



**Scoil Bhríde,
Shantalla,
Galway,**

**Tel: 091 525052
Roll: 17782E
Eircode: H91VW59**



Child Safeguarding Statement

Scoil Bhríde, Shantalla is a primary school providing primary education to pupils from Early Start and 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 Scoil Bhríde 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 **Frank Keane**
- 3 The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is **Geraldine Fahy**
- 4 The Relevant Person is **Frank Keane**
(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.)





**Scoil Bhríde,
Shantalla,
Galway,**

**Tel: 091 525052
Roll: 17782E
Eircode: H91VW59**



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 cooperate 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.





**Scoil Bhríde,
Shantalla,
Galway,**

**Tel: 091 525052
Roll: 17782E
Eircode: H91VW59**



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





**Scoil Bhríde,
Shantalla,
Galway,**

**Tel: 091 525052
Roll: 17782E
Eircode: H91VW59**



❖ 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.





**Scoil Bhríde,
Shantalla,
Galway,**

**Tel: 091 525052
Roll: 17782E
Eircode: H91VW59**



- 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 24th. October 2023

This Child Safeguarding Statement was reviewed by the Board of Management on 24th. October 2023

Signed: 

Chairperson of Board of Management

Date: 24/10/23

Signed: 

Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Date: 24/10/23



Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment

Scoil Bhríde Shantalla

School activities	Risk of harm	Current controls in place Plans/policies/procedures
Recruitment of school personnel including - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Teachers ● SNA's ● Caretaker/Secretary/Cleaners ● Sports coaches ● External Tutors/Guest Speakers ● Volunteers - in school activities ● Visitors/contractors present in school during school hours ● Visitors/contractors present during after school activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Abuse not detected or properly reported ● Risk of child being harmed by visitor/school personnel/other child/any mentioned person 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Vetting – all teachers & SNAs on recruitment or retrospectively completed ● Vetting of all volunteers who work in the school ● Vetting of all SCP personnel who work in the school. ● Statutory Declaration & Form of Undertaking signed by all new teachers & SNAs ● Child Protection Policy in all classrooms including SET rooms, offices and staff room. Policy in substitute folder. DDLP makes substitutes aware of procedures. ● Supervision Policy in relation to visitors in schools
Training of school personnel in Child Protection matters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Abuse not detected or properly & promptly reported 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● All staff training completed by Staff before recruitment. ● DLP (Frank) & DDLP (Ger F) ● Further training when necessary or as advised by DES
Administration of Medicine Administration of First Aid	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Harm to pupils 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● School Policy reviewed annually. ● Administration of Medicine Policy.
Care of Children with special needs, including intimate care needs (also to cover any child with toileting accident)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Harm to pupils ● Inappropriate behaviour ● Inadequate supervision 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● SEN policy – currently being updated in light of 2017 SEN guidelines ● NEPS psychologists are vetted by DES as are DES inspectors ● SNA policy (2015-2016) - Circular 30/2014 ● Intimate Care practices and Procedures document.
Curricular Provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Harm due to inadequate curricular provision 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● School implements SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe in full
Appropriate Supervision of pupils during daily arrival, dismissal of pupils, breaks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Harm to pupils by other children ● Risk of harm not being recognised by school personnel 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Supervision policy ● Non Vetted personnel are not allowed on the playground after school starts. (Formal Instruction)
Parking in the School Car park.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Harm to Pupils ● Children in danger of being knocked down ● No Supervision 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Health and Safety ● Supervision Policy in relation to visitors in schools ● Garda Vetting ● School security



Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment

Scoil Bhríde Shantalla

School activities	Risk of harm	Current controls in place Plans/policies/procedures
Managing of challenging behaviour amongst pupils, including appropriate use of restraint	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Harm to pupils and staff due to inadequate training 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Health & Safety Policy – reviewed annually jointly by staff rep & BOM rep Code Of Behaviour
Managing of challenging behaviour of adults especially displaying aggression either verbal or physical	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Harm to pupils and staff 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Procedure for dealing with a parent's grievances. Code of Conduct for Parents (2015) Child Protection Policy Signing out of Children procedure Health and safety policy BOM duty of care
Students participating in work experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Harm to pupils 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> School Policy - Placement & Work Experience Supervision Policy in relation to visitors in schools Joint Agreement regarding Garda Vetting in place as per circulars 31/2016 & 16/2017 Stat Dec & Form of Undertaking to be signed
Student teachers undertaking training placement in school or past pupils who come in to help in school	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Harm to pupils 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> School Policy - Placement & Work Experience Supervision Policy in relation to visitors in schools Garda Vetting undertaken by colleges Colleges provide evidence of appropriate insurance cover
Use of external personnel to supplement curriculum (Sport, Drama & etc)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Harm to pupils Not being recognised by school personnel 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Procedures in place – in supervision policy Garda Vetting provided by umbrella organisation e.g. GAA coach
Use of Information and Communication Technology by pupils in school	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Harm to pupils due to inappropriate access Bullying 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ICT policy including Acceptable Use Policy, Mobile Phone Policy Anti-Bullying Policy Code of Behaviour
Classroom Teaching	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Harm by school personnel 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Policy
SET teaching – small groups and one to one teaching	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Harm by school personnel 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Open door policy Glass in door to be always clear and glass panels in all one to one teaching rooms SEN policy



Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment

Scoil Bhríde Shantalla

School activities	Risk of harm	Current controls in place Plans/policies/procedures
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SET teachers allocated more in-class time
Outdoor teaching activities (to include swimming, forest school and sea schools programmes.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harm by volunteer/coach • Harm due to inadequate supervision 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supervision policy includes swimming • Vetting appropriate personnel (Forest School) • Ensure Adequate personnel for pupil teacher ratio. • Safety of SEN Pupils. (SNA Access)
Application of sanctions under the school's Code of Behaviour including detention of pupils, confiscation of phones etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harm due to inadequate COB 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Code of Behaviour
Sporting Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harm by school personnel/volunteers/contractors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supervision policy includes after schools activities
Use of toilet/changing /shower areas in schools and elsewhere (sport & etc)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harm by school personnel • Harm by others volunteers etc 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supervision policy
School trips/outings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harm by school personnel/volunteers etc • Harm by others • Harm due to bullying • Inadequate supervision 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supervision Policy • Mobile phone policy
School trips involving overnight stay	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harm to pupils • Harm by others 	N/A at present.
Use of off-site facilities for school activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harm to pupils • Harm by others 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School Policy • Public Liability Insurance • Supervision policy
School transport arrangements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harm by others 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supervision Policy • Mobile phone policy



Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment

Scoil Bhríde Shantalla

School activities	Risk of harm	Current controls in place Plans/policies/procedures
Participation by pupils in religious ceremonies/ instruction external to the school	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Harm by others 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● School guidelines and procedure – that children are under care of parents/guardians at religious ceremonies ● Teacher in attendance at any instruction/practice activities as per supervision policy ● These are covered by the School’s Child Safeguarding Policy and require supervision, input from Code of Behaviour and other relevant policies. Issues include - remaining with group, toileting, collection, visibility, supervision etc.
Annual Sports Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Harm to pupils ● Harm by others ● Phones/cameras Exposure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Supervision policy ● Acceptable use policy ● Vetting for all volunteers.
Fundraising events involving pupils	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Harm by others 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Pupil Teacher ratio ● Volunteer Vetting ● Supervision policy
Management of Provision of Food and Drink (School Meals Programme)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Harm to Children 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Class teacher responsible for collecting food trays. ● Delivery and collection outside opening and closing times.
Anti-racism awareness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Potential risk of harm to children ● Risk of Bullying 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● School Of Sanctuary programme ● Anti-Racism policy.
On-line Teaching-Learning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Accessing Inappropriate Sites ● GDPR and data breach. ● Unsupervised Home Learning ● Unfiltered Internet Access at home 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● OIDE Filters on School Internet system within the school ● G Suite for Education mitigates against harmful sites. ● Child Protection Policy ● Procedures and Practices Document ● Staff alerted and informed to report concerns under Child protection Policy.



Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment

Scoil Bhríde Shantalla

School activities	Risk of harm	Current controls in place Plans/policies/procedures
Care of pupils with specific vulnerabilities/ needs such as <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Pupils from ethnic minorities/migrants ● Members of the Traveller community ● Lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender (LGBT) children or Pupils perceived to be. ● Pupils of minority religious faiths ● Children in care 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Harm to pupils ● Risk of harm due to Bullying ● Inappropriate behaviour 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Admissions Policy ● Anti-Bullying Policy ● Code of Behaviour ● Anti-Racism Policy
Use of video/photography/ other media to record school events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Harm to pupils ● Harm due to bullying 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Permission sought on Admission ● ICT/AUP/Mobile Phone policy ● GDPR guidelines ● Anti-bullying policy
Children in Care and Children under the protection of TUSLA (CPNS)	Risk of harm not being reported properly by school personnel. Risk of harm to pupils due to delay in responding to	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Custody and Separation Policy
After school use of school premises by other organisations		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● School Policy ● Public Liability Insurance
Critical Incident Management	Risk of harm not being reported properly by school personnel. Risk of harm to pupils due to delay in responding to a critical incident.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● CIMT in place ● Policy reviewed October 2023 ● Policy reviewed annually by CIMT
Children on corridors, doing jobs etc	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Harm to pupils 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Supervision policy ● Non Vetted personnel not allowed unsupervised in the school building after school starts (Formal Instruction)



Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment

Scoil Bhríde Shantalla

School activities	Risk of harm	Current controls in place Plans/policies/procedures
Management of external doors and gates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Harm to Pupils 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Supervision Policy ● CCTV monitoring
Emergency in classroom	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Potential risk of harm to pupils ● Injury 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Internal phone communication system ● Team/Partner system for all classroom teachers ● SNA support
Persons calling to the school during the school day, including parents to collect children	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Potential risk of harm to pupils 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● All persons must sign in at the office ● All parents/carers must sign the child out from the Office ● Secretary to contact the Classroom and child to be brought to the Office.
Care of staff members with particular vulnerabilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● At risk of harm 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Ensure staff members with vulnerabilities work alongside another staff member at all times
Taking a child home when sick, when this is the only option available	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Potential risk of harm to child 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Ensure at least two staff members take the child home ● No staff member to go alone with the child ● Practices and Procedures Document
Children that are deemed a 'Flight Risk'	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Injury ● Abduction ● Missing for an unspecified period 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Code of Behaviour
Administration of First Aid	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Risk of harm to the child ● Risk of harm not being recognised by school personnel. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Procedures are in place for First Aid and all staff are aware of what is necessary when dealing with children.



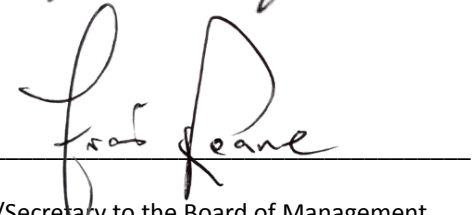
Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment Scoil Bhríde Shantalla

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 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 Scoil Bhríde has agreed the Child Safeguarding Statement set out in this document.*

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.

This risk assessment has been completed by the Board of Management on *October 24th, 2023*. It will be reviewed as part of the school’s annual review of its Child Safeguarding Statement.

Signed  Date 24/10/2023
Chairperson, Board of Management

Signed  Date 24/10/2023
Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management