

Child Safeguarding Statement

Scoil Assaim BNS is a primary school providing primary education to boys from second 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 2017 and Túsla Guidance on the preparation of Child Safeguarding Statements, the Board of Management of Scoil Assaim has agreed the Child Safeguarding Statement set out in this document.

1. The Board of Management has adopted and will implement fully the Department's Child Protection Procedures for Primary Schools 2017 as part of this overall Child Safeguarding Statement.
2. The **Designated Liaison Person (DLP)** is **Dr. Bernadette O'Donovan (School Principal)**.
3. The **Deputy Designated Liaison Person** is **Ms. Rachel Kelly (Acting Deputy Principal)**.
4. 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, Scoil Assaim will adhere to the principles of best practice in child protection and welfare. Scoil Assaim 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 to protect workers from taking unnecessary risks that may leave them open to accusations of neglect or abuse
- develop a practice of openness with parents and will encourage parental involvement in the education of their children
- fully respect confidentiality requirements in dealing with child protection matters

Scoil Assaim will also adhere to the above principles in relation to any adult/pupil with a special vulnerability.

5. The following procedures/measures are in place:

- In relation to any member of staff who is the subject of any investigation in respect of any act, omission or circumstance in respect of a child attending Scoil Assaim, 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 Department of Education (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 and 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), Scoil Assaim:
 - 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.
 - Maintains records of all staff and Board member training.
- In relation to reporting of child protection concerns to Túsla, 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 procedures in relation to mandated reporting under the Children First Act 2015
- The Board of Management has appointed Dr. Bernadette O'Donovan, Principal and 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, 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 DES website or will be made available on request by the school
6. This Child Safeguarding Statement has been published on the Scoil Assaim website and has been provided to all members of school personnel, and the patron. It is accessible to all parents and guardians; a hard copy can be requested from the school secretary, if required. A copy of this statement will be made available to Túsla, and to the DES, on request.
 7. 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 of Scoil Assaim in September 2020.

This Child Safeguarding Statement was reviewed by the Board of Management on September 23rd 2021.

Signed: *James Comerford*
Chairperson, Board of Management

Date 23/09/2021

Signed: *Bernadette O'Donovan*
Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Date 23/09/2021

Written Assessment of Risk

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 PostPrimary 2017*, the following is the Written Risk Assessment in Scoil Assaim BNS.

Risk Identified

List of School Activities	Risk Level	The school has identified the following Risk of Harm	Procedures in place to address these identified risks
Classroom teaching	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Risk of harm by school personnel 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teacher is present with students at all times or has organised supervision otherwise • The class teacher is always present with trainee/student teachers • Best practice is encouraged at all times • School Policy on Anti-Bullying • School Behaviour Policy
Teaching with SEN pupils	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Risk of harm by school personnel 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intimate Care Policy • School SEN Policy • Visibility through glass panel in the door and/or open door, where necessary • School Anti-Bullying Policy
Tours/School Outings	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential for unsupervised times in changing rooms • Access to pupils by strangers or other adults • Inappropriate behaviour by pupils • Dangers posed by unfamiliar environment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students are supervised at all times • Teachers supervise from outside changing areas • Mobile Phone Policy • Behaviour Policy
Lifts to matches/events	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential for unsupervised times in changing rooms • Access to pupils by strangers or other adults • Inappropriate behaviour by pupils 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parents providing lifts will have been Garda vetted • Children always travel in pairs at least • Teachers travel in pairs in order to deal with a child who needs a lift home following the event • Car insurance needs to be investigated in order to ensure all are insured for safety reasons

Training	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Risk of harm by school personnel 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training is supervised by teachers • Students are accompanied off the astro pitch and school grounds by teachers
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential for unsupervised times in changing rooms • Inappropriate behaviour by pupils 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parents are provided with a clear time frame for training and either collect students afterwards or give permission for students to travel home independently
Changing for Matches	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential for unsupervised times in changing rooms • Inappropriate behaviour by pupils 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students change in the classroom or the toilets, with a teacher present outside the door • Mobile Phone Policy
School Concerts	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Risk of harm by school personnel • Dangers posed by unfamiliar environment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Garda Vetting of all personnel involved is a requirement • Students are supervised by teachers. • Students are collected from a designated supervised classroom for night time performances
Transition Year Students	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Risk of harm to pupils 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transition year students are supervised by the class teachers • All Transition year students are Garda vetted

Extra-Curricular Teachers	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Risk of harm to pupils. • Risk of harm not being reported properly or promptly by school personnel 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All teachers are Garda Vetted. • The class teacher remains in the class should an external visitor be working on a project with the class
Administration of Meds	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Risk of harm not being recognised by school personnel • Risk of harm not being reported properly or promptly by school personnel • Risk of harm by school personnel 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medicine Administration Policy • A second SNA will be present while meds or injections are being administered

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First Aid training made available to school personnel • In the event of a student leaving the yard as a result of injury, a teacher/SNA will accompany him inside
Supervision	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Risk of harm not being recognised by school personnel • Risk of harm not being reported properly or promptly by school personnel • Risk of harm by school personnel. • Inappropriate behaviour by pupils 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individual students are not permitted to remain in a classroom by themselves • The class teacher is responsible for supervision at all times • The class teacher will accompany students both to and from the yard • The class teacher will supervise students taking part in any activities
Use of tablet devices and smartphones in the classroom and in the course of the school day	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Risk of harm associated with misuse, abuse of devices and various associated technologies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acceptable Use Policy • Anti-Bullying Policy

Access to School	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Risk of harm to pupils by strangers or other adults. • Flight risk for some pupils. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All visitors during the school day must enter via the 'buzzer' entrance at the secretary's office. The school secretary will admit people, if appropriate to do so. No visitors are permitted to move around the school unaccompanied. • The main school gates (into the yard) are kept locked during school hours
Recreation Breaks	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Risk of harm not being recognised by school personnel 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children are accompanied by teacher to the yard to ensure the supervising teacher is on duty • Teacher and SNAs supervise yard activities
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Risk of harm not being reported properly or promptly by school personnel • Risk of harm by school personnel. • Inappropriate behaviour by pupils 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Behaviour Policy

Arrival and Dismissal from School	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Risk of harm not being recognised by school personnel • Risk of harm not being reported properly or promptly by school personnel • Risk of harm by school personnel • Inappropriate behaviour by pupils • 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The children are supervised by staff on duty from 8.40am • The students are accompanied by their teacher to the gate at home time. • Class teachers remain on duty until all boys have been collected, or have gone home unaccompanied, with parental permission
Care needs of students with SEN	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Risk of harm by school personnel. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All SNAs are trained • Two members of staff are present if intimate care/toileting is required • All staff are Garda Vetted
Use of videos/photography website.	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Risk of inappropriate use of material 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ICT Acceptable Use Policy • Parental permission is required
Online Teaching and Learning	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Risk of harm due to inappropriate use of online remote teaching and learning communication platforms 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The school's Acceptable Use Policy will apply during the provision of online teaching and remote learning
Recruitment of School Personnel including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teachers • SNAs • Caretaker/Secretary 	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Risk of harm by school Personnel 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child Safeguarding Statement and DES procedures made available to all staff. • Staff to complete Túsla training module Vetting procedures.

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 reviewed by the Board of Management in September 2021. It will continue to be reviewed as part of the school’s annual review of its Child Safeguarding Statement.

Signed: James Comerford

Chairperson, Board of Management

Date: September 23rd 2021

Signed: Bernadette O’Donovan

Principal

Date: September 23rd 2021