

Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment

Child Safeguarding Statement June 2025

Coláiste Bhríde is a post-primary school providing post-primary education to pupils from First Year to Leaving Certificate Year.

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 Coláiste Bhríde 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 Ms Anna Gahan
- 3 The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (DDLp) is Mr Denis Finn
- 4 The Relevant Person is Ms Anna Gahan (DLP)
- 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 D. o E. 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 D.E. and available on the D.E. 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 2023, 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 D.E. website or will be made available on request by the school.

Note: The attached risk assessment 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 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 23/06/2025

This Child Safeguarding Statement was adopted by the Board of Management on 23/06/2025

Signed: 
Chairperson of Board of Management

Signed: _____
Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Date: 27/06/2025

Date: 27/06/2025

Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment

Written Assessment of Risk of Coláiste Bhríde Carnew

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 Coláiste Bhríde Carnew:

1. List of school activities

1. Daily arrival and departure of students to/from school.
2. Recreational breaks for students – morning break 11 – 11.20 and lunch break 13.20 – 14.00
3. Classroom teaching.
4. Use of technology (including iPads) and Internet browsers for teaching and learning, assessment and homework.
5. One-to-one teaching including resource teaching.
6. One-to-one counselling and guidance.
7. One-to-one pastoral care meetings.
8. Outdoor teaching activities/ extra-curricular activities including active week and sports days.
9. Use of off-site sports facilities for matches.
10. School outings and tours – curricular and non-curricular.
11. School trips involving overnight stays.
12. School trips involving foreign travel.
13. Use of toilet/changing/shower areas in schools.
14. Fundraising events involving students. E.g. fundraising for school charities/sports etc.
15. Use of off-site facilities for school activities – Use of Baltinglass Outdoor Education Centre for TY and LCA Activities/ use of St Brigid's hall for drama/ music and guest speakers.
16. School transport arrangements including use of public and private bus/taxi operators.
17. Care of children with special educational needs and physical disabilities.
18. Management of challenging behaviour amongst students, including appropriate use of restraint where required.
19. Administration of medicine – Medical Consent Form.
20. Administration of First Aid.
21. Curricular provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Guidance and Wellbeing.
22. Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst students.
23. Training of school personnel in child protection matters – PDST/ TUSLA training.
24. Care of students with specific vulnerabilities/ needs such as students from ethnic minorities/migrants – EAL/ESOL.
25. Children in care – working with social workers and medical agencies.
26. Recruitment and Garda Vetting 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

27. Application of sanctions under the school's Code of Behaviour including detention of students, confiscation of phones etc.
28. Students from the school participating in work experience elsewhere.
29. Student teachers undertaking training placement in school.
30. Use of video/photography/other media to record school events.
31. After school use of school premises by other organisations.
32. Use of school premises by other organisation during school day.
33. Facilitation of meditation.
34. Homework club/ supervised evening study.

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

1. Risk of harm not being recognised by school personnel.
2. Risk of harm not being reported properly and promptly by school personnel.
3. Risk of child being harmed in the school by a member of school personnel.
4. Risk of child being harmed in the school by another child.
5. Risk of child being harmed in the school by volunteer or visitor to the school.
6. Risk of child being harmed by a member of school personnel, a member of staff of another organisation or other person while child is participating in out of school activities e.g. school trip.
7. Risk of harm due to bullying of child.
8. Risk of harm due to racist behaviour towards a child
9. Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children in school.
10. 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.
12. Risk of harm due to children inappropriately accessing/using computers, social media, phones and other devices while at school.
13. Risk of harm associated with online teaching and learning remotely
14. Risk of harm to children with SEN who have particular vulnerabilities.
15. Risk of harm due to lack of adherence to Code of Behaviour.
16. Risk of harm in one-to-one engagement with students e.g. teaching, counselling, pastoral care.
17. Risk of harm caused by member of school personnel communicating with students in an inappropriate manner via social media, texting, digital device or other manner.
18. Risk of harm caused by member of school personnel accessing/circulating inappropriate material via social media, texting, digital device or other manner

3.

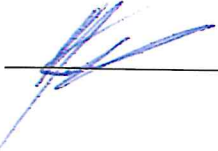
The school has the following procedures in place to address the risks of harm identified in this assessment -

1. All school staff as mandated persons are provided with a copy of the school's *Child Safeguarding Statement*.
2. The *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools (revised 2023)*, and the *Addendum to Children First (2019)* are made available to all school personnel (CB Teacher M.S. Teams Group and email).
3. School Personnel are required to adhere to the *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools (revised 2023)* and the *Addendum to Children First (2019)* and all registered teaching staff are required to adhere to the *Children First Act 2015*.
4. The school implements in full the SPHE and RSE curricula.
5. The school implements in full the Wellbeing Programme at Junior Cycle including a specific module for digital citizenship/online safety.
6. 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*.
7. The school has in place a policy and clear procedures, made available to all school staff, in respect of school trips.
8. The school has a Health and Safety at work policy made available to all school staff.
9. The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation and relevant D. o E circulars and KWETB procedures in relation to recruitment and Garda vetting.
10. The school has a code of conduct for school personnel – See KWETB professional code of conduct, made available to all staff.
11. The school adheres to the KWETB Data Protection Policy/GDPR Guidelines and other relevant policies.
12. The school complies with the agreed disciplinary procedures for teaching staff.
13. The school has a Special Educational Needs and Whole School Inclusion Policy.
14. The school makes available individual SEN recommendations to all staff on VS Ware
15. The school has a Student Support Team Plan in respect of students who require such care.
16. The school has a "Dignity in the Work place Policy"
17. The school has in place a policy and procedures for the administration of medication and First Aid to students.
18. The school –
 - a. Has provided each member of school staff with a copy of the school's *Child Safeguarding Statement*.
 - b. Ensures all new staff are provided with a copy of the school's *Child Safeguarding Statement*.
 - c. Ensures staff avail of relevant training – TUSLA/ PDST training to be provided.
 - d. Maintains records of all staff training.
19. The school has in place a Behaviour Policy and a Code of Behaviour.
20. The school has in place an ICT/Appropriate Usage Policy in respect of usage of ICT and iPad by students, teachers and parents for both in-school and online teaching and learning.
21. The school has in place a mobile phone policy in respect of usage of mobile phones by students
22. The school has in place a Critical Incident Management Plan.
23. The school has in place a policy and procedures in respect of students of the school undertaking work experience in external organisations.

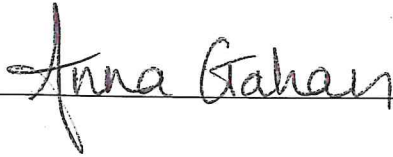
Important Note: It should be noted that risk in the context of this risk assessment is the risk of “harm” as defined in the Children First Act 2015 and not general health and safety risk. The definition of harm is set out in Chapter 4 of the *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post- Primary 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.

This risk assessment has been completed by the Board of Management on 13/05/2024. It shall be reviewed as part of the school’s annual review of its Child Safeguarding Statement.

Signed  Date 27/06/2025

Chairperson, Board of Management

Signed  Date 27/06/2025

Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management