



Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment

Written Assessment of Risk of Ballymakenny College

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 Ballymakenny College.

1. List of school activities:

- Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils
- Recreation breaks for pupils – morning, small break & lunchtime
- Lining up outside classes.
- Students use of all outdoor areas – garden, basketball courts, pitch etc
- Movement between classes on corridors and on stairs
- Use of toilet/changing/shower areas in schools
- Classroom teaching
- One-to-one teaching
- Team-teaching (in-class support)
- One-to-one counselling
- Outdoor teaching activities
- School Assemblies
- Sporting activities
- Annual Sports Day
- School trips during school day
- School trips involving overnight stay
- School trips involving foreign travel
- Use of off-site facilities for school activities
- Fundraising events involving pupils
- School transport arrangements including use of bus escorts
- Care of children with special educational needs, including intimate care where needed
- Care of pupils with specific vulnerabilities/ needs
- Pupils from ethnic minorities/migrants
- Members of the Traveller community
- LQBTQI+ students
- Pupils perceived to be LQBTQI+
- Pupils of various religious faiths
- Children in care
- Management of challenging behaviour amongst pupils, including appropriate use of restraint where required
- Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst pupils
- Application of sanctions under the school's Code of Behaviour including detention of pupils, confiscation of phones etc.
- Administration of Medicine
- Administration of First Aid

- Curricular provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe & PE
- Training of school personnel in child protection matters
- Use of external personnel to supplement curriculum
- Use of external personnel to support sports and other extra-curricular activities
- Recruitment of school personnel including -
 - Teachers
 - Student teachers
 - SNAs
 - Caretaker/Secretary/Cleaners
 - Caterers
 - Sports coaches
 - External Tutors/Guest Speakers
 - Volunteers/Parents in school activities
 - Visitors/contractors present in school during school hours
 - Visitors/contractors present during after school activities
- Use of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) by pupils in school
- Use of video/photography/social media to record and post school events
- Homework club/Supervised study/Buddy Club
- Students participating in work experience in the school
- Students from the school participating in work experience elsewhere
- Student teachers undertaking training placement in school
- After school use of school premises by other organisations
- Use of school premises by other organisation during school day

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

- a. Risk of harm not being recognised by school personnel
- b. Risk of harm not being reported properly and promptly by school personnel
- c. Risk of child being harmed in the school by a member of school personnel
- d. Risk of child being harmed in the school by another child
- e. Risk of child being harmed in the school environs by other people
- e. Risk of child being harmed in the school by volunteer or visitor to the school
- f. 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
- g. Risk of harm due to bullying of child
- h. Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children in school
- i. Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children while attending out of school activities
- j. Risk of harm due to inappropriate relationship/communications between child and another child or adult
- k. Risk of harm due to children inappropriately accessing/using digital devices, social media, phones and other devices (mobile phone)while at school
- l. Risk of harm relevant to online teaching and learning remotely
- l. Risk of harm to children with SEN who have particular vulnerabilities
- m. Risk of harm to child while a child is receiving intimate care
- n. Risk of harm due to inadequate code of behaviour
- o. Risk of harm in one-to-one teaching, counselling, coaching situation
- p. Risk of harm caused by member of school personnel communicating with pupils in appropriate manner via social media, texting, digital device or other manner
- q. 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 the school's *Child Safeguarding Statement*
- The *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools (revised 2023)* are made available to all school personnel
- School Personnel are required to adhere to the *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools (revised 2023)* and all registered teaching staff are required to adhere to the *Children First Act 2015*
- The school implements in full the Social, Physical & Health Education (SPHE) curriculum
- The school implements in full the Wellbeing Programme at Junior Cycle
- The school has the *Bí Cineálta Policy* which fully adheres to the requirements of the Department's *Bí Cineálta Procedures to Prevent and Address Bullying Behaviour for Primary and Post-Primary Schools*.
- The school has a yard/playground supervision rota and guidelines to ensure appropriate supervision of children during, assembly, dismissal and breaks and in respect of specific areas such as toilets, changing rooms etc.
- The school has in place a policy and clear procedures in respect of school outings and trips
- The school has a Safety Statement
- The school has in place Gender Identity transition procedures.
- 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 Code of Conduct for school personnel (teaching and non-teaching staff)
- The school complies with the agreed disciplinary procedures for teaching staff
- The school has an Additional Educational Needs policy
- The School has a First Aid Policy
- The school has a Medical Administration Policy
- The school has an Intimate Care Policy

The school:

- Has provided each member of school 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
- SNAs avail of Crisis Prevention Institute (CPI) Training
- Encourages board of management members to avail of relevant training
- Maintains records of all staff and board member training
- The school has in place a Code of Behaviour for pupils
- The school has an Acceptable Use Policy in place and has communicated this policy to parents.
- The school has in place a policy governing the use of smart phones and tablet devices in the schools by pupils as per circular 0045/2025
- The school has in place a Digital Framework
- The school has in place a Critical Incident Management Plan
- The school has a Mobile Phone Policy
- The school has Work Experience Policy
- The school has provided all staff with a guidance document on the use of social media and electronic communications.

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 risk assessment has been completed by the Board of Management on 1/10/25

It shall be reviewed as part of the school’s annual review of its Child Safeguarding Statement.

Signed: Brid Rocks Date: 1/10/25

Brid Rocks (Chairperson, Board of Management)

Signed Alan Mynes Date 1/10/25

Alan Mynes (Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management)