



***St. Joseph's NS, Brackloon. Roll Number 04796R***

**Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment**

Brackloon NS is a mixed primary school providing primary education to pupils from 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 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 Brackloon NS 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 Mr. Brendan Tunney (Principal of Brackloon NS)
3. The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is Ms Eimear Philbin (Deputy Principal).
4. The relevant person is Brendan Tunney
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 [www.gov.ie](http://www.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 [www.gov.ie](http://www.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, 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.

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.

**Brackloon NS. Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment (of any potential harm)**

<b>List of School Activities</b>	<b>Risk Level</b>	<b>The School has identified the following Risk of Harm</b>	<b>The school has the following Procedures in place to address risk identified in this assessment</b>
Training of school personnel in Child Protection matters	High	Harm not recognised or reported promptly	Child Safeguarding Statement & DES procedures made available to all staff  DLP & DDLP to attend PDST face to face training when provided. All staff to view Túsla training module & any other online training offered by Oide
One to one teaching	Med	Harm by school personnel	School has policy in place for one to one teaching – glass fitted to doors or open doors when appropriate  Table between teacher and pupil  Glass in window
Care of Children with special needs, including intimate care needs	High	Harm by school personnel	Policy on intimate care
Toilet Areas	Med	Inappropriate behaviour	Supervision policy
Curricular Provision in respect of SPHE, Stay Safe	Med	Non-teaching of same	School implements SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe in full
LGBT Children/Pupils perceived to be LGBT	High	Bullying	Anti-bullying Policy  Code of Behaviour
Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils	Med	Harm from older pupils, unknown adults on the playground	Arrival and dismissal supervised by Teachers and SNA's  Procedures regularly reported to parents  Parents responsible for collecting children from school gate at home time.

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Managing of challenging behaviour amongst pupils, including appropriate use of restraint	High	Injury to pupils and staff	Health & Safety Policy Code of Behaviour Individual behavioural plan
Sports Coaches	Med	Harm to pupils	Policy & Procedures in place
Students participating in work experience	Low	Harm by student	Work Experience Policy Child Safeguarding Statement
Recreation breaks for pupils	Med	Bullying, injury during play	Supervision Policy
Classroom teaching	Med	Harm from adult or peer	Supervision Policy
Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst pupils	High	Harm from other students or staff	Code of Behaviour and Anti-bullying policy
Sporting Activities & afterschool activities	Med	Harm from adult in charge	Policy & Procedures in place
Administration of Medicine and First Aid	Low	Harm from adult	Policy & Procedures in place

**Brackloon NS. Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment (of any potential harm)**

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Training of school personnel in child protection matters	High	Harm from students, staff or visiting personnel	Child Protection Policy
Use of external personnel to supplement curriculum	Low	Harm from visiting adult	Supervision Policy
Care of pupils with specific vulnerabilities/needs such as <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pupils from ethnic minorities/migrants</li> <li>• Members of the travelling community</li> <li>• Lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender (LGBT) children</li> <li>• Pupils perceived to be LGBT</li> <li>• Pupils of minority religious faiths</li> </ul>	High	Harm from members of school community	Equality Policy
Recruitment of school personnel including:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Teachers</li> <li>• SNA's</li> <li>• Caretaker/Secretary/Cleaners</li> <li>• Sports Coaches</li> <li>• External Tutors/Guest Speakers</li> <li>• Volunteers/Parents in school activities</li> <li>• Visitors/contactors present in school during school hours</li> <li>• Visitors/contractors/present during after school activities</li> </ul>	Med	Harm not recognised or properly or promptly reported	Child Safeguarding Statement & DES procedures made available to all staff  Staff to view Tusla training module & any other online training offered by PDST  Vetting Procedures

### Brackloon NS. Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment (of any potential harm)

List of School Activities	Risk Level	The School has identified the following Risk of Harm	The school has the following Procedures in place to address risk identified in this assessment
Use of Information and Communication Technology by pupils in school, including online resources and remote teaching and learning		Bullying	ICT Policy Anti-bullying Policy Code of Behaviour Acceptable Use Policy
Students participating in work experience in the school	Low	From older students	Vetting procedures Supervision Policy
Student teachers undertaking training placement in school	Low	From Trainee	Vetting Procedures Supervision Policy
Use of video/photography/other media to record school events	Med	Harm from user of electronic equipment	Enrolment Policy
Department of Education Summer Programme	Med	Harm from adults in charge	Policy & Procedures in place

**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 (revised 2023)*. 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 Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment was adopted by the Board of Management on 20/10/2023

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
Chairperson, Board of Management

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

