Scoil Bhríde, Milltown, Newbridge, Co. Kildare.
BOM Chairperson: Gavin O'Connor
Principal: Karen O' Connor
Acting Deputy Principal: Clodagh Meally
Phone: 045/433230 Charity No: 20205115
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Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment

Child Safeguarding Statement

Scoil Bhríde Milltown is a primary school providing primary education to pupils from Junior Infants to Sixth Class and an Autism 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, Milltown 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 **Karen O'Connor**

3 The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is **Clodagh Meally**

4 The Relevant Person is **Karen O'Connor**

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.

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 Monday 8th September 2025.

This Child Safeguarding Statement was reviewed by the Board of Management on Wednesday 25th February 2026.

Signed: Gavin O'Connor
Chairperson of Board of Management
Date: 23/9/26

Signed: Karen O'Connor
Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management
Date: 23/9/26.

Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment

Written Assessment of Risk of Scoil Bhríde Milltown 16654N

In accordance with section 11 of the Children First Act 2015 and with the requirements of Chapter 8 of the *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools (revised 2023)*, the following is the Written Risk Assessment of Scoil Bhríde Milltown.

1. **List of school activities**

- Training of school personnel in Child Protection matters
- Training of school personnel in Covid-19 procedures
- Care of Children with special educational needs, including intimate care needs where needed
- Toilet areas
- Curricular Provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe – specific attention needed for content missed during recent Covid school closure
- Staggered daily arrival and dismissal of pupils
- Management of challenging behaviour amongst pupils
- Sports Coaches
- Student teachers undertaking training placement in school
- Students participating in work experience
- Recreation breaks for pupils
- Classroom teaching
- One to one teaching
- Outdoor teaching activities
- Sporting Activities
- Swimming
- School outings
- Annual Sports Day
- Use of off-site facilities for school activities
- Visitors
- Fundraising events involving pupils
- School transport arrangements
- Administration of Medicine
- Administration of First Aid
- Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst pupils
- Use of external personnel to supplement curriculum
- Use of external personnel to support sports and other extra-curricular activities
- Use of school buildings by external groups
- Recruitment of school personnel including – Teachers/ SNAs/ Secretary, Caretaker, Cleaner/ Sports coaches/ Guest Speakers/ Volunteers or Parents in school activities/ Visitors or contractors present in school during school hours/ Visitors or contractors present during after school activities
- Care of pupils with specific vulnerabilities e.g. Pupils from ethnic minorities/ members of the Traveller community/ Lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender (LGBT) children/ pupils perceive to be LGBT/ pupils of minority religious faiths
- Use of Information and Communication Technology by pupils in school and during home based online learning platforms
- Participation by pupils in religious ceremonies external to the school
- Use of video/ photography/ other media to record school events
- Photographer
- HSE screening/ immunisations
- Psychologist/ O.T./ External Professional

2. **The school has identified the following risk of harm in respect of its activities -**

- Risk of harm not being recognised by school personnel
- Risk of child contracting or transmitting Covid -19 in our school
- 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 bullying of child
- 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, phones and other devices while at school
- Risk of harm to children with SEN, who have particular 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
- 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

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 Scoil Bhríde, Milltown's *Child Safeguarding Statement*
- *All protocol and guidelines from the Department of Education and Skills and the HSE with regard to Covid -19 have been addressed and included in our Covid -19 Response Plan.*
- 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 2017* and all registered teaching staff are required to adhere to the *Children First Act 2015*
- The DLP & DDLP have attended PDST face to face training in *Child Safeguarding*
- The school implements in full the SPHE curriculum, including RSE and the Stay Saf Programme
- The school has an SPHE Policy
- The school has an RSE Policy
- The school has a Bí Cineálta Policy
- The school has a Supervision Policy
- Staff provide supervision at staggered arrival and dismissal times, parents/ guardians are reminded of staff supervision in weekly email newsletters
- The school has a Health and Safety Policy, reviewed in August 2020
- 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 Work Experience Policy
- The school has a Code of Conduct for External Agencies and Volunteers
- The school complies with the agreed Parental Grievance Policy/ Complaints Procedure for teaching staff
- The school has a Special Educational Needs Policy, in line with the new SEN model
- The school has an intimate care plan in respect of students who require such care
- The school has provided each member of staff with a copy of the Scoil Bhríde's Child Safeguarding Statement/ Ensures all new staff are provided with a copy of the Scoil Bhríde'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 training
- The school has in place a policy for the Administration of Medication
- First Aid: The school has a policy for the Administration of First Aid/ administration of medicine, or first aid is carried out in a general area with staff indemnity in operation
- Staff have availed of First Aid Training, completed in August 2020
- The school has in place a Code of Behaviour for pupils, currently under review
- The school has in place an ICT policy in respect of the usage of ICT by pupils and an AUP policy, reviewed and updated in August 2020
- The school has in place a Critical Incident Management Plan
- The school has a Swimming Policy/ 2 members of staff present for all swimming sessions/ Staff members do not enter individual changing cubicles with pupil/s.
- Sporting Activities: 2 members of staff present for sporting activities outside of the school premises/ central transport provided by school/ First Aid Training for staff

- Visitors: Fob system in place for the main entrance/ visitors check in at reception/ no visitors to classroom doors
- School Outings: 2 members of staff present for school outings outside of the school premises/ central transport provided by school/ First Aid Training for staff
- The school has in place a clear procedure for one-to-one teaching activities

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*

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 and reviewed by the Board of Management on Wednesday 25th February. It shall be reviewed as part of the school's annual review of its Child Safeguarding Statement.

Signed: Gavin O'Connor
Gavin O' Connor
Chairperson of BoM

Date: 23/9/26

Signed: Karen O' Connor
Karen O' Connor
Principal & Secretary BoM

Date: 23/9/26.