



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 adopted by the Board of Management on Wed 22nd January 2025.

This Child Safeguarding Statement was reviewed by the Board of Management on Wed 22nd January 2025.

Signed: _____

Chairperson of Board of Management

Date: 22/1/2025

Signed: _____

Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Date: 22/1/2025



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 Photocopier
 9. Use of toilet / changing areas in schools
 10. Annual Sports Day
 11. Summer Provision
 12. Use of off-site facilities for school activities
 13. Use of Photocopier/mechanical devices
 14. School transport arrangements including use of bus escorts
 15. Care of children with special educational needs, including intimate care where needed.
 16. Administration of medicine
 17. Curricular provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe
 18. Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst pupils
 19. Training of school personnel in child protection matters
 20. Use of external personnel to supplement curriculum
 21. Use of external personnel to support sports and other extra-curricular activities
- 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
20. 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

21. Participation by pupils in religious ceremonies/ religious instruction external to the school.

22. Use of Information and Communication Technology by pupils in school

23. Students participating in work experience in the school

24. Student teachers undertaking training placement in school

25. Use of video/ photography / other media to record school events

26. Road crossing main road

27. 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
- School policy that pupils do not go on Breaffy roadside stand / trees area of GAA pitch due to supervision constraints.
- Staff agree not to let pupils use photocopier as as best practice
- 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.
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- 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.



