Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment Template

Child Safeguarding Statement

Bansha 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) and Tusla Guidance on the preparation of Child Safeguarding Statements, the Board of Management of Bansha N. S. 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 Georgia Lillis

3 The Relevant Person is Georgia Lillis

4 (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.

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 20 September 2023

This Child Safeguarding Statement was reviewed by the Board of Management on 20 Oct 2026

Signed: Paddy Dawes
Chairperson of Board of Management

Date: 20-10-26

Signed: Georgia Ellis
Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Date: 20/10/26

Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment

Written Assessment of Risk of Bansha 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 Bansha NS.

1. List of school activities

1. Training of school personnel in Child Protection matters
2. One to one teaching/ contact with pupil
3. Class Activities
4. Care of Children with special needs, including intimate care needs
5. Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils
6. Entry to school premises during school day.
7. Toilet / shower areas
8. Recruitment of new staff
9. Recreation breaks
10. Sporting Activities e.g. swimming, football, basketball, soccer.
11. School Outings
12. Students participating in work experience
13. Volunteers/Parents assisting school activities
14. Use of information and communication technology by pupils in schools
15. Administration of medication/First Aid
16. Participation of pupils in religious ceremonies/religious instruction external to school.
17. Curricular Provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay safe.
18. Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst pupils.
19. Use of video/photography/other media to record school events.

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

1. Harm not recognised or reported promptly
2. Harm by school personnel
3. Harm to child by adult or child. Flight risk.
4. Harm by school personnel
5. Harm to pupils by adults and children.
6. Harm to pupils by adults.
7. Inappropriate behaviour harm to pupils
8. Harm not recognised or properly or promptly reported.
9. Risk of child being harmed in the school by another child / adult. Flight risk.
10. Risk of harm to pupils by adult / other child.
11. Risk of harm to pupils by adults and pupils.
12. Risk of harm to pupils.
13. Risk of harm to pupils.
14. Accessing inappropriate material/bullying
15. Harm to pupils.
16. Harm to pupils by adults and children.
17. Non-teaching of programme. Risk of harm not being recognised by pupils.
18. Risk of harm due to bullying of pupil.
19. Risk of harm caused by member of personnel accessing / circulating inappropriate material via social media digital device or other manner.

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

1.Staff to avail of relevant training.
BoM members to avail of relevant training.
Child Safeguarding Statement and Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools (revised 2023) and made available to all staff.
The school complies with the agreed disciplinary procedures for teaching staff.
School personnel are required to adhere to Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools (revised 2023) and all registered teachers are required to adhere to the Children First Act 2015.

2.Parents advised of child attending 1-1 teaching.
School has policy in place for one to one teaching
Open doors
Table between teacher and pupil

3. Staff provided with training
SPHE programme implemented
Procedures and practices to be put in place to minimise flight risk e.g. extra secure measure for school gate / supervision.
Anti-bullying policy.
Code of Behaviour.

4. Staff provided with training
SPHE programme implemented
Procedures and practices to be put in place to minimise flight risk e.g. extra secure measure for school gate / supervision.
Anti-bullying policy.
Code of Behaviour.
Intimate care policy.

5. Children come straight into classroom in the morning where they are supervised. Dispersal of children when school finishes is supervised by staff and children remain inside school grounds/school building supervised by two members of staff until they are collected.

6. Lock, buzzer system on door to control access to school and all visitors have to be admitted by staff, sign a visitors book, report to principal or other relevant member of staff.

7. Children allowed to toilets on a supervised basis.
Communal shower areas supervised - 2 adults.

8. The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda Vetting legislation and relevant DES circulars in relation to recruitment and Garda Vetting.

9. Supervision of yard and Anti-Bullying Policy and Code of Behaviour Policy in place. Procedures and practices to be put in place to minimise flight risk e.g. extra secure measure for school gate / supervision.

10. Vetting procedures to be followed regarding all coaches and coaches activities to be always supervised by a teacher.

11. Supervision of children and increased teacher/parental volunteer supervision on all school outings where necessary.

12. Garda vetting procedures to be carried out and informed of Child Safeguarding Statement.

13. Vetting procedures to be carried out for parents/volunteers.

14. ICT Policy in place.
Code of Behaviour Policy in place
Anti-Bullying Policy in place.
AUP in place.
Access to internet supervised and filter applied to internet by NCTE.
Mobile phones/devices not allowed to be used at any school activities by students.
Development of Communications /Remote Learning Teaching Policy

15. Health and Safety Policy in place.
Administration of Medicine Policy in place.

16. Parish sacramental ceremonies attended by teachers in a supervisory role.

17. Planning for provision of Social, Personal and Health Programmes to ensure pupils taught the curriculum in full.

18. Adequate supervision in place.
Anti-Bully Policy and Code of Behaviour Policy implemented.

19. The school stores cameras, digital devices in a secure location and photographs are uploaded to school website.
Permission is sought from parents regarding taking of photos by school photographer.
Vetting of photographer is carried out.

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.

Mandatory Template 3: Notification regarding the Board of Management's review of the Child Safeguarding Statement

To: Parents, guardians and staff

The Board of Management of BANSHA NS 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 20-10-26 [date].
- This review was conducted in accordance with the "Checklist for Review of the Child Safeguarding Statement" published on the gov.ie website

Signed Paddy Harvey Date 20-10-26

Chairperson, Board of Management

Signed Georgia Ellis Date 20-10-26

Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management