



Burnchurch National School

Scoll Náisiúnta Teampall Loiscithe

CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

- 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 2017, including in the case of registered teachers, those in relation to mandated reporting under the Children First Act 2015.
- In this school the Board has appointed the above named DLP as the "relevant person" (as defined in the Children First Act 2015) to be the first point of contact in respect of the school's child safeguarding statement.
- 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 DES 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.

- 6 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.
- 7 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 5th December 2022 [date].

Signed: Kathleen Maher

Chairperson of Board of Management

Signed: James Roberts

Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Date: 5th December 2022

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7. Social Media – Potential for bullying. Potential for grooming of pupils.
8. One-to-one teaching – Harm by school personnel.
9. Curricular Provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe – Non-teaching of same.
10. Training of school personnel in Child Protection matters – Harm not recognised or reported promptly.
11. Toilet Areas – Inappropriate behaviour.
12. Students participating in work experience – Harm by student.
13. Change of Clothes/Toileting Issues – Child requiring to undress during school.
14. Care of children with intimate care needs – Risk to vulnerable children, staff member being alone with individual child
15. Management of challenging behaviour amongst pupils – Harm by student, inappropriate behaviour.
16. Fundraising events involving pupils – children under the care of non-school staff, access to children by strangers and other adults
17. Administration of Medicine – Risk to the health of child through mis-administration/non-administration, child under the care of a single teacher
18. Administration of First aid - Risk to the health of child through mis-administration/non-administration, child under the care of a single teacher
19. Bullying Amongst Pupils -Risk of harm from other pupils
20. Children being brought to matches by other parents – Children are under the care of non-school staff.
21. Children being transported by teachers to matches and other school events - Children are under the care of a single teacher.
22. External Speaker to support curriculum – Access to children by a stranger, inappropriate content
23. Recruitment of school personnel including teachers, SNAs, Caretaker, secretary, cleaner, coaches, external tutors/speakers – employment of staff without vetting or relevant training previous child protection breaches
24. Volunteers/Parents/visitors to school/ contractors during school hours – Access to pupils by strangers and other adults
25. Use of ICT by pupils – inappropriate content being viewed/shared, potential grooming by strangers
26. Use of Video/photography/ other media to record school events – content being shared/view without consent leaving children easily identifiable
27. Teachers engaging with children / parents in distance learning using email, digital learning platforms and video conferencing- potential for the sharing of inappropriate content, potential risk of grooming, closed communication between pupil and teacher.

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

1. Opening and Closing Time/Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils - Supervision by Principal or Teaching Staff from 9:10 to 9:20. Supervision by teachers/sna at home time until last pupil is collected. Parents are required to notify the school if there is a change to their normal collection routine such as walking home or collection by a different adult than would normally be the case.
2. Yard Times - Adequate supervision at break times by teachers/sna. Rainy day supervision, teacher on duty patrols each classroom.
3. School Access - Front door is kept locked to school building during class time and a code is needed to open the doors, visitors must ring intercom for entrance. Received by school staff on entry or at school gate in the case of break time by teacher on yard duty.

coaches, external tutors/speakers – The BOM will ensure that all staff meet Garda Vetting requirements and references will be checked. Child safeguarding Statement and DES procedures to be followed and made available to staff. Staff will view Túsla training module and other online training offered by PDST.

24. Volunteers/Parents/visitors to school/ contractors during school hours – Children will never be left alone with a visitor to the school. A teacher will supervise throughout any visits.
25. Use of ICT by pupils - Pupils’ mobile phones are not permitted in school. ICT Usage Policy in place. Content to be monitored and approved by class teacher and child safeguards/restrictions are placed on school devices. Anti-Bullying Policy. Anti-Bullying Week, Internet Safety Week. Information sessions for pupils, parents and staff.
26. Use of Video/photography/ other media to record school events – Parents/guardian’s consent must be provided. Children will not be named.
27. Distance learning
 - a. Email and online learning platforms, parents will be communicated to in advance by the class teacher regarding how the system will operate and what material will be covered. All communications to be with parent/guardian
 - b. Video conferencing, safety procedures followed in setting up video conferencing, a waiting room (if available), link to be sent to parents in advance, the teacher to be present before the meeting starts. Teacher will ensure there are always three or more children present at all times of the video conference or in small group settings that the child’s parent/guardian is present.
 - c. Two teachers will be present for any video conferencing to take place and teachers will ensure that all children have left the meeting before ending any video conferencing lesson/meeting

○ **Policies to formulate and pass through the Board of Management as follows:**

- SPHE/RSE policy to be revised and formally adopted
- Health and Safety Policy to be reviewed
- Code of Behaviour to be reviewed
- Administration of medication: policy to be reviewed.
- Administration of First Aid to be reviewed

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 2017*

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.

This risk assessment has been completed by the Board of Management on 5 December 2022. It will be reviewed as part of the school’s annual review of its Child Safeguarding Statement.

