

Bunscoil Gleann Sidheáin
Child Safeguarding Statement
Roll No 20157V

Bunscoil Gleann Sidheáin is a mainstream primary school with special classes 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 *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools 2017* and Tusla Guidance on the preparation of Child Safeguarding Statements, the Board of Management of **Bunscoil Gleann Sidheáin** 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 2017 as part of this overall Child Safeguarding Statement.
2. The Designated Liaison Person (DLP) is: **Martin Delaney (Principal)**
3. The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is: **James Casey (Deputy Principal)**

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 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 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 BoM members to avail of relevant training
 - The BoM 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 abovenamed DLP as the 'relevant person' (as defined in the Children First Act 2015) to be the first point of contact in respect of the 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 BoM 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 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.

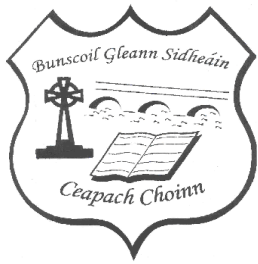
This Child Safeguarding Statement will be reviewed annually or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which this statement refers.

This Child Safeguarding Statement was adopted by the Board of Management on **December 16th 2020**.

This Child Safeguarding Statement will be reviewed by the Board of Management in February 2022.

Signed: Kevin McCarthy Chairperson Date: 16/12/2020

Signed: Martin Delaney Principal Date: 16/12/2020



Bunscoil Gleann Sidheáin

Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment



Written Assessment of Risk of Bunscoil Gleann Sidheáin

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 Bunscoil Gleann Sidheáin.

1. List of School Activities

- Training of school personnel in Child Protection matters
- Care of Children with special needs, including intimate care needs
- Managing of behaviour that challenges amongst pupils, including appropriate use of restraint.
- Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils
- Recreation breaks for pupils
- Classroom teaching
- One-to-one teaching
- One-to-one counselling
- Outdoor teaching activities
- Sporting activities
- School outings
- Use of toilet/changing/shower areas in school
- Use of school drinking fountain
- Annual Sports Day
- Active Schools Week
- 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
- Management of challenging behaviour
- 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 CPNS
- Recruitment of school personnel including:-
 - Teachers/SNA's
 - Caretaker/Secretary/Cleaners/Bus Escorts
 - Sports Coaches
 - External Tutors/Guest Speakers
 - Volunteers/parents in school activities
 - Visitors/contractors present in school during school hours
 - Visitors/contractors present 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
- 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
- Student teachers undertaking training placement in school
- Use of Video/photography/other media to record school events
- Sensory room management

2. The school has identified the following risks of harm in respect of school activities

- Harm not recognised or reported promptly
- Harm by school personnel
- Harm by volunteer/visitor/unknown adults
- Inappropriate communications between child and another child
- Harm during participation in out of school activities
- Bullying
- Inadequate Supervision
- Harm from other children
- Harm to children with SEN
- Harm to children receiving intimate care
- One to one teaching / counselling
- Harm by visitors to school on occasions of school concerts/flag ceremonies
- Harm by a contractor working within the school day while pupils are present

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

- All school personnel are provided with a copy of the school's *Child Safeguarding Statement and DES Procedures*.
- The *Child Protection procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools 2017* are made available to all school personnel.
- School personnel are required to adhere to the *Child Protection procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools*
- DLP and DDLP attended PDST training
- All staff view on-line training offered by PDST
- The school implements in full the Stay Safe programme
- The school implements in full the SPHE curriculum

- 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 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. Policy reviewed in March 2018.
- The school has in place a policy and clear procedures in respect of school tours/excursions
- Risk assessment of school building
- The school has a Health & Safety policy/Health and Safety Statement
- The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation and relevant DES circulars in relation to recruitment and Garda vetting
- The school has a code of conduct for school personnel (teaching and non teaching staff)
- The school has a Special Educational Teaching 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 in place an ICT policy in respect of usage of ICT by pupils
- Anti Cyber bullying Policy was put in place
- The school has in place a mobile phone policy in respect of usage of mobile phones by pupils – see school rules
- The school has in place a Critical Incident Management Plan
- Home school communication policy in place.
- The school has in place a policy and procedures for the use of external persons to supplement delivery of the curriculum – Teachers remain in classroom
- The school has in place a policy and procedures for the use of external sports coaches – class teachers stay with class.
- A policy and clear procedures for one to one counselling in respect of student teachers placements/work experience placements/SNA/TY students was put in place.