and recorded in minutes.
20. Is the Board satisfied that all records relating to child protection are appropriately filed and stored securely?	Yes
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'?	No
22. In relation to any cases identified at question 21 above, has the Board ensured that any notifications required section 5.6 of the 'Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools 2017' were subsequently issued by the DLP?	n/a
23. Has the Board ensured that the Parents' Association (if any), has been provided with the school's Child Safeguarding Statement?	Yes
24. Has the Board ensured that the patron has been provided with the school's Child Safeguarding Statement?	Yes
25. Has the Board ensured that the school's Child Safeguarding Statement is available to parents on request?	Yes
26. Has the Board ensured that the Stay Safe programme is implemented in full in the school? (applies to primary schools)	Yes
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)	n/a

	Yes/No
28. Has the Board ensured that the SPHE curriculum is implemented in full in the school?	Yes
29. Is the Board satisfied that the statutory requirements for Garda Vetting have been met in respect of all school personnel (employees and volunteers)? *	Yes
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?*	Yes
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)?*	Yes
32. Has the Board considered and addressed any complaints or suggestions for improvements regarding the school's Child Safeguarding Statement?	No complaints received.
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 2023	No
34. Has the Board sought the feedback of pupils in relation to the school's child safeguarding arrangements?	No
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?	Yes
36. Has the Board identified any aspects of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement and/or its implementation that require further improvement?	Yes
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?	Yes, cf action log below.
38. Has the Board ensured that any areas for improvement that that were identified in any previous review of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement have been adequately addressed?	Yes

*In schools where the ETB is the employer the responsibility for meeting the employer's requirements rests with the ETB concerned. In such cases, this question should be completed following consultation with the ETB.

Last Review 7/12 24

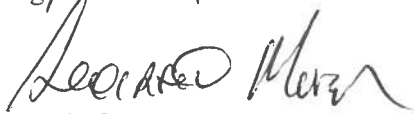
Action Log from Jan 14th 2025

<i>Item</i>	<i>Areas for development arising out of this Risk Assessment</i>	<i>Timeframe</i>
DDL & DLP	Signage update	Updated 7/1/25 New DLP appointed by BOM DDL ratified BOM December 2 nd 2024
New Templates	Templates and procedures from Sept 23 CP Guidelines	From Dec 2024
Feedback from pupils	Survey pupils (Student Council)c.f #34 above	Term 3 2025
Communication	Child Protection Safeguarding Statement & Review to be posted on school website and forwarded to Patron and Parents Assoc.	Jan 2025

	Parents to be informed of review and given opportunity to give feedback. CP Statement and Risk Analysis to be posted at front off	
AUP / Smart Devices	We will develop an Acceptable Use of Technology Policy to include Smart phones/ devices and our Social Media Policy	
Code of Behaviour, behaviours of concern, Bí Cineálta	We will review our Code of Behaviour and include strategies and procedures for managing behaviours of concern and introduce Bí Cineálta Policy	
Confirmation details above	These actions to be reviewed periodically and Feedback at meetings.	Actioned before next annual review

Signed: 
 Martin Greaney
 Chairperson, Board of Management.

Date Jan 22nd 2025

Signed: 
 Seoirse O Móráin
 Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Date Jan 22nd 2025