



Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment

Child Safeguarding Statement

Bishop Galvin NS is a primary school providing primary education to pupils from Third to Sixth Class/First.

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 Bishop Galvin NS 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 **Kathryn Corbett**
- 3 The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is **Liam Devaney**
- 4 The Relevant Person is **Kathryn Corbett**
(*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 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.
- 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 adopted by the Board of Management on 18th September 2023.

Signed: Siobhán Farrell

Chairperson of Board of Management

Date: 18/09/23.

Signed: K. Corbett

Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Date: 18/9/23



Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment

Written Assessment of Risk of Bishop Galvin NS

In accordance with section 11 of the Children First Act 2015 and with the requirements of Chapter 8 of the *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools (revised 2023)*, the following is the Written Risk Assessment of [name of school].

1. List of school activities

- Classroom Teaching
- One to one teaching and learning support
- Small group teaching including learning support in the autism class
- Care and SNA support for children with special needs, including intimate care needs
- Managing challenging behaviour amongst pupils, including behaviours of concern
- Curricular provision in respect of SPHE, RSE and Stay Safe
- Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils
- Use of Toilet areas
- Playground time for pupils
- Outdoor teaching activities
- Use of ICT by pupils in school
- Implementation of school Code of Behaviour restorative practices
- Movement breaks

- Sports Coaches
- Work Experience students
- School Placement student teachers
- External personnel including guest presenters, etc.
- Volunteers including parents for paired reading, Parents' Association activities, etc.
- After school activities/classes
- Participation by pupils in religious ceremonies/religious instruction external to the school
- School Tours
- Active Schools Week/Sporting Activities
- Choir and School Musical
- Use of off-site facilities for school activities
- School transport arrangements to matches, Croke Park, etc.
- Annual exhibitions/opening evenings
- Administration of Medication and First Aid

- Professional learning and information to all school personnel in Child Protection matters
- Recruitment of all school personnel
- Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst pupils
- Care of pupils with specific vulnerabilities/needs
- Use of video/photographs, etc. to record school events
- Use of social media to share information about school events and activities
- Use of school premises by other organisations



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

- Harm/inappropriate behaviour by school personnel in school or at an out of school activity
- Harm/inappropriate behaviour by others (other child, volunteer, visitor, etc.) in school or at an out of school activity
- Harm not recognised or reported promptly or properly
- Bullying
- Racism
- Non-teaching of SPHE
- Injury to pupils and/or staff
- Inadequate supervision of children in school or attending out of school activities
- The spread of Covid-19 or other infectious diseases in the school for staff and children
- 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
- 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, and/or not implemented
- Risk of harm in one-to-one teaching
- Risk of harm caused by member of school personnel communicating with pupils 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

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

- Child Safeguarding Statement & DES Child Protection Procedures prominently displayed and made available to all school personnel
- All staff to have completed Tusla training module (with records for same maintained)
- School Personnel are required to adhere to the Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools (2023) and all registered teaching staff are required to adhere to the Children First Act 2015 and it's Addendum (2019)
 - DLP and DDLP to attend relevant training
 - School implements curricular provision in respect of SPHE incl. RSE, Stay Safe in full
 - Organisational Routines and Procedures for staff (updated annually) including:
 - ☐ Arrival and Dismissal
 - ☐ Supervision
 - ☐ Parental involvement and volunteers
 - ☐ Class educational trips and tours
- SET Policy including:
 - ☐ teaching (open doors, table between teacher and pupil, glass in window)
 - ☐ intimate care needs
 - ☐ behaviours of concern
 - ☐ SNA support
 - ☐ Communication with parents



- Health and safety to minimise risk of infection including:
 - ☐ PPE available for all staff members
 - ☐ Hand sanitizing and washing routines
- Health and Safety statement
- Administration of Medication policy
- Code of Behaviour
- Anti-Bullying policy which fully adheres to the requirements of the Department's Anti-Bullying Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools
- TY, SNA Work and Student teacher Placement policy
- ICT Acceptable Use Policy
- Recruitment Procedures incl. CV and reference checks
- Vetting Policy and Procedures that adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation and relevant DE circulars
- Critical Incident Management Plan

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.