

Mandatory Template 1: Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment Template

Child Safeguarding Statement

Scoil Bhríde Crosshaven 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), the Child Protection and Safeguarding Procedures for Boarding Facilities associated with Recognised Schools 2023 and Tusla Guidance on the preparation of Child Safeguarding Statements, the board of management of Scoil Bhríde Crosshaven 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)* and the *Child Protection and Safeguarding Procedures for Boarding Facilities associated with Recognised Schools 2023* as part of this overall Child Safeguarding Statement
- 2 The Designated Liaison Person (DLP) is _____ Katie Ryan _____
- 3 The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is _____ Lisa White _____
- 4 The Relevant Person is _____ Katie Ryan _____
(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. This person can also be the DLP)
- 5 The Board of Management recognises that child protection and welfare considerations permeate all aspects of school and boarding school life and must be reflected in all of the school's/management authority's policies, procedures, practices and activities. In its policies, procedures, practices and activities, the board of management/management authority will adhere to the following principles of best practice in child protection and welfare:

The board of management/management authority 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 and care of their children; and
- fully respect confidentiality requirements in dealing with child protection matters.

The school/boarding facility 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/boarding

Signed: Dr. Marie Wall Signed: Katie Ryan
Chairperson of Board of Management Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Date: 12 September 2023 . Date: 12th September 2023

For information in respect of how the child safeguarding statement was developed or to request a copy of the statement, please contact the relevant person noted at the beginning of this child safeguarding statement

Phone: 021 4831646

or email: secretary@scoilbhridecrosshaven.ie

Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment

Written Assessment of Risk of [name of school/boarded facility]

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)* and the *Child Protection and Safeguarding Procedures for Boarding Facilities associated with Recognised Schools 2023*, the following is the Written Risk Assessment of Scoil Bhride Crosshaven.

1. List of school activities

- Use of Information and Communications Technology by pupils/students in school, including social media
- Application of sanctions under the school's Code of Behaviour including detention of pupils/students, confiscation of phones etc.
- Students participating in work experience in the school
- Students from the school participating in work experience elsewhere
- Student teachers undertaking training placement in school
- Use of video/photography/other media to record school events
- After school use of school premises by other organisations
- Use of school premises by other organisation during school day
- Homework club

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

Examples of Risks of Harm

- Risk of harm not being recognised by school personnel
- Risk of harm not being reported properly and promptly by school personnel
- Risk of child being harmed in the school facility by a member of school personnel
- Risk of child being harmed in the school by another child
- Risk of child being harmed in the school by volunteer or visitor to the school
- 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
- 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
- Risk of harm due to bullying of child
- Risk of harm due to racism
- Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children in school
- Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children while attending out of school activities

- School/boarding facility personnel are required to adhere to the *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools (revised 2023)* and the *Child Protection and Safeguarding Procedures for Boarding Facilities associated with Recognised Schools 2023* and all registered teaching staff are required to adhere to the *Children First Act 2015* and its Addendum (2019)
- The school implements in full the Stay Safe Programme
- The school implements in full the SPHE curriculum
- The school implements in full the Wellbeing Programme at Junior Cycle
- The school has an Anti-Bullying Policy which fully adheres to the requirements of the Department's *Anti-Bullying Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools*
- The school undertakes anti-racism awareness initiatives
- The school has a yard/playground supervision policy to ensure appropriate supervision of children during, assembly, dismissal and breaks and in respect of specific areas such as toilets, changing rooms etc.
- The school has in place a policy and clear procedures in respect of school/boarder outings
- The school facility has a Health and Safety policy
- The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation and relevant DE circulars in relation to recruitment and Garda vetting
- The school has a code of conduct for school personnel (teaching and non-teaching staff)
- The school/boarding facility complies with the agreed disciplinary procedures for staff
- The school has a Special Educational Needs policy
- The school has an intimate care policy/plan in respect of students who require such care
- The school has in place a policy and procedures for the administration of medication to pupils/students
- The school/boarding facility –
 - Has provided each member of school staff with a copy of the school/boarding facility's Child Safeguarding Statement
 - Ensures all new staff are provided with a copy of the school Child Safeguarding Statement
 - Encourages staff to avail of relevant training
 - Encourages board of management members to avail of relevant training
 - Maintains records of all staff and board member training
- The school has in place a policy and procedures for the administration of First Aid
- The school has in place a code of behaviour for pupils/students
- The school has an Acceptable Use Policy in place, to include provision for online teaching and learning remotely, and has communicated this policy to parents
- The school has in place a policy governing the use of smart phones and tablet devices in the school/boarding facility by pupils/students as per circular 38/2018
- The school has in place a Critical Incident Management Plan
- The school has in place a Home School Liaison policy and related procedures
- The school has in place a policy and procedures for the use of external persons to supplement delivery of the curriculum
- The school has in place a policy and procedures for the use of external sports coaches

Examples of activities, risks and procedures

The examples listed in this document are provided to assist schools/boarding facilities in undertaking their risk assessment under the Children First Act, 2015. Schools/boarding facilities should note that this list of examples is not intended to be exhaustive. It is the responsibility of each school/boarding facility to ensure, as far as possible, that any other risks and procedures that are relevant to its own particular circumstances are identified and specified in the written risk assessment and that adequate procedures are in place to address all risks identified.

It is acknowledged that schools/boarding facilities already have in place a range of policies, practices and procedures to mitigate the risk of harm to children while they are participating in activities and that some activities will carry low or minimal risks of harm compared to others. In the context of the risk assessment that must be undertaken, the Children First Act, 2015 refers to risk as “any potential for harm”. Therefore, it is important that, as part of its risk assessment process, each school/boarding facility lists and reviews all of its various activities (which shall include identifying those that may carry low risk of harm as well as those that

- Administration of Medicine
- Administration of First Aid
- Curricular provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe
- Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst pupils
- Training of school/boarding facility personnel in child protection matters
- Use of external personnel to supplement curriculum
- 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 Tusla's Child Protection Notification System (CPNS)
 - Children with medical needs
- Recruitment of school personnel including -
 - Teachers/SNAs
 - Caretaker/Secretary/Cleaners
 - Sports coaches
 - External Tutors/Guest Speakers
 - Volunteers/Parents in school activities
 - Visitors/contractors present in school during school hours
 - Visitors/contractors present during after school activities
- Participation by pupils in religious ceremonies/religious instruction external to the school
- Use of Information and Communications Technology by pupils/students in school, including social media
- Application of sanctions under the school's Code of Behaviour including detention of pupils/students, confiscation of phones etc.
- Students participating in work experience in the school
- Students from the school participating in work experience elsewhere
- Student teachers undertaking training placement in school
- Use of video/photography/other media to record school events
- After school use of school premises by other organisations
- Use of school premises by other organisation during school day
- Breakfast club
- Homework club/evening study

Examples of Risks of Harm

- Risk of harm not being recognised by school/boarding facility personnel
- Risk of harm not being reported properly and promptly by school/boarding facility personnel
- Risk of child being harmed in the school/boarding facility by a member of school/boarding facility personnel
- Risk of child being harmed in the school/boarding facility by another child

- The school has an Anti-Bullying Policy which fully adheres to the requirements of the Department's *Anti-Bullying Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools*
- The school/boarding facility undertakes anti-racism awareness initiatives
- The school/boarding facility has a yard/playground supervision policy to ensure appropriate supervision of children during, assembly, dismissal and breaks and in respect of specific areas such as toilets, changing rooms etc.
- The school/boarding facility has in place a policy and clear procedures in respect of school/boarder outings
- The school/boarding facility has a Health and Safety policy
- The school/boarding facility adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation and relevant DE circulars in relation to recruitment and Garda vetting
- The school/boarding facility has a code of conduct for school/boarding facility personnel (teaching and non-teaching staff)
- The school/boarding facility complies with the agreed disciplinary procedures for staff
- The school has a Special Educational Needs policy
- The school/boarding facility has an intimate care policy/plan in respect of students who require such care
- The school/boarding facility has in place a policy and procedures for the administration of medication to pupils/students
- The school/boarding facility –
 - Has provided each member of school/boarding facility staff with a copy of the school/boarding facility's Child Safeguarding Statement
 - Ensures all new staff are provided with a copy of the school/boarding facility's Child Safeguarding Statement
 - Encourages staff to avail of relevant training
 - Encourages board of management/management authority members to avail of relevant training
 - Maintains records of all staff and board member training
- The school/boarding facility has in place a policy and procedures for the administration of First Aid
- The school/boarding facility has in place a code of behaviour for pupils/students
- The school/boarding facility has an Acceptable Use Policy in place, to include provision for online teaching and learning remotely, and has communicated this policy to parents
- The school has in place a policy governing the use of smart phones and tablet devices in the school/boarding facility by pupils/students as per circular 38/2018
- The school/boarding facility has in place a Critical Incident Management Plan
- The school has in place a Home School Liaison policy and related procedures
- The school has in place a policy and procedures for the use of external persons to supplement delivery of the curriculum
- The school/boarding facility has in place a policy and procedures for the use of external sports coaches
- The school has in place a policy and clear procedures for one-to-one teaching activities