

# Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment

**For: St. Brogan's College**

**At: Kilbrogan, Bandon, Co. Cork, P72X259**

St. Brogan's College is a post-primary school.

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)* and 2025, *Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025* and *Child Safeguarding: A Guide for Policy, Procedure and Practice, 2nd ed.* (Tusla, 2024), the board of management has adopted the Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment set out in this document.

The board of management has adopted and will implement fully and without modification the department's *Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025* as part of this overall Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment.

## **Name of the Designated Liaison Person (DLP):**

Helen Cadogan

## **Name of the Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP/DDLP):**

Derry O'Donovan

*In the absence of the DLP, the Deputy DLP shall assume responsibilities of the DLP*

## **Name of Relevant Person**

Helen Cadogan

## **Relevant Person can be contacted on:**

Phone: (023)8841120  
Email: helen.cadogan@corketb.ie

*Under the Children First Act 2015 Relevant Person means a person who is appointed by a provider of a relevant service to be the first point of contact in respect of the Child Safeguarding Statement. This person is nominated by the board of management to manage and provide oversight of child protection concerns/allegations of child abuse.*

### **Name of Chairperson of the board of management, or in an ETB school the Chief Executive or their delegate:**

Mr Denis Leamy

*In the event that both DLP and DDLP are absent and unavailable, and where there is no staff member formally acting in their role, the chairperson of the board of management, or in an ETB school the chief executive or their delegate, assumes the role of DLP.*

The board of management recognises that child protection and safeguarding permeate all aspects of school life and must be reflected in all of the school's policies, procedures, practices and activities. In all of these, 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 happening to children and protect members of school personnel from the necessity to take unnecessary risks that may leave themselves open to accusations of child abuse.
- Develop a practice of openness with parents and encourage parental involvement in the education of their children.
- Fully respect confidentiality requirements as set out in the *Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025* in dealing with child protection matters.
- Adhere to the above principles in relation to any vulnerable adult.

### **Procedures and Measures in Place**

Our Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment has been developed in line with requirements under the Children First Act 2015, the *Children First: National Guidance 2017*, and *Child Safeguarding: A Guide for Policy, Procedure and Practice, 2nd ed.* (Tusla, 2024), and the *Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025*. In addition to the procedures listed in our risk assessment, the following procedures support our

intention to safeguard children while they are availing of our service:

- > Procedure for the Management of Allegations of Abuse or Misconduct against School Personnel Relating to a Child Availing of Our Service
  - ~ Where any member of school personnel is the subject of any investigation in respect of any act, omission or circumstance in relation to a child attending the school, the school is required to adhere to the relevant procedures set out in Chapter 7 of the *Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025* and to the relevant agreed disciplinary procedures for school staff which are published on the gov.ie website
  
- > Procedure for the Safe Recruitment and Selection of School Personnel to Work With Children
  - ~ The school is required to adhere to the requirements of the Vetting Act. The selection or recruitment of staff and their suitability to work with children, requires the school to adhere 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 Youth and available on the gov.ie website and as outlined in Chapter 10 of the procedures.
  - ~ A written protocol is in place authorising immediate action for cases which require an employee to be immediately absented from school for child safeguarding reasons.
  
- > Procedure for Provision of and Access to Child Safeguarding Training and Information, Including the Identification of the Occurrence of Harm
  - ~ The school provides information and training to members of school personnel in relation to the identification of the occurrence of harm (as defined in the 2015 Act) as follows:
    - ~ The school has provided each member of school personnel, including any new members of school personnel, (employees and volunteers, board of management members, student teachers and those on work experience) with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment.
    - ~ The school ensures that members of school personnel have availed of relevant training and completed child protection training.
    - ~ The school encourages board of management members to avail of any relevant training and complete child protection training.

- ~ The board of management ensures that records of all staff and board member child protection training are maintained.
- > Procedure for the Reporting of Child Protection or Welfare Concerns to Tusla
  - ~ All members of school personnel are required to adhere to the procedures set out in the *Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025*, in relation to reporting of child protection concerns to Tusla. Mandated reporting applies to all registered teachers and any other mandated person who may be employed by the school, for example a chaplain or nurse. A full list of those people who are mandated persons is set out in Appendix 1 procedures.
- > Procedure for Maintaining a List of the Persons (if any) in the Relevant Service Who Are Mandated Persons
  - ~ There is a procedure in place to maintain a list of mandated persons. Schools may on occasion employ additional staff who are mandated by virtue of their profession. This list will include all registered teachers and identify additional employees that are not registered teachers.
- > Procedure for Appointing a Relevant Person (In schools this person is the DLP)
  - ~ There is a procedure in place for appointing a relevant person.

The various procedures referred to in this Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment can be accessed via the school's website, the gov.ie website or will be made available on request by the school.

In accordance with the Children First Act 2015, the Addendum to Children First 2019 and 2025, and the *Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025*, the board of management 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.

Note: The procedures and measures in place outlined above, are not intended as exhaustive list. Individual boards of management shall also include in this section such other procedures and measures that are of relevance to the school.

This statement has been published on the school's website or will be made available on request by the school. It has been provided to all members of school personnel, the parents' association (if any), the patron and parents. A copy of this statement and risk assessment will be made available to Tusla and the department if requested.

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



## Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
1.	Daily Arrival and Dismissal of Students Break Times for Students	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of students in school.	The school has supervision procedures in place to ensure appropriate supervision of students in the morning, at breaks and at the end of the school day. This includes toilet areas.
2.	Classroom teaching One to one learning support One to one counselling	Risk of harm in one to one teaching, counselling.	The school has a code of conduct for teaching school personnel provided by the Teaching Council. The school has a Guidance policy in place. In one to one teaching there is visibility/doors open/glass panels.
3.	Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst pupils Pupils from ethnic minorities/migrants Members of the Traveller Community Sexism Lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender (LGBT) students Pupils perceived to be LGBT Pupils of minority religious faiths	Risk of child being harmed in the school by another student. Risk of harm due to bullying of a student. Risk of harm due to racism	The school implements in full the SPHE programme. 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 has supervision procedures in place. The school has in place a code of behaviour for pupils
4.	Sporting Activities School Outings School trips involving overnight stay School trips involving foreign travel	Risks due to inadequate supervision; risks from external adults; inappropriate communication; online safety risks.	Adequate supervision; Garda vetting; Code of behaviour applies; AUP applies;
5.	Use of toilet/changing/shower areas	Risk due to inadequate supervision; inappropriate behaviour.	Supervision policy includes these areas; Staff follow procedures; Anti-bullying policy applies; Behaviour expectations communicated.

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
6.	Online teaching/learning; ICT and social media use; Online remote teaching and learning platforms.	Risk from inappropriate online use; access to harmful content; inappropriate communication.	AUP in place; Smartphone/tablet policy; Only approved platforms used; Students supervised; SPHE/Wellbeing digital safety education; Filtering of internet.
7.	Care of children with SEN incl. intimate care	Risk to vulnerable students; risk during intimate care.	SEN policy; Intimate care plans; Trained staff; Garda vetting.
8.	Administration of First Aid/medicine	Risk due to inappropriate contact; incorrect medication.	First Aid procedures; Medication administration procedures; Only trained staff administer; Records kept.
9.	Visitors/contractors on site	Risk of harm by visitors/contractors; unsupervised access.	Sign-in procedures; Visitor ID provided; Supervision required; Garda vetting where appropriate;
10.	External personnel supporting curriculum/sports	Risk of harm by external tutors/coaches; inappropriate communication.	Garda vetting; External staff supervised; Code of behaviour applies.
11.	Training of school personnel in Child Protection matters.	Harm not recognised or reported promptly.	Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment made available to all staff. DLP and DDLP to attend Oide Training The Child Protection Procedures are made available to all staff. All staff to carry out training and records kept of all training undertaken.

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
12.	Management of Challenging Behaviour and Use of Physical Intervention.	Risk of emotional or physical harm during incidents involving distressed behaviour; risk of inappropriate use of physical intervention; risk of inadequate recording or follow-up.	Behaviour plans for identified pupils; physical intervention used only as last resort and in line with policy; immediate recording of incidents; parent communication; regular review through SEN and Care Teams; supervision during transitions.
13.	SPHE and RSE Curriculum Delivery	Risk of pupils receiving inaccurate or insensitive content; risk of disclosures during lessons; risk of inadequate teacher preparation; risk of discomfort or distress among pupils.	Approved resources used; clear protocols for handling disclosures; teacher CPD; lessons aligned with national curriculum specifications and wellbeing framework.
14.	Application of Sanctions Under the Code of Behaviour	Risk of unfair or inconsistent disciplinary measures; risk of harm during supervised detentions; risk of pupils being isolated without appropriate oversight; risk of escalation during interventions.	Sanctions applied according to policy; detention rooms supervised by staff; removal from class only with other staff oversight; logs maintained for serious sanctions; appeals process in place; communication with parents where appropriate.
15.	Student Use of Personal Digital Devices and Social Media	Risk of cyberbullying, image misuse, online grooming, or inappropriate contact; risk of exposure to harmful content; risk of covert recording.	Acceptable Use Policy enforced; restricted phone use during school day using pouches; digital citizenship education; sanctions for breaches; reporting procedures for online incidents; parent communication on device expectations; filtering on school networks.
16.	Students on Work Experience in External Settings	Risk of inadequate supervision off-site; risk of inappropriate contact with adults; risk of unsafe environments; risk of unclear reporting channels.	Vetting checks for high-risk placements; student briefing; named supervisor in placement; contact from school; immediate reporting procedures; review after placement; SEN considerations included in planning.
17.	Student Teachers and External Trainees on Placement	Risk of unsupervised one-to-one contact; risk of uncertainty about reporting responsibilities; risk of inappropriate communication or boundaries.	Induction including safeguarding procedures; placement teachers supervised by qualified staff; no unsupervised access; adherence to Code of Professional Conduct; reporting of concerns through DLP; monitoring by cooperating teachers.
18.	Use of School Premises by External Organisations	Risk of external users having unsupervised access to pupils; risk of non-compliance with safeguarding standards; risk of unclear responsibility during activities.	Vetting requirements for relevant organisations; designated access routes; no shared use during curricular time; monitoring by caretaker/management.



In accordance with Section 11 of the Children First Act 2015 and with the requirements of Chapter 9 of the *Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025*, the following is the written Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment.

In undertaking this Child Safeguarding Statement and 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.

This Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment was reviewed by the board of management on  (*most recent review date*).

Signed:\*

Date:

*Chairperson of the board of management*

Signed:\*

Date:

*Principal/Secretary to the board of management*

This Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment is expected to be reviewed again on

*(expected review date)*.