

Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment

For:	Ballinderreen NS
At:	Ballinderreen, Kilcolgan, Co. Galway, H91F292

This school is a: (tick appropriate) primary post-primary special 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):

Barry Quinn

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

Conor Cooney

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

Name of Relevant Person

Barry Quinn

(In schools this person is the DLP)

Relevant Person can be contacted on:

091796632	principal@ballinderreenns.ie
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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:

Máire Fenton

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,

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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.

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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 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.	Training of school personnel in Child Protection matters	Risk of harm where members of school personnel have not received appropriate training.	The Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025 are made available to all school personnel. The Board of Management oversees all Child Protection concerns at each Board meeting.
2.	One to One Teaching	Risk of child being harmed in the school by a member of school personnel.	The school has clear procedures in place for one to one teaching activities- Open doors, table between teacher and pupil, glass in door, no display over glass, Child sits nearest the door.
3.	Care of Children with special needs, including intimate care needs	Risk of harm to children with special educational needs who have particular vulnerabilities, including medical vulnerabilities when receiving intimate care.	Intimate Care Policy in place.
4.	Toilet areas	Inappropriate behaviour from students/risk of child being harmed by another pupil	Code of Behaviour in place and adequate supervision in place.
5.	Curricular Provision in respect of SPHE, RSE and Stay Safe Programme	Risk of harm due to inadequate teaching of same.	The school implements the teaching of SPHE and RSE curriculum in full. A whole school policy is in place where the Stay Safe and RSE programme are taught in January and February each year. Principal ensures topics are taught when reviewing Cuntas Miosúil of each teacher.
6.	Care of pupils with specific vulnerabilities/ needs such as Pupils from ethnic minorities/migrants Members of the Traveller community	Risk of harm due to bullying by other children.	The school implements the schools Bí Céinealta Policy and Code of Behaviour. The schools hosts Anti-Bullying and Friendship week each year.

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	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
	<p>Lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender (LGBT) children Pupils perceived to be LGBT Pupils of minority religious faiths Children in care Children in CPNS</p>		
7.	Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils	Risk of harm from other pupils or adults	Arrival and dismissal is supervised by the Principal. Teachers and SNA in classrooms to receive pupils from 08:50-9:00. Teachers supervise corridors each morning.
8.	Managing of challenging/aggressive behaviour amongst pupils	Risk of injury to pupils	Code of Behaviour in place. The school encourages personnel to avail of relevant training in the area of challenging behaviour.
9.	Use of external personnel to support sports and other extra-curricular activities	Risk of child being harmed in the school by a volunteer or visitor to the school.	All external coaches are provided with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment. The class teachers is always present when an external coach/visitor visits the school.
10.	Student Teachers and Transition Year students on work experience	The risk of the child being harmed by a visitor to the school/another child	All visitors to the school are provided with the school's Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment. Teaching Practice/Work Experience/Transition Year Policy in place. The school adheres to Garda Vetting legislation

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	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
11.	Recreation breaks for pupils	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision, Risk of harm due to members of the public using Ballinderreen GAA grounds	Adequate number of school personnel on supervision duty. School personnel to check toilets before children use them. All children to remain in the GAA pitch or astro turf/tennis court during the lunch break.
12.	Classroom teaching/outdoor teaching	Risk of child being harmed by a member of school personnel.	Teachers are asked to bring their mobile phone when teaching outside in the case of an emergency. Teacher implement the schools Code of Behaviour and Health and Safety Policy.
13.	Sporting activities	Risk of a child being harmed by a member of school personnel, a member of staff of another organisation or other person while a child is participating in out of school activities e.g. school trip, school match, swimming lessons	The school has clear procedures in place for school outings which is communicated to all school personnel.
14.	School Outings/Trips	Risk of a child being harmed by a member of school personnel, a member of staff of another organisation or other person while a child is participating in out of school activities e.g. school trip, school match, swimming lessons	The school has clear procedures in place for school outings which is communicated to all school personnel.
15.	School Transport arrangements including use of bus escorts	Risk of a child being harmed by a member of school personnel, a member of staff of another organisation or other person while a child is travelling on a bus	The school adheres to the requirement of the Garda vetting legislation and requires all bus escorts and drivers to be vetted. The schools ensures there is adequate supervision on the bus.
16.	Administration of Medicine and First Aid	Risk of a child being harmed by a member of school personnel	The school has in place a policy and procedures for

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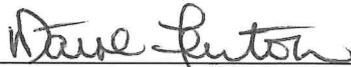
	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
			the administration of medicine and First Aid
17.	Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst pupils	Risk of harm due to bullying by other children.	The school's Bí Cinealta is in place. The school implements the SPHE curriculum in full.
18.	Use of Technology	Risk of harm to pupils caused by inappropriate use of a digital device	The school has an Acceptable Use Policy in place.

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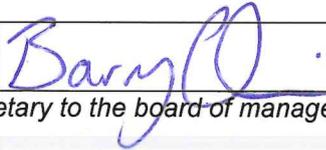
In accordance with Section 11 of the Children First Act 2015 and with the requirements of Chapter 9 of the Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025, the following is the written Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment.

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 10th February 2026.

Signed:*		Date:	10-02-2026
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Chairperson of the board of management

Signed:*		Date:	10.02.2026
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Principal/Secretary to the board of management

This Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment is expected to be reviewed again at the first Board of Management meeting for the 2026-27 academic year.