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# Child Safeguarding Statement



## Burriscarra Primary School

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Carnacon,  
Ballyglass,  
Claremorris,  
Co. Mayo.

Principal: Helena Hastings  
Deputy Principal: Ms. Marie Prendergast

Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017 and to the relevant agreed disciplinary procedures for school staff which are published on the DES 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 DES and available on the DES 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 2017, including in the case of registered teachers, those in relation to mandated reporting under the Children First Act 2015
- In this school the Board has appointed the above named DLP as the 'Relevant Person' (as defined in the Children First Act 2015) to be the first point of contact in respect of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement
- All registered teachers employed by the school are mandated persons under the Children First Act 2015
- In accordance with the Children First Act 2015, 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 attached as an appendix to these procedures
- The various procedures referred to in this Statement can be accessed via the school's website, the DES 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.

This statement has been provided to all members of school personnel, the parents 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.

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 March 12th 2018.

## Appendix 1

### Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment

#### Written Assessment of Risk of [Burriscarra NS] - part of Mandatory Template 1

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 2017*, the following is the Written Risk Assessment of [Burriscarra NS]

#### 1. List of school activities:

- Training of school personnel in Child Protection matters
- One to one teaching, including support teaching
- One to one counselling
- On-line teaching and learning remotely
- Care of children with special needs including intimate care needs
- Children with medical needs
- Children from a minority religion
- Toilet areas
- Curriculum provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe
- LGBT children/pupils perceived to be LGBT
- Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils
- Managing of challenging behaviour amongst pupils, including appropriate use of restraint
- Sports coaches
- Pupils participating in work experience
- Mid morning/lunch breaks or movement breaks for pupils
- Classroom teaching
- Outdoor teaching activities
- Sporting activities/school outings
- Annual sports day
- Fundraising events involving children
- Use of off-site facilities for school activities
- Administration of medicine/first aid

- Harm to pupils
- Harm by work experience pupil
- Harm by pupil
- Harm by adult unknown to children
- Inadequate supervision
- 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
- Harm by adult on bus

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

- Child Safeguarding Statement & DES procedures made available to all staff
- DLP & DDLP attend PDST training
- All Staff viewed Túsla training module & any other online training offered by PDST
- BOM records all records of staff and board training
- BOM encouraged to avail of relevant training
- Open doors
- Table between teacher/SNA and pupil
- Glass in window
- Any pupil requiring intimate care needs will have two staff members present at all times
- Supervision policy
- Pupil toilets are in classrooms

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 2017*

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.

It is acknowledged that schools already have in place a range of policies, practices and procedures to mitigate the risk of harm to children while they are participating in the activities of the school and that some school activities will carry low or minimal risks of harm compared to others. In the context of the risk assessment that must be undertaken by schools, 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 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 to (1) identify, as required under the Children First Act, 2015 any risks of harm that may exist in respect of the school'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.

36. Has the Board sought the feedback of pupils in relation to the school's child safeguarding arrangements?	✓
37. Is the Board satisfied that the <i>Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools 2017</i> are being fully and adequately implemented by the school?	✓
38. Has the Board identified any aspects of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement and/or its implementation that require further improvement?	No
39. 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?	NA
40. 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?	✓

\*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 Richard Murphy Date 5.2.25

Chairperson, Board of Management

Signed Helen Harting Date 5.2.25

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.

### Appendix 3

#### Appendix 21: Notification Regarding the Board of Management's Review of the Child Safeguarding Statement (Mandatory Template 3)

To: Archbishop Francis Duffy

The Board of Management of Burriscarra NS wishes to inform you that:

- The Board of Management's review of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement was completed at the Board meeting of 28/01/25
- 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](http://www.education.ie)

Signed Richard Murphy Date 5-2-25

Chairperson, Board of Management

Signed Helena Hastings Date 5-2-25

Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management