Broadmeadow CNS
Rathbeale Road, Swords
Phone: 085 804 9106
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Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment
For: Broadmeadow CNS
At: Rathbeale Road, Swords, Co.Dublin, K67V9H2

Child Safeguarding Statement

Broadmeadow CNS is a primary school that will be providing primary education to pupils from Junior Infants to 5th class and one Autism Class from September 2026.

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.

DLP: Designated Liaison Person (DLP) is: Lisa Platts (Acting Principal)

DDLP: Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is Laura Neale (Acting Deputy Principal)

Relevant Person: The Relevant Person is: Lisa Platts
Relevant person can be contacted on: 087 4850 830 and lisaplatts@broadmeadowcns.ie
(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.)

The Chief Executive: The Director of Schools is: Nichola Spokes (nicholaspokes@ddlettb.ie)
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 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.
- adhere to the above principles in relation to any adult pupil with a special vulnerability.

Procedures and Measures in place:

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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.

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- **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.
  - 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.

This statement has been published on the school's website or will be made available on request by the school. A hard copy is available upon entrance to the school office. It has been provided to all members of school personnel, the parents' association, 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 and Risk Assessment

List of school activities	Risks identified against eac school activity	Procedures/Measures in place to mitigate the risk
Daily arrival	Children getting lost	SNAs on site from 8.20am onwards

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	Potential risk of children roaming around the grounds of the school Lapse in time if parents are dropping children off early – no supervision in place befor 8.40am Traffic and congestion Busy Road outside of the school grounds	P / DP/AP2 on yard supervision from 8:35 onwards Staff aware of children who struggle with the transition into the school Parents regularly reminded on school newsletter to drop children directly to classroom door / wait with children in the line until teacher arrives. Principal issues letters to parents who leave their children unattended before supervision commences.
Dismissal of pupils at home time	Strangers collecting children Children getting lost Traffic and congestion Busy Road outside of th school grounds	Only parents or nominated contact can collect. P / DP/AP2 on yard supervision 1.20pm and 2.15pm If an emergency arises, parents must phone the office to notify staff that another person will collect the children the children will not be released otherwise. Familiar adult eg. SNA / other teacher always supporting substitute teachers with dismissal All staff and children arriving to the dismissal point on time Children who are late being collected will be brought to the reception area to make contact via the school phone. Parents will be phoned to remind them to collect their children on time Tusla will be phoned in the situation that a parent cannot be reached that evening Parents are notified to supervise their children when leaving the grounds of the school Parents are reminded verbally / in school newsletter to ensure that their children do not enter the grounds of the secondary school / play on the roads and areas surrounding the school Parents are contacted by class teacher if children are left unsupervised after being collected from school Ongoing issues with attendance and punctuality- refer to attendance policy Staggered home time to ensure smooth running at home time
Handover from parents to school staff in the mornings and evenings	Children upset Absconding from school Challenging behaviour – harm to self	Principal/DP/AP2 positions at gates/yard 8.35am and 2.20pm SNAs morning supervision at 8.35am on yard. Staff on morning duty – 2 teacher and all SNAs.
Children left unaccompanied on the grounds of the school due to early arrival or late collection	Children upset Parents uncontactable Staff left alone with children Children wanderin off/leaving school grounds Children having an accident	Every effort to get in touch with parents will be made. Emergency contacts listed for the children will be phoned. If the parents refused to collect or cannot collect, staff would wait with the children for a period of time Failure to contact parents will result in the school

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		contracting child protection services. Two staff must always remain.
Demands and instructions from teachers to pupils	Refusal to complete an activity may lead to outbursts or upset	Calming strategies Distraction and resettling techniques Phone calls to parents to collect child Code of Behaviour and Bí Cineálta Policies
Recreation breaks for pupils	Accidents – trips/ falls Bleeds Head bumps Cuts and bruises Swelling Inappropriate behaviour between children Please see Safety Statement and for further details	Gates closed on yard when children have yard time Adequate staff on duty Staff monitoring and supervising students Staff well positioned around the yard for coverage and adequate supervision Teacher always on yard Yard Accident procedures and policies in place. Accident bag/book to be filled whilst on yard to monitor behaviour/accidents Designated First Aiders among staff Staff collecting children on time Staff handover in relation to yard accidents / incidents from yard teacher to classroom teacher using coloured cards. Classroom teachers to phone parents for head bumps and serious accidents / inform at the end of the day about minor accidents or any visual - bumps, marks, bruises. Critical incident policy in place for major accidents
Movement around the classroom and school grounds	Trips/ falls Scissors hazards	Teachers explicitly teaching safety around the classrooms All staff upholding high standards of Health & Safety in the classrooms and on the corridors
Traffic on the grounds outside of school	Danger to children's safety	Parents are reminded not to park or drive past the black gates Children are asked to remain with their parents on the grounds of the school and when leaving Parents are reminded to drive slowly If there is a disagreement between parents in relation to parking/ driving, parents are asked to resolve the dispute calmly. School staff AP2/P/DP and SNAs/Teachers on site and supervising from 8.35am daily.
Distressed students	Absconding from school Low level staff availability	Staff /family member to accompany the children into school using a hands-off approach unless the student's safety is at risk Sensory spaces/equipment may be used to support. Calming/deflection time within another environment or company of another staff member of student to calm before entering class.
Group teaching (withdrawal) One-to-one teaching (withdrawal)	Children on their own with a staff member	Open door policy to protect child and staff member Glass panels in all doors All staff aware of Child Protection procedures Staff to link in with other staff as required if working with a child who may be high risk

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One-to-one behavioural support (withdrawal)	Children on their own with a staff member	Open door policy to protect child and staff member Glass panels in all doors All staff aware of Child Protection procedures Staff all wear an emergency whistle Child Protection and Dafety Protocol and Procedures
Minor Accidents	Scrapes Cuts Bruises	Staff to deal with accidents on yard Link with teacher using coloured cards. Parents to be informed First Aider as required
Serious Accidents/Injuries	Major head injuries Loss of blood Broken bones Returning to school with a injury or broke bone/equipment	Staff to deal with accidents on yard and make environment safe First Aider to be called SLT to be informed asap Emergency services to be phoned Parents to be informed Return to school with injury forms to be completed for children with injuries in school. Stationed seated area of activities for children with injuries to keep them off main yard. Temporary PEEP will be created
Children not feeling well	Fainting Vomiting	Class teacher to make call home Children will be sent home from school Children to be signed out
Outdoor teaching activities or PE lessons	Accidents – trips/ falls Bleeds Head bumps Cuts and bruises Swelling	Yard Accidents Procedures in place Notifying parents Staff to record accidents Follow up phone calls with parents in place Ensure gates are closed Yard risk assessment before commencing PE lesson
Sporting Activities	Accidents – trips/ falls Bleeds Head bumps Cuts and bruises Swelling	Yard Accidents Procedures in place Notifying parents Staff to record accidents Follow up phone calls with parents in place Yard risk assessment before commencing PE lesson
School tours and outings	Children going missing Taking additional children from another school with our grou of children Accidents on tour Children feeling sick	Adequate staff supervision 1: 10/1:8 staff: children Staff meetings prior to tours each morning First Aid Bags to be brought Medication to be brought Parental permission to be sought Head counts regularly Phone numbers of all staff attending shared School Tour Guidance to be followed Completion of RISK Assessment Engage with School tour guidance PEEP updated for school tours High visibility jackets to be worn and school uniform
Mobile Library bus	Children with adult who unfamiliar	Staff to accompany children to library bus and remain supervising the children

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Use of toilet in the classroom and on yard	Children locked in the toilet	Emergency strings in JI / SI class toilets Children asked to shout for help if they are stuck Doors can be unlocked from the outside Supervision required from an older child or adult
Changing clothing for matches, plays, swimming, etc.	Child protection concerns	Children to be always supervised by staff At least 2 members of staff supervise changing where possible Mixture of male and female staff where possible
Children from families where court / protection or barring orders are in place	Parental issues affecting the children Threat of parent without permission collecting child	Post holder to oversee court order – Senior Leader Staff working with these children are informed Close supervision is in place at home time Central log of all court paperwork
Extreme weather conditions	Heat exhaustion Sun stroke Falling items on school yard due t strong winds Trips and falls in icy conditions	Principal to be informed of weather warnings Take appropriate actions in terms of outdoor time Speak to board of management in relation to school closures Parents to be informed in as much time is advance for school closures Sunscreen/ hats/ coats recommended Sand to be scatted on icy mornings to prevent trips/ falls
School events e.g. Tráth Na gCeist, Halloween Fun Day, end of year quiz	Poor behaviour at events with lot of students	Adequate staff supervision Appropriate back up location/staffing to support as needed
Infectious Disease	Spread of infection to childre including Covid 19	Parents are required to inform the school when their child is sick Staff and parents notified about possible infection diseases Mitigating measures such as proper ventilation and hand sanitisation Letters issued home as directed by HSE
Fundraising events	Harm to children due to new activities that are usually not undertaken in school	Carry out risk assessment prior to new events taken place Adequate supervision in place
Use of off-site facilities for school activities.	Lack of proper facilities Lack of adequate toileting facilitie	Children encouraged to use bathrooms before leaving the school grounds Short trips to avoid accidents
School transport arrangements including use of bus escorts for SEN pupils	Bus / taxi crashes Challenging behaviour due to children being unsettled	Principal and post holder to liaise with bus/ taxi drivers and the DES in relation to bus routes Parents to be informed Bus escorts to be present for all journeys
Changing of children if they have a toileting accident or clothing accident	Child abuse Risk of harm to a child while receiving intimate care	Child protection policies in place Care plans for children who need assistance with toileting. Staff to work in pairs to protect the child and themselves
Swimming	Child Abuse Drowning or getting into difficult in the water	Garda vetted swimming coaches in place Swimming coach to supervise children.

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	Exposure to other adults	Staff to remain at pool when children are completing swimming lessons. Staff to accompany special needs children from our special classes, in the pool. Dressing room supervision from male and female staff Dressing room supervision Adequate ratio of pupil to staff
Challenging Behaviour	Self-injurious behaviour	Code of behaviour in place Calming strategies in place Removal of demands and requests from staff Staff to keep a safe distance whilst supervision remains in place for the child ISM to call parents if child is distressed to take the children home
Administration of Medication	Causing harm to the child in term of overdose or choking hazards Allergies Anaphylactic shocks	Administration of Medication policy No oral medications Meetings between teachers and parents to handover information in relation to medical needs Medical profile for all children with allergies First Aid Course for staff
Child Abuse	Physical, emotional, sexual abuse or children neglected Risk of harm not being recognised by school personnel Risk of harm not being reported properly and promptly by school personnel	Curricular provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe Training of school personnel in child protection matters
Bullying Behaviour	Emotional abuse or physical abuse Risk of child being harmed in the school by another child Risk of harm to children who may have brought bullying to teacher's attention Cyber Bullying behaviour	Prevention and dealing with bullying behaviour amongst pupils Whole school awareness in relation to bullying behaviour lessons thoughts through SPHE Children taught to tell adults and of the importance of telling Discussion on language of bystander, victims, perpetrators. Internet Safety Talks for children and parents. Bullying policy shared with all stakeholders Bí Cineálta Procedures
Use of Technology /Remote Learning	Cyber Bullying Children accessing website o images that are not age appropriat Length of time engaging wit technology Remote learning- staff and childre could be unaware who is in a online room	Safety and parental locks Children only using ipads and computers when supervised Cyber bullying explicitly taught Stay safe online learning at all ages Safe us of technology taught to all Stranger Danger Stay Safe programme Camera to be on during online learning- young children require an adult present but not in view

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		Bí Cineálta Procedures
Use of online devices	Use of digital devices with internet access Unsupervised use of devices Cyber bullying Hacking Access to inappropriate content Misuse and Misconduct of devices Security Software AI (Add updates in relation to individual iPad use when time arises).	Safety measures in place outlined in our Acceptable Use Policy for children Parents must read and give permissions for their children to access internet in school. Talk from Community Garda for parents. Stay Safe Programme and SPHE education. Bí Cineálta procedures. Monitoring of digital devices and security software by Wriggle. Web-wise resources and lessons. Effective teaching and learning. Positive partnerships between home and school.
Racism	Emotional abuse or physical abuse Risk of child being harmed in the school by another child	Prevention and dealing with racism amongst pupils Whole school awareness in relation to racism Anti-racism lessons thoughts through SPHE Bí Cineálta Procedures
Use of external personnel to supplement curriculum. NEPS or SEN visitors Parental volunteers from PA	Children with unknown person 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 the child is participating in 'out of school activities' Risk of harm due to inappropriate relationship/communications between child and another child or adult.	Garda Vetting to be in place for all external coaches/ NEPS and SEN visitors/ parental volunteers Teacher to supervise class when visiting teacher/ external coach is with the children COS logging system and recording involvement
Contractors / maintenance work carried out in school	Harm to children from works or equipment	All contractors / work people must sign in through the office The majority of this work will be completed after school hours Emergency works can be completed during the school in zones granted by Principal Children will vacate the room during these works Notice to staff of visitor in school
Visitors to school	Stranger danger Lack of familiarity with staff and children Ratio changes Health and Safety Fire Procedures	Locked and Intercom system Sign in and Sign out book/Visitor to school lanyards. Use of staff handover to support transition to who or what they are visiting for. All visitors are furnished with Fire Procedures, school policies and procedures relevant for their visit.
	Hunger and sleep deprivation Unsafe living conditions	Extra care and attention given to vulnerable children

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Children in care and direct provision		DLP to liaise with social workers attached to the families Child Protection Procedures
Care of pupils with specific vulnerabilities/ needs such as:	Harm to children on the basis on their needs • English is not their first language • Pupils from ethnic minorities/migrants • Members of the Traveller community • Children from Roma backgrounds • Pupils perceived to be LGBT • Pupils who self-identify as LGBT • Pupils of minority religious faiths • Children who are non-verbal • Children who have special educational needs • Children on CPNS, (Child Protection Notification System)	Extra care given to children in terms of communication. Student support Behaviour support Individual Education plans in place Children receiving maximum supports in terms of EAL tuition, School Support Plus teaching etc. COS SET Teaching/EAL Support Wellbeing monitors Bí Cineálta Procedures PEEPS
Children attending targeted interventions through the School Completion Programme Children attending NYP Youth Services	Children leaving the school grounds with an adult other than a parent, namely the EOP or NYP worker	All parents must grant written permission to the school for their children to leave school at home time to attend these After School Clubs HSCL and principal keep list of attendees. Contact details are held for main EOP & NYP staff
ICT Usage in school	Exposure to inappropriate conten online Risk of harm due to children inappropriately accessing/using computers, social media, phones and other devices while at school	Safety measures in place outlined in our Acceptable Use Policy for children Parents must read and give permissions for their children to access internet in school Voluntary phone policy
Mobile Phone Usage	Exposure to inappropriate conten online Children recording or taking image in school	Mobile Phone Policy. Sanctions outlined in our Code of Behaviour for misuse of the internet and school devices
Children walking home alone/ with siblings	Possibility of getting lost on the wa out of school or on the way home	Permission must be granted by parents for their child to walk home alone Only children from 3rd class can walk home alone, with this permission.

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		Children from infant classes-2nd are not permitted to walking home alone Signed permission slips stored in school office.
Sanctions from our Code of Behaviour	Emotional upset for students an their families	Staff to be mindful of emotional upset to families whilst still having to carry out sanctions of the code of behaviour Bí Cineálta Procedures SPHE/Zippy and Friends SET Teacher support Wellbeing monitors
Student teachers undertaking school placement in our school	Unexperienced staff with children	Classroom teacher and SNA to support as required. Provide supports for the Student Teacher and inform of all policy and procedure.
Use of video/photography/other media to record school events	Children being photographed o videoed without permission	Permission sought from all parents Staff to use school devices, not personal devices
Poor behaviour	Risk of harm due to inadequate code of behaviour	Code of Behaviour regularly reviewed Bí Cineálta Procedures
Social Media	Risk of harm caused to a child accessing/circulating inappropriate material via social media, texting, digital device or other manner	Informing parents of age limits on social media sites Internet safety talks for parents and children annually Webswise resources used in senior classes & social media lessons Letter to alert parents about social media issues when we are informed of dangers to children online, in the home setting. Regular reminders to parents of the age limits for children for social media sites Community Garda to visit senior classes to discuss online safety
Use of appropriate media by teachers in classroom- photos, videos. Participating in online lessons and learning remotely (use of Microsoft Teams and Seesaw)	Risk of harm due to use of online learning platforms – Microsoft Teams and Seesaw	All school personnel are provided with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement, The Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools (revised 2025) all staff are required to adhere to the Children First Act 2015
Sharing of Information	Oversharing of information GDPR issues	GDPR training for all staff Sensitive data stored in principal's office – Child Protection files and SEN files Aladdin software protected by password

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		Confidentiality promoted amongst staff
Fire Alarm/Evacuation	The fire alarm is activated	PEEPs Fire Procedures on display across the school All to engage in ongoing fire procedure training (self and delivered by in school management) Update all relevant documentation on an ongoing basis Service all equipment See Fire Safety Statement
Lack of training and support to school community	Inadequate training/CPD opportunities for school community. Poor training. Low recruitment drive. Lack of trained replacements (substitutes) for staff. Effects on teaching and learning. Effects on safety and wellbeing. Breach of confidentiality.	Internal Croke Park/training opportunities every year. Annual recruitment process in line with Department requirements. Tusla Children First training. School Clusters. 'Train the Trainer' from Oide. Supportive learning environment. Shared resources. Collaboration.
Garda Vetting (10.3.3)	Unvetted personnel Out of date vetting Inability to provide documentation Security of storage of vetting documents Overall child protection risk to the children and the school community	All members of staff (permanent/casual/non-casual) are vetted. ETB vetting completed as a second level. All documentation stored securely in a locked filing cabinet with limited access. Recruitment and selection process. Teaching Council registration for teachers.
Before and After School Clubs	Strangers Use of classroom space/wider school Children from another service entering classes/learning spaces Engagement between staff and children between services	Child Protection Procedures and Statement for all services are shared with school staff and on display outside the service and the main entrance of the school. Policies and procedures shared and collaborated on between services. Garda Vetting is shared between the services as required. (10.3.3) Positive relationship and rapport with services. Sign in/Sign out book used in both settings. Ongoing meetings/check in Principal and services

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Examples of Activities, Risks and Procedures

The examples listed in this document are provided to assist schools in undertaking their risk assessment under the Children First Act, 2015. Schools should note that this list of examples is not intended to be exhaustive, and that the inclusion of an example of a policy or procedure on these lists does not make it mandatory. It is the responsibility of each school to ensure, as far as possible, that any other risks and procedures that are relevant to its own particular circumstances are identified and specified in the written risk assessment and that adequate procedures are in place to address all risks identified.

It is acknowledged that schools already have in place a range of policies, practices and procedures to mitigate the risk of harm to children while they are participating in the activities of the school and that some school activities will carry low or minimal risks of harm compared to others. In the context of the risk assessment that must be undertaken by schools, the Children First Act, 2015 refers to risk as 'any potential for harm'.

Therefore, it is important that, as part of its risk assessment process, each school lists and reviews all of its various activities (which shall include identifying those that may carry low risk of harm as well as those that carry higher risks of harm). Doing so will help the school to:

- Identify, as required under the Children First Act, 2015, any risks of harm that may exist in respect of the school's activities.
- Identify and assess the adequacy of the various procedures already in place to manage those risks of harm.
- Identify and put in place any such additional procedures as are considered necessary to manage any risk identified.

Online Safety

The *Addendum to Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children 2017* published in January 2019 clarifies that organisations providing relevant services to children should consider the specific issue of online safety when carrying out their risk assessment and preparing their Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment.

The Guidance on Continuity of Schooling for primary and post-primary schools (April 2020) advises of the importance of teachers maintaining the safe and ethical use of the internet during distance learning and assisting parents and guardians to be aware of their role also. Schools should ensure that their Acceptable Use Policy (AUP) informs and guides remote or distance learning activity.

Risk in the context of this Child Safeguarding Statement and 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 the Children First Act 2015: 'harm' means, in relation to a child— (a) assault, ill-treatment or neglect of the child in a manner that seriously affects or is likely to seriously affect the child's health, development or welfare, or (b) sexual abuse of the child, whether caused by a single act, omission or circumstance or a series or combination of acts, omissions or circumstances, or otherwise.

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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 _____ *(most recent review date)*

Signed:*		**Date:**

Chairperson of the board of management

Signed:*		**Date:**

Principal/Secretary to the board of management

This Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment is expected to be reviewed again on _____September 2027_____ *(expected review date)*

* *Document to be printed and signed with original signatures*

Appendix - Location of copies of the Child Protection Procedures and Children First Guidance

Online location for the Child Protection Procedures (Department of Education and Youth website): http://www.gov.ie/childprotectionschools

Online location for Child Safeguarding and Risk Assessment for Broadmeadow CNS: https://broadmeadowcns.ie/

Children First National Guidance 2017 Children_First_National_Guidance_2017.pdf

Hard copy available in the School Office of the school.

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