

**St Brendans BNS,
McAuley Rd,
Artane,
Dublin 5**



Learning for all, Respect for all



**Child Safeguarding Statement,
Written Assessment of Risk and review
2025**

Child Safeguarding Statement 2025

St Brendans BNS



Child Safeguarding Statement

St Brendans BNS a primary school providing primary education to pupils from Second Class 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 \(revised 2023\)](#) and [Tusla Guidance on the preparation of Child Safeguarding Statements](#), the Board of Management of **23.10.2025** 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 **Siobhán Flynn (Principal)**
- 3 The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is **Carol Howley (Deputy Principal)**
- 4 The Relevant Person is **Siobhán Flynn**
(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 23.10.2025

Signed: Helena Healy

Chairperson of Board of Management

Signed: _____

Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Date: 23/10/25

Date: _____

In accordance with section 11 of the Children First Act 2015 and with the requirement of Chapter 8 of the Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools (revised 2023), the following is the Written Risk Assessment of St Brendans BNS, McAuley Rd, Artane, Dublin 5

List of School Activities	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	Harm not recognised or reported promptly	Child Safeguarding Statement & DES procedures made available to all staff The <i>Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools (revised 2023)</i> are made available to all school personnel DLP & DDLP to attend PDST face to face training (22/09/2025) All Staff to view Túsla training modules (September 1-14 2025) & any other online training offered by OIDE Teachers complete mandated persons modules (September 1-14 2025) BOM records all records of staff and board training
One to one teaching	Harm by school personnel Risk of harm to children with SEN who have particular vulnerabilities	School has policy in place for one to one teaching under Support Teaching Policy Open doors Table between teacher and pupil Glass panels in window/classroom doors
Care of Children with special needs, including intimate care needs	Risk of harm to children with SEN who have particular vulnerabilities	Policy on intimate care in place 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.
Toilet areas	Inappropriate behaviour	The school has a yard/playground supervision policy to ensure appropriate supervision of children during, assembly, dismissal

	Risk of harm to children with SEN who have particular vulnerabilities Risk of harm to child while a child is receiving intimate care	and breaks and in respect of specific areas such as toilets, changing rooms etc. Policy on intimate care in place
Curricular Provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay safe.	Non-teaching of same	School implements SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe in full
LGBT Children/Pupils perceived to be LGBT	Bullying	Bí Cineálta Policy in place Code of Behaviour in place
Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils	Harm from older pupils, unknown adults on the playground	Arrival and dismissal supervised by Teachers 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.
Managing of challenging behaviour amongst pupils, including appropriate use of restraint	Injury to pupils and staff	Health & Safety Policy in place Code Of Behaviour in place All staff trained in Crisis Prevention Intervention by Principal in Term 1 renewed bi-annually or when new staff arrive Behaviours of concern policy in place
Sports Coaches	Harm to pupils	Policy & Procedures in place
Students participating in work experience	Harm by student	Work experience Policy in place Child Safeguarding Statement in place The school has in place a policy and procedures in respect of students on work experience.

Recreation breaks for pupils	Risk of harm to children with SEN who have particular vulnerabilities Injury to pupils and staff	Code of behaviour policy in place SEN policy in place SNA Policy in place
Classroom teaching	Harm not recognised or properly or promptly reported	The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation and relevant DES circulars in relation to recruitment and Garda vetting The school abides by the Teaching Council codes of conduct for school personnel as well as strict vetting procedures for all permanent and voluntary staff. The school complies with the agreed disciplinary procedures for teaching staff
Outdoor teaching activities	Injury to pupils	The school has in place a policy and procedures for the administration of First Aid & medication to pupils Health & Safety Policy in place
Sporting Activities	Injury to pupils	The school has in place a policy and procedures for the use of external sports coaches The school has in place a policy and procedures for the administration of First Aid & medication to pupils
Homework club	Harm not recognised or properly or promptly reported Visitors/contractors present during after school activities	Code Of Behaviour in place The school has a visitors policy in place

Breakfast club	Harm not recognised or properly or promptly reported	Code Of Behaviour in place Child Safeguarding Statement & DES procedures made available to all staff DLP& DDLP to attend OIDE face to face training All Staff to view Túsla training module & any other online training offered by OIDE Health & Safety Policy in place
School outings	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	Code Of Behaviour in place The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation and relevant DES circulars in relation to recruitment and Garda vetting Health and Safety policy in place Policy on Tours and Outings in place The school has in place a Critical Incident Management plan Risk assessments completed by all staff before any outing takes place which includes details of supervision, contact numbers for parents and what to do in case of emergency
Use of toilet/changing/shower areas in school and in Swimming Pool	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	Code of Behaviour in place Policy on intimate care in place Policy on School Tours and Outings in place
Annual Sports Day	Risk of child being harmed in the school by volunteer or visitor to the school	The school has in place a policy and procedures for the use of external sports coaches

		The school has in place a policy and procedures for the administration of First Aid & medication to pupils The school has in place a Home School Liaison policy and related procedures
Fundraising events involving pupils	Risk of harm due to not following the code of behaviour	The school has in place a Home School Liaison policy and related procedures
School transport arrangements including use of bus escorts	Risk of harm due to not following the code of behaviour Risk to pupils/staff and occupants of bus/taxi	The school has in place a Critical Incident Management Plan Code of behaviour in place School tours/excursions policy in place The school has in place a school transport policy for pupils attending the Autism classes Child Protection/Safeguarding Individual Behavioural Support plans/ Lisison with class teachers and SNAs The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation and relevant DES circulars in relation to recruitment and Garda vetting
Management of challenging behaviour amongst pupils, including appropriate use of restraint where required	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	The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation and relevant DES circulars in relation to recruitment and Garda vetting The school abides by the Teaching Council codes of conduct for school personnel as well as strict vetting procedures for all permanent and voluntary staff. The school complies with the agreed disciplinary procedures for teaching staff

Administration of Medicine Administration of First Aid	Allergic reactions to medication	The school has in place a policy and procedures for the administration of First Aid & medication to pupils
Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst pupils	Risk of harm due to bullying of child	The school has a Bí Cineálta Policy which fully adheres to the requirements of the Department's <i>Anti-Bullying Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools</i> The <i>Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools (revised 2023)</i> are made available to all school personnel
Training of school personnel in child protection matters	Harm not recognised or properly or promptly reported	The school – Has provided each member of school 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 Maintains records of all staff and board member training
Use of external personnel to supplement curriculum	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, religious activities	Strict policy on Garda Vetting adhered to by the school

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	Harm not recognised or properly or promptly reported	The school – Has provided each member of school 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 Maintains records of all staff and board member training
Recruitment of school personnel including - • Teachers • SNA's • 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	Harm not recognised or properly or promptly reported Risk of harm in one-to-one teaching, counselling, coaching situation	Child Safeguarding Statement & DES procedures made available to all staff Staff to view Túsla training module & any other online training offered by OIDE Vetting Procedures Policy of Parents / Volunteers Policy on Visiting Contractors
Use of school premises by other organisation during school day	Risk of child being harmed by a member of staff of another organisation or other person while child participating in school activities	Policy in place for organisations renting the school premises which includes a signed license agreement and copy of insurance presented to the school before any activities take place All personnel vetted and Garda checked through Early Childhood Ireland

		Bathrooms shared for use by Playschool and two Autism classes. A STOP/GO signage system is in place in order for each group to use the bathrooms separately under supervision of their own staff.
Use of school premises by other organisation outside school day	Risk of child being harmed by a member of staff of another organisation or other person while child participating in out of school activities	All personnel vetted and all persons using the school premises must be vetted and a list of these individuals who are Garda Vetted is checked by the BOM
Use of Information and Communication Technology by pupils in school	Bullying Risk of harm due to children inappropriately accessing/using computers, social media, phones and other devices while at school Risk of harm caused by member of school personnel communicating with pupils in appropriate manner via social media, texting, digital device or other manner Risk of harm caused by member of school personnel accessing/circulating inappropriate material via social media, texting, digital device or other manner Risk of the pupil's image/personal information being accessible in the public domain	ICT policy in place Anti-Bullying Policy in place Code of Behaviour in place iPad Acceptable use policy signed by all adult users before use of all devices iPad Student Pledge signed by all students before use of all devices

Application of sanctions under the school's Code of Behaviour	Bullying	The school has a Bí Cineálta Policy which fully adheres to the requirements of the Department's <i>Anti-Bullying Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools</i>
Students participating in work experience in the school	Risk of child being harmed in the school by volunteer or visitor to the school	The school has in place a policy and procedures in respect of students undertaking work experience in the school
Student teachers undertaking training placement in 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	The school has in place a policy and procedures in respect of student teacher placements
Use of video/photography/other media to record school events	Risk of harm due to children inappropriately accessing/using computers, social media, phones and other devices while at school	The school has in place an ICT policy in respect of usage of ICT by pupils and staff The school has in place a mobile phone policy in respect of usage of mobile phones by pupils and staff

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 accordance with section 11 of the Children First Act 2015 and with the requirement of Chapter 8 of the *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools (revised 2023)*, the following is the Written Risk Assessment of St Brendans BNS, McAuley Rd, Artane, Dublin 5

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.

The Addendum to Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children published in January 2019 clarifies that organisations providing relevant services to children should consider the specific issue of online safety when carrying out their risk assessment and preparing their Child Safeguarding Statement.

The Guidance on Continuity of Schooling for primary and post-primary schools (April 2020) advises of the importance of teachers maintaining the safe and ethical use of the internet during distance learning and assisting parents and guardians to be aware of their role also. Schools should ensure that their Acceptable Use Policy (AUP) informs and guides remote or distance learning activity.

This risk assessment has been completed by the Board of Management on **23.10.2025**.

It will be reviewed as part of the school's annual review of its Child Safeguarding Statement in the first term of each academic year.

Signed Helena Healy Date 23/10/25

Chairperson, Board of Management

Signed Shoaban Olyn Date 23/10/25

Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

DOCUMENT HISTORY since 2021

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2 nd Version	Ratified by the Board of Management:	Signed:  Chairperson, Board of Management	16 th of December 2022
3 rd Version	Ratified by the Board of Management:	Signed:  Chairperson, Board of Management	26 th of October 2023
4 th Version	Ratified by the Board of Management: Updates to include 2023 guidelines	Signed:  Chairperson, Board of Management	26 th September 2024
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Checklist for Review of the Child Safeguarding Statement 2025



The [Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools \(revised 2023\)](#) require that the Board of Management must undertake a review of its Child Safeguarding Statement and that the following checklist shall be used for this purpose. **The review must be completed every year or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which the Child Safeguarding Statement refers.** Undertaking an annual review will also ensure that a school also meets its statutory obligation under section 11(8) of the Children First Act 2015, to review its Child Safeguarding Statement every two years.

The checklist is designed as an aid to conducting this review and is not intended as an exhaustive list of the issues to be considered. Individual Boards of Management shall include other items in the checklist that are of relevance to the school in question.

As part of the overall review process, Boards of Management should also assess relevant school policies, procedures, practices and activities vis a vis their adherence to the principles of best practice in child protection and welfare as set out in the school's Child Safeguarding Statement, the Children First Act 2015, the Addendum to Children First (2019) and the *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools (revised 2023)*.

	Yes/No
1. Has the Board formally adopted a Child Safeguarding Statement in accordance with the <i>Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools (revised 2023)</i> ?	Yes
2. Is the Board satisfied that the Child Safeguarding Statement is displayed in a prominent place near the main entrance to the school?	Yes
3. As part of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement, has the Board formally adopted, without modification, the <i>Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools (revised 2023)</i> ?	Yes
4. Does the school's Child Safeguarding Statement include a written assessment of risk as required under the Children First Act 2015? (This includes considering the specific issue of online safety as required by the Addendum to Children First)	Yes
5. Has the Board reviewed and updated where necessary the written assessment of risk as part of this overall review?	Yes
6. Has the Risk Assessment taken account of the risk of harm relevant to online teaching and learning remotely?	Yes
7. Has the DLP attended available child protection training?	Yes
8. Has the Deputy DLP attended available child protection training?	Yes
9. Have any members of the Board attended child protection training?	Yes
10. Has the school appointed a DLP and a Deputy DLP?	Yes
11. Are the relevant contact details (Tusla and An Garda Síochána) to hand?	Yes

12. Has the Board arrangements in place to communicate the school's Child Safeguarding Statement to new school personnel?	Yes
13. Is the Board satisfied that all school personnel have been made aware of their responsibilities under the <i>Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools (revised 2023)</i> and the Children First Act 2015?	Yes
14. Has the Board received a Principal's Child Protection Oversight Report (CPOR) at each Board meeting held since the last review was undertaken?	Yes
15. Since the Board's last review, did each CPOR contain all of the information required under each of the 4 headings set out in sections 9.5 to 9.8 inclusive of the procedures?	Yes
16. Since the Board's last review, has the Board been provided with and reviewed all records relevant to the CPOR?	Yes
17. Is the Board satisfied that the records provided are anonymised and redacted as necessary to ensure that the identities of children and any other parties, including school personnel, to whom the concern or report relates are not disclosed?	Yes
18. Since the Board's last review, have the minutes of each Board meeting appropriately recorded the records provided to the Board as part of CPOR?	Yes
19. Have the minutes of each Board meeting appropriately recorded the CPOR?	Yes
20. Is the Board satisfied that the child protection procedures in relation to the making of reports to Tusla/An Garda Síochána were appropriately followed in each case reviewed?	Yes
21. Is the Board satisfied that, since the last review, all appropriate actions are being or have been taken in respect of any member of school personnel against whom an allegation of abuse or neglect has been made?*	Yes
22. Where applicable, were unique identifiers used to record child protection matters in the Board minutes?	Yes
23. Is the Board satisfied that all records relating to child protection are appropriately filed and stored securely?	Yes
24. Has the Board been notified by any parent in relation to that parent not receiving the standard notification required under section 5.6 of the <i>Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools (revised 2023)</i> ?	No
25. In relation to any cases identified at question 20 above, has the Board ensured that any notifications required under section 5.6 of the <i>Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools (revised 2023)</i> were subsequently issued by the DLP?	Yes
26. Has the Board ensured that the Parents' Association (if any), has been provided with the school's Child Safeguarding Statement?	Yes
27. Has the Board ensured that the patron has been provided with the school's Child Safeguarding Statement?	Yes
28. Has the Board ensured that the school's Child Safeguarding Statement is available to parents on request?	Yes
29. Has the Board ensured that the Stay Safe programme is implemented in full in the school? (applies to primary schools)	Yes
30. Has the Board ensured that the Wellbeing Programme for Junior Cycle students is implemented in full in the school? (applies to post-primary schools)	N/A
31. Has the Board ensured that the SPHE curriculum is implemented in full in the school?	Yes
32. Is the Board satisfied that the statutory requirements for Garda Vetting have been met in respect of all school personnel (employees and volunteers)? *	Yes
33. Is the Board satisfied that the Department's requirements in relation to the provision of a child protection related statutory declaration and associated form of undertaking have been met in respect of persons appointed to teaching and non-teaching positions?*	Yes
34. Is the Board satisfied that, from a child protection perspective, thorough recruitment and selection procedures are applied by the school in relation to all school personnel (employees and volunteers)?*	Yes
35. Has the Board considered and addressed any complaints or suggestions for improvements regarding the school's Child Safeguarding Statement?	Yes

36. Has the Board sought the feedback of parents in relation to the school's compliance with the requirements of the child safeguarding requirements of the <i>Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools (revised 2023)</i> ?	Yes
37. Has the Board sought the feedback of pupils in relation to the school's child safeguarding arrangements?	Yes
38. Is the Board satisfied that the ' <i>Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools Post-Primary Schools (revised 2023)</i> ' are being fully and adequately implemented by the school?	Yes
39. Has the Board identified any aspects of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement and/or its implementation that require further improvement?	Yes
40. Has the Board put in place an action plan containing appropriate timelines to address those aspects of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement and/or its implementation that have been identified as requiring further improvement?	Yes
41. Has the Board ensured that any areas for improvement that were identified in any previous review of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement have been adequately addressed?	Yes

*In schools where the ETB is the employer, the responsibility for meeting the employer's requirements rests with the ETB concerned. In such cases, this question should be completed following consultation with the ETB.

Signed Helena Healey. Date 23/10/25.

Chairperson, Board of Management

Signed Shahar Singh Date 23/10/25
Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Note: Where a school is undertaking its first review, references in this checklist to the "last review" shall be taken to refer to the date on which the Child Safeguarding Statement was first put in place.