

Mandatory Template 1: Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment Template

Child Safeguarding Statement

St Benedicts National School 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)*, the [Child Protection and Safeguarding Procedures for Boarding Facilities associated with Recognised Schools 2023](#) and [Tusla Guidance on the preparation of Child Safeguarding Statements](#), the board of management of St Benedicts National School has agreed the Child Safeguarding Statement set out in this document.

- 1 The board of management/management authority of St Benedicts National School 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 Emma Sherry
- 4 The Relevant Person is Padraic Flesk
(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. This person can also be the DLP)
- 5 The Board of Management/Management authority of St Benedicts National School recognises that child protection and welfare considerations permeate all aspects of school and boarding school life and must be reflected in all of the school's/management authority's policies, procedures, practices and activities. In its policies, procedures, practices and activities, the board of management/management authority will adhere to the following principles of best practice in child protection and welfare:

The board of management/management authority 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 and care of their children; and
- fully respect confidentiality requirements in dealing with child protection matters.

The school/boarding facility 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/boarding facility, the board of management/management authority adheres to the relevant procedures set out in Chapter 7 of the *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools (revised 2023)*, the relevant procedures set out in the *Child Protection and Safeguarding Procedures for Boarding Facilities associated with Recognised Schools 2023* and to the relevant agreed disciplinary procedures for school/boarding facility staff which are published on the gov.ie.
- In relation to the selection or recruitment of staff and their suitability to work with children, the board of management/management authority 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 gov.ie.
- 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 board of management/management authority-
 - Has provided each member of staff with a copy of the school/boarding facility's Child Safeguarding Statement
 - Ensures all new staff are provided with a copy of the school/boarding facility's Child Safeguarding Statement
 - Encourages staff to avail of relevant training
 - Encourages board of management/management authority members to avail of relevant training
 - The board of management/management authority maintains records of all staff and board member training
- In relation to reporting of child protection concerns to Tusla, all school/boarding facility personnel are required to adhere to the procedures set out in the *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools (revised 2023)* and the *Child Protection and Safeguarding Procedures for Boarding Facilities associated with Recognised Schools 2023* including, in the case of registered teachers and any boarding facility staff who are mandated persons, those in relation to mandated reporting under the Children First Act 2015.
- There is a procedure in place for maintaining a list of mandated persons. All registered teachers employed by the school/management authority are mandated persons under the Children First Act 2015.
(A boarding authority may have mandated persons other than teachers employed in the facility e.g. pastoral care worker, registered nurse, member of the clergy or others who could be listed in this paragraph. Please refer to Schedule 2 of the Children First Act 2015. This link may be helpful: <https://www.tusla.ie/children-first/mandated-persons/am-i-a-mandated-person/> and this bracketed section should be deleted when this paragraph has been completed)
- In accordance with the Children First Act 2015 and the Addendum to Children First (2019), the board/management authority has carried out an assessment of any potential for harm to a child while attending the school/boarding facility or participating in school/boarding facility activities. A written assessment setting out the areas of risk identified and the school/boarding facility'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/boarding facility's website, gov.ie or will be made available on request by the school/boarding facility.

Note: The above is not intended as an exhaustive list. Individual boards of management/management authorities shall also include in this section such other procedures/measures that are of relevance to the school/boarding facility in question.

- 7 This statement has been published on the school's website and has been provided to all members of school, 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.

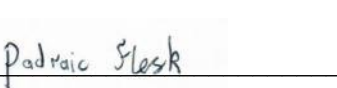
This Child Safeguarding Statement was adopted by the board of management/management authority on 13/10/25

This Child Safeguarding Statement was reviewed by the board of management/management authority on 13/10/25

Signed: 

Chairperson of Board of Management/
Management Authority

Date: 13th October 2025

Signed: 

Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management/
Management Authority

Date: 13th October 2025

For information in respect of how the child safeguarding statement was developed or to request a copy of the statement, please contact the relevant person noted at the beginning of this child safeguarding statement

Phone: 016403011 or email: office@stbenedictsongar.com

Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment

Written Assessment of Risk of St Benedicts National School

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)* and the *Child Protection and Safeguarding Procedures for Boarding Facilities associated with Recognised Schools 2023*, the following is the Written Risk Assessment of St Benedicts National School

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	Children First Training completed by all staff DLP and DDLP attend Oide training for new CP procedures to be adopted by the BOM no later than 31/12/26 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	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 Behaviours of Concern policy 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	Policy on Intimate Care.
Curricular Provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay safe.	Non-teaching of same	School implements SPHE, RSE. Checks completed by principal/deputy and AP 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 and management. Parents informed of school starting and finishing times
Managing of challenging behaviour amongst pupils, including appropriate use of restraint	Injury to pupils and staff	Behaviours of Concern 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
Classroom teaching	Harm by school personal Harm by another child	Bí Cineálta 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	Bí Cineálta Policy Code of Behaviour Adequate supervision
Sporting Activities	Harm by another child	Health and Safety Policy

	Risk of child being harmed by visitor	Code of Behaviour Adequate supervision provided
After School Clubs	Harm by school personnel Harm by another pupil	Bí Cineálta 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	Bí Cineálta Policy Code of Behaviour Adequate supervision provided School Policy of Supervision
Use of toilet & changing room in school	Harm by school personnel	Bí Cineálta Policy Code of Behaviour Intimate Care Policy Adequate supervision provided
Annual Sports Day	Harm by school personnel Harm by another child	Bí Cineálta Policy Code of Behaviour Adequate supervision provided
Fundraising events involving pupils	Harm by school personnel Harm by another child	Bí Cineálta 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	Bí Cineálta 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	Bí Cineálta 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
Care of pupils with specific vulnerabilities/ needs such as <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 	Risk of harm to bullying of child Risk of harm to inadequate supervision of children in school Risk of harm to children with SEN who have particular vulnerabilities	Bí Cineálta Policy Code of Behaviour Adequate supervision provided Full Implementation of all SPHE programs and curriculum SEN Policy

Use of Information and Communication Technology by pupils in school	Bullying	ICT policy Bí Cineálta Policy Code of Behaviour Acceptable Use Policy The school has in place a policy governing the use of tablet devices in the school by pupils as per circular 38/2018
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
Recruitment of school personnel including - <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 	Risk of child being harmed in the school by: A member of school personnel Visitor or volunteer Harm not recognised or properly or promptly reported	Child Safeguarding Statement & DES procedures made available to all staff Staff to undertake Child First Training Vetting Procedures Supervision Policy
Application of sanctions under the school's Code of Behaviour	Harm to pupils	Bí Cineálta Policy Code of Behaviour

		Adequate supervision provided
Student teachers undertaking training placement in school	Harm to pupils	Bí Cineálta Policy Code of Behaviour Adequate supervision provided
Use of video/photography/ other media to record school events	<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>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>	<p>Bí Cineálta Policy</p> <p>Code of Behaviour</p> <p>Data Protection Policy</p> <p>Adequate supervision provided</p> <p>Acceptable Use Policy</p>

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/management authority has endeavoured to identify as far as possible the risks of harm that are relevant to this school/boarding facility 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/boarding facility has in place the procedures listed in this risk assessment to manage and reduce risk to the greatest possible extent.

Examples of activities, risks and procedures

The examples listed in this document are provided to assist schools/boarding facilities in undertaking their risk assessment under the Children First Act, 2015. Schools/boarding facilities should note that this list of examples is not intended to be exhaustive. It is the responsibility of each school/boarding facility to ensure, as far as possible, that any other risks and procedures that are relevant to its own particular circumstances are identified and specified in the written risk assessment and that adequate procedures are in place to address all risks identified.

It is acknowledged that schools/boarding facilities already have in place a range of policies, practices and procedures to mitigate the risk of harm to children while they are participating in activities and that some activities will carry low or minimal risks of harm compared to others. In the context of the risk assessment that must be undertaken, the Children First Act, 2015 refers to risk as “any potential for harm”. Therefore, it is important that, as part of its risk assessment process, each school/boarding facility lists and reviews all of its various activities (which shall include identifying those that may carry low risk of harm as well as those that carry higher risks of harm). Doing so will help the school/boarding facility to (1) identify, as required under the Children First Act, 2015, any risks of harm that may exist in respect of the school/boarding facility’s activities, (2) identify and assess the adequacy of the various procedures already in place to manage those risks of harm and (3) identify and put in place any such additional procedures as are considered necessary to manage any risk identified.

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/boarding facilities should ensure that their Acceptable Use Policy (AUP) informs and guides remote or distance learning activity.

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)*.

Examples of School Activities

- Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils
- Recreation breaks for pupils
- Classroom teaching
- One-to-one teaching
- One-to-one learning support
- One-to-one counselling
- Outdoor teaching activities
- Online teaching and learning remotely

- Sporting activities
- School outings
- School trips involving overnight stay
- School trips involving foreign travel
- Use of toilet/changing/shower areas in schools
- Provision of residential facilities for boarders
- Annual Sports Day
- Fundraising events involving pupils
- Use of off-site facilities for school activities
- School transport arrangements including use of bus escorts
- Care of children with special educational needs, including intimate care where needed,
- Care of any vulnerable adult students, including intimate care where needed
- Management of challenging behaviour amongst pupils, including appropriate use of restraint where required
- Management of provision of food and drink
- Administration of Medicine
- Administration of First Aid
- Curricular provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe
- Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst pupils
- Training of school/boarding facility personnel in child protection matters
- Use of external personnel to supplement curriculum
- Use of external personnel to support sports and other extra-curricular activities
- 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 Tusla's Child Protection Notification System (CPNS)
 - Children with medical needs
- Recruitment 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
- Participation by pupils in religious ceremonies/religious instruction external to the school
- Use of Information and Communications Technology by pupils/students in school, including social media
- Application of sanctions under the school's Code of Behaviour including detention of pupils/students, confiscation of phones etc.

- Students participating in work experience in the school
- Students from the school participating in work experience elsewhere
- Student teachers undertaking training placement in school
- Use of video/photography/other media to record school events
- After school use of school premises by other organisations
- Use of school premises by other organisation during school day
- Breakfast club
- Homework club/evening study

Additional Examples of activities specific to the boarding facility

- Management of children and young people as they live away from home
- One-to-one mentoring or counselling
- Induction of new boarders
- Children and young people going to accommodation other than their own home at weekends
- Monitoring at mealtimes
- Use of showers
- Management of mobile phones, photography and recording
- Management of prescription medication
- Evening activities and supervision at night
- Evacuation/fire drills outside of school hours
- Managing visits of parents, guardians or agents with boarders
- Escorting and/or transporting individual boarders

Examples of Risks of Harm

- Risk of harm not being recognised by school/boarding facility personnel
- Risk of harm not being reported properly and promptly by school/boarding facility personnel
- Risk of child being harmed in the school/boarding facility by a member of school/boarding facility personnel
- Risk of child being harmed in the school/boarding facility by another child
- Risk of child being harmed in the school/boarding facility by volunteer or visitor to the school/boarding facility
- Risk of child being harmed by a member of school/boarding facility 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
- Risk of harm due to inappropriate use of online remote teaching and learning communication platform such as an uninvited person accessing the lesson link, students being left unsupervised for long periods of time in breakout rooms
- Risk of harm due to bullying of child
- Risk of harm due to racism
- Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children in school/boarding facility
- Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children while attending out of school activities

- Risk of harm due to inappropriate relationship/communications between child and another child or adult
- Risk of harm due to children inappropriately accessing/using computers, social media, phones and other devices while at school or in the boarding facility
- Risk of harm to children with SEN who have particular vulnerabilities, including medical vulnerabilities
- Risk of harm to child while a child is receiving intimate care
- Risk of harm due to inadequate code of behaviour
- Risk of harm in one-to-one teaching, counselling, coaching situation
- Risk of harm caused by member of school/boarding facility personnel communicating with pupils/students in an inappropriate 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

Examples of Procedures to address risks of harm

- All school/boarding facility personnel are provided with a copy of the school/boarding facility's *Child Safeguarding Statement*
- The *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools (revised 2023)* and the *Child Protection and Safeguarding Procedures for Boarding Facilities associated with Recognised Schools 2023* are made available to all school/boarding facility personnel
- School/boarding facility personnel are required to adhere to the *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools (revised 2023)* and the *Child Protection and Safeguarding Procedures for Boarding Facilities associated with Recognised Schools 2023* and all registered teaching staff are required to adhere to the *Children First Act 2015* and its Addendum (2019)
- The school implements in full the Stay Safe Programme
- The school implements in full the SPHE curriculum
- The school implements in full the Wellbeing Programme at Junior Cycle
- 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*
- The school/boarding facility undertakes anti-racism awareness initiatives
- The school/boarding facility 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.
- The school/boarding facility has in place a policy and clear procedures in respect of school/boarder outings
- The school/boarding facility has a Health and Safety policy
- The school/boarding facility adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation and relevant DE circulars in relation to recruitment and Garda vetting
- The school/boarding facility has a code of conduct for school/boarding facility personnel (teaching and non-teaching staff)

- The school/boarding facility complies with the agreed disciplinary procedures for staff
- The school has a Special Educational Needs policy
- The school/boarding facility has an intimate care policy/plan in respect of students who require such care
- The school/boarding facility has in place a policy and procedures for the administration of medication to pupils/students
- The school/boarding facility –
 - Has provided each member of school/boarding facility staff with a copy of the school/boarding facility’s Child Safeguarding Statement
 - Ensures all new staff are provided with a copy of the school/boarding facility’s Child Safeguarding Statement
 - Encourages staff to avail of relevant training
 - Encourages board of management/management authority members to avail of relevant training
 - Maintains records of all staff and board member training
- The school/boarding facility has in place a policy and procedures for the administration of First Aid
- The school/boarding facility has in place a code of behaviour for pupils/students
- The school/boarding facility has an Acceptable Use Policy in place, to include provision for online teaching and learning remotely, and has communicated this policy to parents
- The school has in place a policy governing the use of smart phones and tablet devices in the school/boarding facility by pupils/students as per circular 38/2018
- The school/boarding facility has in place a Critical Incident Management Plan
- The school has in place a Home School Liaison policy and related procedures
- The school has in place a policy and procedures for the use of external persons to supplement delivery of the curriculum
- The school/boarding facility has in place a policy and procedures for the use of external sports coaches
- The school has in place a policy and clear procedures for one-to-one teaching activities
- The school/boarding facility has in place a policy and procedures for one-to-one counselling
- The school has in place a policy and procedures in respect of student teacher placements
- The school has in place a policy and procedures in respect of students undertaking work experience in the school
- The school has in place a policy and procedures in respect of pupils of the school undertaking work experience in external organisations