Mandatory Template 1: Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment Template (Landscape Version)

Child Safeguarding Statement

Barntown NS is a primary/special/post-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 Barntown 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 Mrs Nicola Roche

3 The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is Ms Claire Byrne

4 The Relevant Person is Mrs Nicola Roche

(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. In a school setting the relevant person shall be the designated liaison person.)

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.

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 2nd December 2025

This Child Safeguarding Statement was reviewed by the Board of Management on 2nd December 2025

Signed: _____ Signed: _____

Chairperson of Board of Management Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Date: 2nd December 2025

Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment

Written Assessment of Risk of SN Mhuire, Barntown

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 updated 2023*, the following is the Written Risk Assessment of Sn Mhuire, Barntown

1. List of school activities	2. The school has identified the following risk of harm in respect of its activities –	3. The school has the following procedures in place to address the risks of harm identified in this assessment -
One-to-one teaching	Risk of inappropriate behaviour/harm by school personnel	Statutory vetting requirements in place. Glass panel in doors always kept clear. Classroom door to be kept open, if deemed necessary. Have one-to-one workstation in view of panel. Teacher awareness of their proximity to pupil. Parents of children attending SET team are informed and permission is sought. SNAs working in one-to-one situations will do so in an open environment under the direction of the class teacher.
Classroom teaching	Risk of inappropriate behaviour/harm by school personnel	Statutory vetting requirements in place. Glass panel in classroom doors Code of behaviour Staff child protection training.
Care of Children with special needs, including intimate care needs	Risk of inappropriate behaviour/harm by school personnel	Statutory vetting requirements in place.

		Procedures on intimate care outlined in child's PPP and communicated with parents. Child Safeguarding Statement. Whole staff Child Protection training.
Care of Children in times of toileting/illness mishaps	Risk of inappropriate behaviour/harm by school personnel	Statutory vetting requirements in place. Information included in Information pack for incoming infants Communication with parents at time of incident Age appropriate procedures in place in relation to teacher supervision of child changing clothes Child Safeguarding Statement. Whole staff Child Protection training.
Managing of challenging behaviour amongst pupils	Risk of injury to themselves, to other pupils and to staff members	Statutory vetting requirements in place. Code of Behaviour. Early intervention by teacher/SNA where possible to prevent escalation – identification of triggers. Regular communication with parents/relevant support agencies. Child Safeguarding Statement.
Use of toilets during outside breaks	Risk of inappropriate behaviour/harm by school personnel and or other pupils	Bí Cineálta Anti-Bullying Policy. Code of Behaviour. Golden Rules (including yard rules) at first assembly of each term Supervision Policy Teacher Supervision
Daily arrival of pupils.	Risk of harm from older pupils, inappropriate behaviour, unknown adults on the school grounds	Supervision from 8:50am at gates Children walk directly to the classrooms on wet mornings

		Principal secures gate into school yard at 9:00am. Reminders to children to come to the front door if late in the morning. Parents are asked to leave children at gate to yard in the morning
Daily dismissal of pupils	Risk of harm from older pupils and inappropriate behaviour	Pupils walked in class lines out of the building by class teachers and supervised by principal/deputy principal. Reminders to children to wait with the principal at the school gate or go to the office if not collected. Parents required to notify school if someone new collecting a child/change of arrangements.
Use of external personnel to supplement curriculum e.g. Literacy Lift Off	Risk of inappropriate behaviour/harm by School personnel/peers/older children/extra personnel.	Statutory vetting requirements in place. Always with teacher supervision. Code of Behaviour & normal policies & procedures adhered to.
Outdoor breaks for pupils	Risk of inappropriate behaviour/harm by other pupils.	Code of Behaviour. Bí Cineálta Anti- Bullying policy. Designated play areas and rotas of equipment use Teacher Supervision rota in place RSE, Stay Safe, Mindful Matters, SPHE programmes taught. SNA supervision in classes where SNA works.
Indoor breaks for pupils on wet days.	Risk of inappropriate behaviour/harm by other pupils.	Code of Behaviour. Bí Cineálta Anti- Bullying policy. Teacher Supervision rota in place RSE, Stay Safe, Mindful Matters, SPHE programmes taught.

		Classroom doors kept open during these breaks. Children remain seated during break times No access to wifi enabled devices as per Acceptable Usage Policy during indoor breaks SNA supervision in classes where SNA works.
Outdoor teaching activities in school grounds	Risk of inappropriate behaviour/harm by school personnel/other pupils	Yards are fenced and gated. Code of Behaviour. Child safeguarding training. Teacher Supervision. Children allocated an SNA due to concerns re: flight risk will be accompanied by that SNA. Statutory vetting requirements in place.
School outings	Risk of inappropriate behaviour/harm by school personnel/other pupils/stranger/a person employed at the tour venue A child straying from the group	Code of Behaviour. Bí Cineálta Anti- Bullying policy. Staff Safe Guarding training. Supervision (minimum of 2 adults on a bus, one being the class teacher). SNA accompanying where needed with child allocated same. Children & staff adhere to policies & procedures in place at venue. Statutory vetting requirements in place for all accompanying adults. Phones/Electronics/Smart watches not permitted
Use of Information and Communication Technology by staff & pupils in school	Risk of inappropriate behaviour/harm by school personnel/older pupils/peers /unknown persons. Risk of viewing/accessing inappropriate material on YouTube.	Code of Behaviour. Bí Cineálta Anti-Bullying Policy. Acceptable Usage Policy

	Risk of Bullying	Mobile phone policy – No phones/electronic devices allowed in school ICT used under teacher supervision. YouTube protocol sanctioned and in place.
Use of film/DVD/clips as teaching tool	Risk of children exposed to age in-appropriate material	Code of Behaviour. Bí Cineálta Anti-Bullying Policy. Acceptable Usage Policy Age-appropriate material shown to each class Teacher pre-views all material shown to class.
Use of video/photography/other media to record school events	Risk of images of children being taken and uploaded.	Acceptable Usage Policy Reminders at events about social media.
Administration of First Aid	Inappropriate behaviour/harm by school personnel /peers/unknown persons	Medical alert list on school database. Trained First Aiders on staff. First aid administered in a public area. Statutory vetting requirements in place.
School events: Sports Week, Trail Run, Choir, Sacraments, Choir, Competitions	Risk of inappropriate behaviour/harm by school personnel/older pupils/peers/ unknown persons	Statutory vetting requirements in place. Code of Behaviour. Bí Cineálta Anti -Bullying policy. Child Safe Guarding Statement. Parents/carers required to notify teachers when bringing a child home. Teacher, SNA & adult supervision. Children must receive permission from a teacher to go to toilets.
Children being sent to the office on messages.	Potential risk from peers/older children/school personnel/visitors to school.	Teachers will always send two children to the office. Access to the school is restricted by buzzer only so all callers must report to the office.

Swimming	Inappropriate behaviour/harm by school personnel /peers/unknown persons	Statutory vetting requirements in place for all school adult volunteers. Code of Behaviour Bí Cineálta Anti -Bullying policy. Swimming Protocol in place with staff of pool Safe Guarding statement. Teacher, SNA (where applicable) & adult supervision. Adherence to policies & procedures in place at said venue. Staff remain in public area outside individual cubicles.
Hurling 365 – Sanctioned by BOM to take place in school but not under the remit of the BOM. This is a 'before school activity'.	Risk of inappropriate behaviour/harm by personnel/other pupils	Statutory vetting requirements in place. Code of Behaviour. Adult supervision – 2 vetted adults present at all times. One person pass system for toilet use. Class/Age groups/Coaches are timetabled
School sporting activities	Risk of inappropriate behaviour/harm by school personnel/other pupils	Statutory vetting requirements in place. Code of behaviour. Child Safe Guarding staff training. Teacher supervision.
Use of off-site facilities for school activities e.g. sports competitions	Risk of inappropriate behaviour/harm by school personnel/older pupils/peers /unknown persons.	Vetting procedures in place as per Circular 31/16. Code of Behaviour Bí Cineálta Anti- Bullying policy. Child Safeguarding Statement. Child Safeguarding Staff training. Appropriate vetted adult supervision.

		Adherence to policies & procedures in place at said venue. Staff monitor changing rooms and where possible children change at school before matches/ competitions.
Use of Sensory room/OT room	Risk of inappropriate behaviour/harm from school personnel.	Glass panels in door. Phone in room Two adults present where possible. Statutory vetting requirements in place. Child Safeguarding training for staff.
SNA accompanying children on Movement Breaks	Risk of inappropriate behaviour/harm from school personnel.	Vetting procedures in place as per Circular 31/16. Child Safe Guarding statement. Child Safeguarding Staff training. Corridors and open spaces – such as hall/library used Use of movement breaks documented by class teacher/SNA and in Student Support File as appropriate and communicated to parents/guardians.
Recruitment of school personnel including - • Teachers • Substitute Teachers • Supplementary Teachers • SNAs and substitute SNAs • Ancillary Staff	Risk of inappropriate behaviour/harm by school personnel/older pupils/peers/ /unknown persons Risk that harm not recognised or properly/ promptly reported.	Child Safeguarding Statement & DES procedures made available to all staff. Staff to view Tusla training module & any other online training offered by Oide. Recruitment/interview process followed. Statutory vetting requirements adhered to.
Students participating in work experience in the school.	Risk of harm to children by work experience students.	Statutory vetting requirements in place. Work experience students always under teacher supervision.
Student teachers undertaking training placement in school	Risk of inappropriate behaviour/harm by student teachers. Risk of harm not recognised and reported properly.	Statutory vetting requirements in place. Initial orientation meeting with principal. Asked to familiarise themselves with school policies and procedures.

	Risk of lack of knowledge of school procedures/policies.	Under class teacher supervision. Liaison with Teacher Training College. Child Safeguarding Statement. Code of Behaviour.
After school use of school premises by other organisations	That the standard of child protection afforded to children in the care of the outside organisation will not be in keeping with the school standard.	Use of premises policy is adhered too. Outside organisations must have an assigned DLP to ensure proper and prompt reporting is carried out by them. Outside organisations ensure that appropriate policies and procedures are in place. Statutory vetting requirements must be adhered to
Use of Lift	Risk of inappropriate behaviour/harm from school personnel/other pupils.	Lift operated by key. Children do not have access to the lift unaccompanied. When using the lift, there will always be two children with one staff member.
Use of Online resources/Devices	Risk of harm to children while engaging with online work/internet enabled devices	Teachers will endeavour to check and use reputable websites for assigned work. Teachers will check that online platforms used are compliant with GDPR Acceptable Usage Policy Bí Cineálta Anti-Bullying Policy Awareness of risks even with age-appropriate material when online Use of Safer Internet Week/Zeeko/Webwise resources Staff training Security updates on all devices completed Devices centrally managed and history periodically reviewed
Communication outside of school hours	Risk of inappropriate behaviour/harm from school personnel	Statutory vetting requirements in place.

		Child Safeguarding statement. Use of sanctioned communication systems; in the first instance Aladdin Noticeboard. Messages are received between the hours of 8am and 4:30pm Teachers communicate directly with parents/guardians and not with pupils

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 genera 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.

Examples of activities, risks and procedures

The examples listed in this document are provided to assist schools in undertaking their risk assessment under the Children First Act, 2015. Schools should note that this list of examples is not intended to be exhaustive. It is the responsibility of each school 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 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.

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 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 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 Communication Technology by pupils in school, including social media
- Application of sanctions under the school's Code of Behaviour including detention of pupils, 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

Examples of Risks of Harm

- Risk of harm not being recognised by school personnel
- Risk of harm not being reported properly and promptly by school personnel
- Risk of child being harmed in the school by a member of school personnel
- Risk of child being harmed in the school by another child
- Risk of child being harmed in the school by volunteer or visitor to the school
- Risk of child being harmed by a member of school 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
- 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

- 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 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

Examples of Procedures to address risks of harm

- All school personnel are provided with a copy of the school's *Child Safeguarding Statement*
- The *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools (revised 2023)* are made available to all school personnel
- School Personnel are required to adhere to the *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools (revised 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 undertakes anti-racism awareness initiatives
- The school 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 has in place a policy and clear procedures in respect of school outings
- The school has a health and safety policy
- The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation and relevant DE circulars in relation to recruitment and Garda vetting

- The school has a codes of conduct for school personnel (teaching and non-teaching staff)
- The school complies with the agreed disciplinary procedures for teaching staff
- The school has a Special Educational Needs policy
- The school has an intimate care policy/plan in respect of students who require such care
- The school has in place a policy and procedures for the administration of medication to pupils
- The school –
    - Has provided each member of school 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
    - Maintains records of all staff and board member training
- The school has in place a policy and procedures for the administration of First Aid
- The school has in place a code of behaviour for pupils
- The school 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 tables devices in the school by pupils as per circular 38/2018
- The school 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 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 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