

# Child Safeguarding Statement

## Scoil Bhríde, Straffan

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Scoil Bhríde, Straffan 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 Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools 2017 and Tusla Guidance on the preparation of Child Safeguarding Statements, the Board of Management of Scoil Bhríde, Straffan has agreed the Child Safeguarding Statement set out in this document.

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 2017 as part of this overall Child Safeguarding Statement

The Designated Liaison Person (DLP) is **Caroline Colleran**

The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is **Breda McAuliffe**

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;



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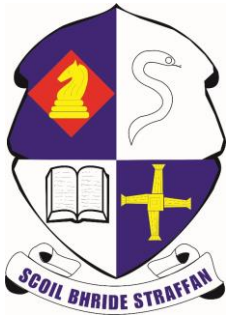
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- fully comply with its statutory obligations under the Children First Act 2015 and other relevant legislation relating to the protection and welfare of children;
- fully co-operate with the relevant statutory authorities in relation to child protection 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.

### 1 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 2017 and to the relevant agreed disciplinary procedures for school staff which are published on the DES 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 DES and available on the DES 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-

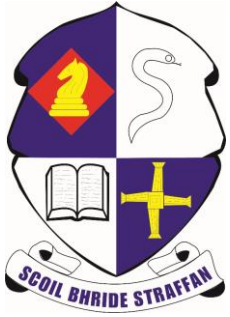


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- Has provided each member of staff with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement;
  - Ensures all new staff are provided with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement;
  - Encourages staff to avail of relevant training;
  - Encourages Board of Management members to avail of relevant training; and
  - The Board of Management maintains records of all staff and Board member training.
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- 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 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, 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 attached as an appendix to these procedures.
  - 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.



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- 2 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.
- 3 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.

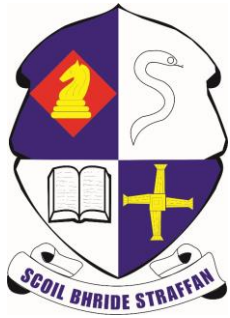
This Child Safeguarding Statement was adopted by the Board of Management on \_\_\_\_\_ and will be reviewed on \_\_\_\_\_.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
Chairperson of Board of Management

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
Principal

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_



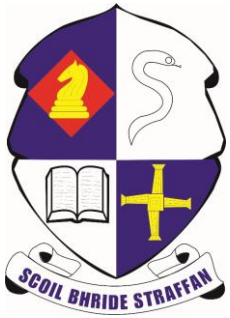
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Date of next review:

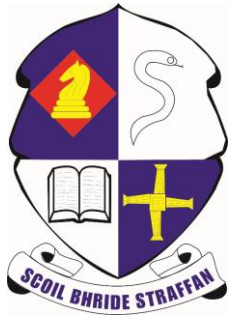
### Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment

List of School Activities	Risk Level	The School has identified the following Risk of Harm	The School has the following Procedures in place to address risk identified in this assessment
Training of school personnel in Child Protection matters	L	Harm not recognised or reported promptly	<p>Child Safeguarding Statement &amp; DES procedures available to all staff</p> <p>DLP&amp; DDLP attended PDST face to face training and continuous professional development in this area. All Staff have viewed Tusla training module &amp; any other online training offered by PDST. Child Protection regularly discussed at staff meetings.</p> <p>BOM records all records of staff and board training</p>
One to one teaching	H	Harm by or to school personnel	<p>School has policy in place for one to one teaching:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Open doors</li> <li>• Table between teacher and pupil</li> <li>• Glass in window</li> </ul>
Care of children with special needs, including intimate care needs	H	Harm by school personnel	<p>“Intimate Care Policy” drafted and in place for 2019/20</p>



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Usage of Toilet areas	H	Inappropriate behaviour	“Supervision Policy” including toilet use will be drafted during 2019
Curricular Provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay safe.	L	Non-teaching of same	School fully implements SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe SPHE Curriculum policy being reviewed to reflect this in 2019
Managing of challenging behaviour amongst pupils, including appropriate use of restraint	L	Injury to pupils and staff	Health & Safety Policy Code Of Behaviour Manual Handling Training will be arranged if applicable in the future.
Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils	H	Harm from other pupils, unknown adults on the playground	The school has an implemented Supervision Policy Health & Safety Policy The school will develop an “Arrival and Dismissal Procedure”
Recreation breaks for pupils	L	Injury to pupils/Bullying Harm not recognised or properly or promptly reported	Updated current policies in place: Health & Safety Statement Code of Behaviour Policy Antibullying Policy Staff, student and Parental CPD on Anti-Bullying arranged during 2018/19
Classroom teaching	L	Harm to pupils	Teaching Council Code of Conduct All staff Garda Vetted All trained in <i>Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools 2017</i> and all registered teaching staff adhere to the <i>Children First Act 2015</i>

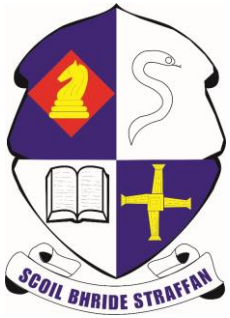


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Outdoor teaching activities	L	Harm to pupils	Teaching Council Code of Conduct All staff Garda Vetted All trained in <i>Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools 2017</i> and all registered teaching staff adhere to the <i>Children First Act 2015</i>
Sporting Activities	L	Harm to pupils	Teaching Council Code of Conduct All staff Garda Vetted All trained in <i>Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools 2017</i> and all registered teaching staff adhere to the <i>Children First Act 2015</i>
Sports Coaches	L	Harm to pupils	Policy & Procedures to be put in place All personnel are Garda Vetted and are always in the presence of the class teacher.
Students and Student Teachers participating in work experience	L	Harm by student	Work experience Policy in place. Student Teachers are Garda Vetted by the Colleges and TY students are Garda Vetted if over 16 years of age. Child Safeguarding Statement in place
Annual Sports Day	L	Harm to pupils	All class teachers supervise their children in accordance with the policies
Use of off-site facilities for school activities Including Educational Trips/Matches	H	Harm to Pupils	Teachers to supervise children when off site: walking to GAA pitches, Community Hall: See Supervision Policy

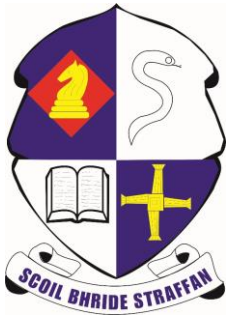


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School transport arrangements including use of bus escorts	L	Harm to pupils Harm not recognised or properly or promptly reported	Bus Company is always a reputable company with Garda Vetted drivers. Teachers are always present on the bus supervising with the children.
Volunteers/Parents	L	Harm to pupils	Vetting Procedures in place for Parent Volunteers (Parents Association) Parents Association are Garda Vetted.
Administration of First Aid	M	Harm to pupils	First Aid Policy to be reviewed 2019 First Aid refresher course to be arranged for those staff who require it.
Administration of Medicine	H	Harm to pupils	Administration of Medicines Policy to be reviewed 2019
Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst pupils	M	Harm to pupils	Anti-bullying policy and themed Friendship Week Updated Code of Behaviour Policy in place
Care of pupils with specific vulnerabilities/ needs such as <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pupils from ethnic minorities/migrants</li> <li>• Members of the Traveller community</li> <li>• Lesbian, gay, bisexual or</li> </ul>	L	Harm to pupils	Anti-Bullying Policy Code of Behaviour

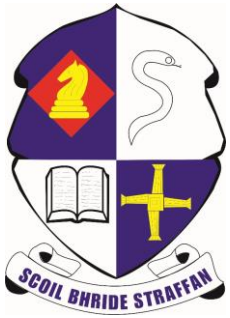




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transgender (LGBT) children <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pupils perceived to be LGBT</li> <li>• Pupils of minority religious faiths</li> <li>• Children in care</li> <li>• Children on CPNS</li> </ul>			
Fundraising Events using Pupils	M	Harm to Pupils	School Fundraising events during the school day are staff led.
Use of Information and Communication Technology by pupils in school	H	Bullying Staff not following policies & procedures	ICT/ AUP policy drafted Anti-Bullying Policy Code of Behaviour Stay Safe fully implemented and taught.
Use of video/photography/other media to record school events	M	Harm to pupils	Use of Photographs for School App and School Website are sought from parents. School Twitter account will only be used for school information purpose from 2019 onwards and no photos will be used of any children in school tweets.

**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*



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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 ..... It will be reviewed as part of the school's annual review of its Child Safeguarding Statement.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_  
Chairperson, Board of Management

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_  
Principal/Secretary Board of Management

Date \_\_\_\_\_