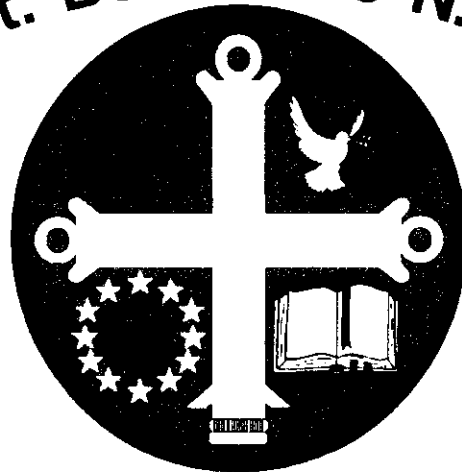


St. Benedict's National School

Child Protection Policy

St. Benedict's N.S.



ONGAR



St. Benedict's N.S. Child Safeguarding Statement

St. Benedict's N.S. 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) and Tusla Guidance on the preparation of Child Safeguarding Statements, the Board of Management of St. Benedict's N.S. has agreed the Child Safeguarding Statement set out in this document.

- 1 The Board of Management of St. Benedict's N.S. 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 Padraic Flesk.
- 3 The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is Fiona O'Connor.
- 4 The relevant person is Padraic Flesk
- 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 DE 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 DE 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 www.stbenedictsongar.ie, the DE 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 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 10th December 2024.

Signed:  _____

Signed:  _____

Chairperson of Board of Management

Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Date: 10/12/24

Date: 10/12/24



Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment of St. Benedict's N.S.

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 2017*, the following is the Written Risk Assessment of St. Benedict's N.S.

List of School Activities	The School has identified the following Risk of Harm in respect of its activities	The School has the following Procedures in place to address identified risks
Training of school personnel in Child Protection matters	Harm not recognised or reported promptly	Child Safeguarding Statement & DES procedures made available to all staff DLP and DDLP attend PDST training All Staff to view Túsla training module & any other online training offered by PDST BOM maintains all records of staff and board training
One to one teaching/ learning support	Harm by school personnel Risk of harm due to inappropriate relationship/communication between child and another child or adult Risk or harm to children with SEN who have particular vulnerabilities	School has policy in place for one to one teaching. Open doors/ glass in all doors The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation and relevant DE circulars in relation to recruitment and Garda vetting Code of conduct for teachers
Care of Children with special needs, including intimate care needs	Harm by school personnel	Policy on Intimate Care
Toilet areas	Inappropriate behaviour	Intimate Care and Supervision
Curricular Provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay safe.	Non-teaching of same	School implements SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe in full as a whole school approach (Stay Safe in January/ February and RSE in April)

List of School Activities	The School has identified the following Risk of Harm in respect of its activities	The School has the following Procedures in place to address identified risks
Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils	Harm from older pupils, unknown adults on the yard	Arrival and dismissal supervised by Teachers. Parents informed of school starting and finishing times
Managing of challenging behaviour amongst pupils, including appropriate use of restraint	Injury to pupils and staff	Physical Intervention Policy Health & Safety Policy Code of Behaviour Policy
Sports Coaches	Harm to pupils	Supervision Policy & Procedures in place The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation and relevant DE circulars in relation to recruitment and Garda vetting
Students participating in work experience	Harm by student	Supervision Policy Child Safeguarding Statement
Recreation breaks for pupils	Risk of child being harmed in the school by another child	Supervision Policy
Online teaching and learning remotely	Risk of harm due to inappropriate use of online remote teaching and learning communication platform such as an uninvited person accessing the lesson link	Distance Learning Policy Acceptable Use Policy to include provision for online teaching and learning remotely, and has communicated this policy to parents
Classroom teaching	Harm by school personal Harm by another child	Anti-Bullying Policy Code of Behaviour Adequate supervision provided The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation and relevant DE circulars in relation to recruitment and Garda vetting Code of conduct for teachers

List of School Activities	The School has identified the following Risk of Harm in respect of its activities	The School has the following Procedures in place to address identified risks
Outdoor teaching activities	Harm by school personnel Harm by another child	Anti-Bullying Policy Code of Behaviour Adequate supervision
Sporting Activities	Harm by another child Risk of child being harmed by visitor	Health and Safety Policy Code of Behaviour Adequate supervision provided
After Schools Clubs	Harm by school personnel Harm by another pupil	Anti-Bullying Policy Code of Behaviour Adequate supervision provided
School outings	Harm by another child Risk of harm due to inappropriate relationship/communication between child and another child or adult Risk of harm to children with SEN who have particular vulnerabilities	Anti-Bullying Policy Code of Behaviour Adequate supervision provided School Policy of Supervision
Use of toilet & changing room in school	Harm by school personnel	Anti-Bullying Policy Code of Behaviour Intimate Care Policy Adequate supervision provided
Annual Sports Day	Harm by school personnel Harm by another child	Anti-Bullying Policy Code of Behaviour Adequate supervision provided
Fundraising events involving pupils	Harm by school personnel Harm by another child	Anti-Bullying Policy Code of Behaviour Adequate supervision provided
Use of off-site facilities for school activities e.g. religious ceremonies and sacramental preparation	Harm by another child Risk of harm due to inappropriate relationship/communication between child and another child or adult Risk of harm to children with SEN who have particular vulnerabilities	Anti-Bullying Policy Code of Behaviour Adequate supervision provided School Tour Policy
Administration of First Aid	Risk of harm to pupils	Accident and Injury Policy Health and Safety Policy Supervision Policy
Administration of Medicine	Risk of harm to pupils	Admin of medication Policy Health and Safety Policy
Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst pupils	Risk of harm to pupils Harm by another child	Anti-Bullying Policy Code of Behaviour Full implementation of SPHE policies


List of School Activities	The School has identified the following Risk of Harm in respect of its activities	The School has the following Procedures in place to address identified risks
Use of external personnel to supplement curriculum	Risk of harm to pupils from unknown adults	Code of Behaviour Adequate supervision provided
<p>Care of pupils with specific vulnerabilities/ needs such as</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 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 	<p>Risk of harm to bullying of child</p> <p>Risk of harm to inadequate supervision of children in school</p> <p>Risk of harm to children with SEN who have particular vulnerabilities</p>	<p>Anti-Bullying Policy Code of Behaviour Adequate supervision provided Full Implementation of all SPHE programs and curriculum SEN Policy Encourages staff to avail of training</p>
Use of Information and Communication Technology by pupils in school	Bullying	<p>ICT policy Anti-Bullying Policy Code of Behaviour Acceptable Use Policy</p> <p>The school has in place a policy governing the use of tablet devices in the school by pupils as per circular 38/2018</p>

List of School Activities	The School has identified the following Risk of Harm in respect of its activities	The School has the following Procedures in place to address identified risks
<p>Recruitment of school personnel including -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 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 	<p>Risk of child being harmed in the school by: A member of school personnel Visitor or volunteer</p> <p>Harm not recognised or properly or promptly reported</p>	<p>Child Safeguarding Statement & DES procedures made available to all staff</p> <p>Staff to undertake certification in Tusla training module</p> <p>Vetting Procedures</p> <p>Policy of Parents / Volunteers</p> <p>Supervision Policy</p>
<p>Application of sanctions under the school's Code of Behaviour</p>	<p>Harm to pupils</p>	<p>Anti-Bullying Policy Code of Behaviour Adequate supervision provided</p>
<p>Student teachers undertaking training placement in school</p>	<p>Harm to pupils</p>	<p>Anti-Bullying Policy Code of Behaviour Adequate supervision provided</p>
<p>Use of video/photography/ other media to record school events</p>	<p>Risk of harm due to Inappropriate relationship/ communications between child and another child or adult</p> <p>Risk of harm due to children inappropriately accessing/ using computers, social media, phones and other devices while at school</p>	<p>Anti-Bullying Policy</p> <p>Code of Behaviour</p> <p>Data Protection Policy</p> <p>Adequate supervision provided</p> <p>Acceptable Use Policy</p>

	<p>Risk of harm caused by member of school personnel communicating with pupils in appropriate manner via social media, texting, digital device or other manner</p>	
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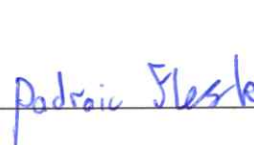
Important Note: It should be noted that risk in the context of this risk assessment is the risk of “harm” as defined in the Children First Act 2015 and not general health and safety risk. The definition of harm is set out in Chapter 4 of the *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post- Primary 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.

Signed: 

Chairperson of Board of Management

Date: 10/12/24

Signed: 

Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Date: 10/12/24



Checklist for Review of the Child Safeguarding Statement

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 'Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools (revised 2023)'?	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 'Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools (revised 2023)'?	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. Are there both a DLP and a Deputy DLP currently appointed?	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 'Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools (revised 2023)' and the Children First Act 2015?	Yes
14. Has the Board received a Principals 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 documents 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 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 report?	Yes
19. Have the minutes of each Board meeting appropriately recorded the CPOR report?	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?	N/A
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 'Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools (revised 2023)?	No
25. In relation to any cases identified at question 21 above, has the Board ensured that any notifications required under section 5.6 of the 'Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools (revised 2023)' were subsequently issued by the DLP?	N/A
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?	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?	N/A
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 'Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools (revised 2023)?	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 'Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools (revised 2023)' 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?	No
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?	N/A
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

Signed: 

Chairperson of Board of Management

Date: 10/12/24

Signed: 

Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Date: 10/12/24




Notification regarding the Board of Management's review of the Child Safeguarding Statement

To: Catholic Archdiocese of Dublin

The Board of Management of St. Benedict's N.S. wishes to inform you that:

- The Board of Management's annual review of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement was completed at the Board meeting of 19/12/24 [date].
- This review was conducted in accordance with the "Checklist for Review of the Child Safeguarding Statement" published on the Department's website www.education.ie

Signed  Date 10/12/24

Chairperson, Board of Management

Signed  Date 10/12/24

Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management



Record of how the allegation and/or concern came to be known to the DLP and record of DLP's phone call seeking advice of Tusla (Sections 5.1.1 and 5.3.3)

Part A – Record of how the concern came to be known to the DLP

Date:		Name of child:	
DLP's record of how the concern came to be known to the DLP:			
Signed by DLP:		Date:	

Part B – Record of DLP’s phone call seeking the advice of Tusla (where relevant)

Date:		Time:	
Name of Social Worker, title and contact details:			
Details of information provided to the Tusla Social Worker in respect of the concern (including whether or not any identifying details were provided):			
Advice provided by Tusla in relation to whether or not to report the concern or whether or not to report the concern as a mandated report:			
Any other information or advice provided by Tusla:			
Signed by DLP:		Date:	
Signed by member of school personnel (where applicable)		Date:	