

Bennettsbridge N.S.

Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment

Bennettsbridge N.S. is a 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 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 Bennettsbridge N.S. 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 **Sheila Aylward (Principal)**.
- 3 The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is **Olivia Selmon (Deputy Principal)**
- 4 The Relevant Person is Sheila Aylward (Principal).
(The relevant person is one who can provide information in respect of how the child safeguarding statement was developed and will be able to provide the statement on request. In a school setting the relevant person shall be the designated liaison person.)
- 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.

Bennettsbridge N.S.

Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment

- 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.

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.

This Child Safeguarding Statement was adopted by the Board of Management on _____

This Child Safeguarding Statement was reviewed by the Board of Management on _____.

Signed: _____

Signed: _____

Chairperson of Board of Management

Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Date: _____

Date: _____

Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment

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 Bennettsbridge N.S.

1. List of school activities

- Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils
- Recreation breaks for pupils
- Classroom teaching
- One-to-one teaching
- One to one interactions with members of staff
- Outdoor teaching activities
- Sporting Activities
- School outings
- Use of toilet areas
- Annual Fun Day
- Use of off-site facilities for school activities
- Care of children with special educational needs, including intimate care where needed
- Management of challenging behaviour amongst pupils, including appropriate use of restraint where required
- Administration of Medicine
- Administration of First Aid
- Curricular provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe
- Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst pupils
- 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
- Students participating in work experience in the school
- Student teachers undertaking training placement in school
- Participation by pupils in religious ceremonies/religious instruction external to the school
- Use of Information and Communication Technology by pupils in school, including social media
- Application of sanctions under the school's Code of Behaviour including detention of pupils, confiscation of phones etc.
- Use of video/photography/other media to record school events
- After school use of school premises by other organisations
- Use of school premises by other organisations during the school day
- Use of the school premises by other organisations after the school day
- Online teaching and learning remotely.

Care of pupils with specific vulnerabilities/needs such as:

- Pupils from ethnic minorities/migrants
- Members of the Traveller community
- Children with Special Educational Needs
- Lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender (LGBT) children
- Pupils perceived to be LGBT
- Non-religious pupils and pupils of minority religious faiths
- Children in care
- Children on CPNS (Child Protection Notification System)
- Children with medical needs

Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment

Recruitment of school personnel including:

- Teachers/SNAs
- Caretaker/Secretary/Cleaners
- 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

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 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, external coaches
- Risk of harm due to bullying of child
- Risk of harm due to racism
- 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, social media, phones and other devices while at school
- Risk of harm to children with SEN who have particular vulnerabilities, including medical 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, counselling, coaching situation
- 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
- Risk of harm due to inappropriate use of online remote teaching and learning communication platforms such as an invited person accessing the lesson link, students being left unsupervised for long periods of time in breakout rooms

Bennettsbridge N.S.

Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment

3. The school has the following procedures in place to address the risks of harm identified in this assessment –

School Personnel	All school personnel are provided with a copy of the school's <i>Child Safeguarding Statement</i>	Yes
	The School ensures all new staff are provided with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement	Yes
	The <i>Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2023</i> are made available to all school personnel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Downloaded to all teachers' desktops New personnel are instructed to do likewise
	School Personnel are required to adhere to the <i>Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2023</i> and all registered teaching staff are required to adhere to the <i>Children First Act 2015</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adopted by Bennettsbridge N.S. on 16/10/23
	The School adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation and relevant DES circulars in relation to recruitment and Garda-vetting	Yes
	The School has a code of conduct for school personnel as follows; (Teaching and non-teaching staff)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> School Personnel are required to adhere to the <i>Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2023</i> and all registered teaching staff are required to adhere to the <i>Children First Act 2015</i> School personnel also adhere to the <i>Code of Professional Conduct for Teachers published by the Teaching Council in accordance with section 7(2)(b) of the Teaching Council Acts, 2001-2015</i>
	The School complies with the agreed disciplinary procedures for teaching staff	Yes. Ref Circulars 0049/2018 & 0072/2011
	The School encourages staff to avail of relevant training	Yes
	The School maintains records of all staff and board member training	Yes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) DLP & DDLP: PDST Child Protection Seminar b) All Staff and some Board Members: Tusla 'Introduction to Children First' ELearning programme c) PDST Online Course for all school personnel

Bennettsbridge N.S.

Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment

		d) Seminar for Principals: Child Protection and Safeguarding Inspections (4/2/19)
Curriculum	The School has in place an Anti- Bullying Policy which fully adheres to the requirements of the Department's <i>Anti-Bullying Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools</i>	Yes
	The School has in place a Code of Behaviour for pupils	Yes
	The School implements the Revised <i>Stay Safe Programme</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See Policy on the Revised Stay Safe Programme (Adopted by Bennettsbridge N.S. 12/03/19) • The Stay Safe programme is implemented in its entirety on a whole school basis • Programmes are devised/organised between shared-class teachers to ensure implementation
	The School implements in full the SPHE curriculum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bennettsbridge N.S. adopted a 2 YR SPHE Whole School Plan in the 18/19 school year. • SPHE is included in all short and long term planning • Sensitive RSE modules are delivered by an external instructor to 6th Class Pupils annually
	The school engages in anti-racism awareness both informally and formally.	<p>School Prospectus: Respect, Tolerance and Understanding are intrinsic school values and promoted informally at all times.</p> <p>Anti –racism awareness addressed through the school's;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. SPHE programme 2. Grow in Love programme
Pupils	Care of pupils with specific vulnerabilities/needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bennettsbridge N.S. is welcoming and caring towards the needs of pupils with specific vulnerabilities/needs • Practices and procedures in this regard are detailed in various school policies and school prospectus such as : <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Code of Behaviour

Bennettsbridge N.S.

Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> b) Anti- Bullying Policy c) S.P.H.E Policy d) Supervision procedures e) Mobile Phones Policy f) Acceptable Usage Policy g) Intimate Care and Toileting Policy h) SNA Policy
	Special Educational Needs Policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes: Special Educational Needs Policy Jan 23
	Intimate Care policy/plan in respect of students who require such care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Policy ratified on 12/03/19 and revised 16/10/23
	Children with Medical Needs	<p>Bennettsbridge N.S. has practices and procedures in place tailored to each child's medical needs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Administration of Medicine • Intimate care and Toileting Policy • Child's PPP if applicable
	Policy and clear procedures for one-to-one teaching activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For the most part, one to one teaching occurs during Special Education Teaching. When one to one teaching is deemed appropriate at Bennettsbridge N.S., the following options only are utilised: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Two children will be taken together b) Two teachers will take a single child each in the same room at the same ti. c) One to one teaching will take place in the ; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o open-doored Resource room adjoining the Principal's office o the corridor opposite or close to the Principal's office o open-doored SET /EAL room opposite the 3rd & 5th classrooms o open-doored SET room in the prefab o open-doored staffroom d) If a child needs one-to-one teaching parents will be advised of any arrangements in place e) Remote Teaching and Learning: Two staff members present for video calls • Teachers are required to adhere to The Code of Professional Conduct for Teachers published by the Teaching Council in accordance with section 7(2)(b) of

Bennettsbridge N.S.

Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment

		<i>the Teaching Council Acts, 2001-2015</i>
	Policy and clear procedures for one-to-one interactions with staff members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>SNAs and school secretary always adhere to an open door policy when engaging in one-to-one interactions with the children</i>
	Home School Liaison policy and related procedures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Bennettsbridge N.S. does not have a Home/School liaison teacher</i> • <i>The School/Home Liaison Form is sometimes used to inform parents about: Homework; Attendance; Conduct; Punctuality; Progress; Other issues. The form is signed by parents and kept in the child's file. A duplicate form remains in the School/Home Liaison booklet which is kept in the filing cabinet in the Principal's Office</i> • <i>Home School Liaison is mostly via the telephone & Aladdin</i>

Supervision	<p>The School has in place a yard / playground supervision procedures to ensure appropriate supervision of children during, assembly, dismissal and breaks and in respect of specific areas such as toilets etc.</p> <p><i>Assembly:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) <i>Assembly 8:50am Dismissal: 2:30pm</i> b) <i>Jnr. & Snr. Infant Dismissal: 1:30pm</i> c) <i>The first two weeks of school are from 8:50am to 12:00pm for Junior Infants</i> <p><i>Morning Supervision</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> d) <i>School staff provide supervision from 8:40am to 8:50am. A short bell indicates that staff supervision has commenced.</i> e) <i>No responsibility is accepted for pupils arriving before 8:40am. Parents are respectfully asked not to leave their children unsupervised before this time.</i> f) <i>Children proceed unaccompanied from the main gates or field gates to their respective lines.</i> g) <i>Bus Éireann make arrangements with parents using their services for the safe transport of their children to school. School staff supervise the children alighting from the bus and walking into school at arrival times.</i> h) <i>Running and games are not allowed at this time for insurance, health and safety reasons</i> i) <i>Inclement Weather: Children access the school though the yellow double doors closest to their classrooms. Children in the prefab proceed directly to the school gym. Supervision is provided by the school management team and SNAs.</i> j) <i>Parents are informed about morning assembly procedures in the School Prospectus, notices on the front and gym doors and in school</i>
-------------	--

Bennettsbridge N.S.

Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment

bulletins.

- k) September is a 'settling in period' for Junior Infants and arrangements for morning assembly for Junior Infants only, will be communicated directly to Junior Infant parents at the induction meeting in May and via Aladdin notices/ bulletins in September.

Dismissal:

- a) Jnr. & Sen. Infants: 1:30 pm sharp.
- b) Parents wait at the front school gates. The children are dismissed individually from inside the black gates once the class Teachers have established that the parent/guardian has arrived.
- c) On wet days parents wait inside the black gates and the infants are dismissed from the main front door.
- d) Early School Dismissal (Staff meetings etc.): For safety reasons infants are dismissed 10mins prior to the rest of the school
- e) After school clubs/ crèche providers: Parents sign an authorisation form at the beginning of the school year giving permission to designated personnel from afterschool clubs and crèche to collect their child.
- a) After school clubs: Infants assemble in the courtyard (behind black gates) or in the gym during inclement weather. They are then accompanied off the premises by the club leaders
- b) Bus Éireann make arrangements with parents using their services for the safe transport home of their children. School staff accompany the children to the bus and supervise them boarding the bus at dismissal times.

1st to 6th Class: 2:30pm sharp

- c) Parents of pupils in classes from 1st to 6th class must ensure they have satisfactory arrangements in place for the prompt collection of pupils once they leave the school grounds at the end of the school day
- d) The children are supervised to and at the exit doors as they exit the building
- e) Bus Éireann make arrangements with parents using their services for the safe transport home of their children. School staff accompany the children to the bus and supervise them boarding the bus at dismissal times.
- f) Early leavers for Sports Events: Parents give permission via Aladdin for their child to leave school, travel to and from the venue with designated club personnel /parents and compete at the event.
- g) After school clubs: Club leaders make individual arrangements with parents with regard to the collection of students attending their facility.

Breaks:

- h) School gates are closed and bolted immediately after the children have entered the school building following morning assembly
- i) All front external doors are also locked at this time. Access to the building is controlled via a remote and keypad controlled security door. Only school personnel have access to the door's keypad code
- j) There is a 15 minute break at 10:30am and a 25 minute break at 12:00pm

Bennettsbridge N.S.

Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment

	<p>k) <i>The pupils are supervised as they exit their classrooms and enter the yard in single file</i></p> <p>l) <i>Break-Time Supervision:</i></p> <p><i>Autumn / Spring / Summer:</i></p> <p>m) <i>3rd – 6th class use the field with one teacher and one SNA supervising.</i></p> <p>n) <i>Junior infants – 2nd Class use the school yard with one teacher and one SNA supervising.</i></p> <p><i>Winter</i></p> <p>o) <i>All classes use the school yard with two teachers and two SNAs supervising.</i></p> <p>p) <i>There is a rota in place for teacher supervision which is displayed daily in the staff room and secretary's office. Copies are distributed to all staff.</i></p> <p>q) <i>Once the bell rings signifying the end of break children walk to their assigned lines. Infants return to their classroom under the supervision of the teacher and SNA on the junior rota. Other classes re-enter the school under the supervision of their class teacher.</i></p> <p>r) <i>Retrieving footballs: Under supervision two 6th class pupils retrieve footballs from adjoining field and behind school wall. This is done on a rotational basis and organised in class by the 6th class teacher.</i></p> <p>s) <i>Wet day supervision is in the classrooms.</i></p> <p><i>Toilets:</i></p> <p>t) <i>For most classes the children's toilets are in the classrooms. This enables constant supervision and monitoring. The split senior infant class use the bathroom on their corridor external to their room. The teacher keeps the classroom door open when children leave the room to use the toilet.</i></p> <p>u) <i>Classroom rules apply to access and to use of the toilets in each room</i></p> <p>v) <i>At break times children are discouraged from re-entering the building except when necessary</i></p> <p>w) <i>Children who wish to use the toilets during break-times can only do so with permission from the Teacher or SNA on yard duty. This ensures that s/he knows who has left the yard. Numbers are kept to a minimum and children use their own classroom toilet only</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>See Covid 19 Response Plan for changes to Arrival, Dismissal and Breaks for the Covid 19 period</i></p>
<p>The School has in place a School Outings Policy</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Tours usually occur in late May or early June</i> • <i>In keeping with DES rules and guidelines, the Junior Classes remain at home on the day of the Senior Tours when such a decision is warranted</i> • <i>The School Tour is a school day and all children are expected to attend</i> • <i>SNAs are in attendance to meet the needs of any pupils with SEN</i> • <i>Full attendance helps reduce costs for parents</i> • <i>Children do not bring money as shopping is not allowed for insurance, health and safety reasons</i> • <i>Mobile phones, cameras or electronic games are not permitted, as per school policy</i>

Bennettsbridge N.S.

Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All relevant school policies apply throughout the day e.g. Behaviour, Bullying etc • Dismissal is from the classrooms and not from the coaches, for safety reasons • Parent Volunteers who are garda vetted may assist the teacher in the supervision of pupils
	Procedures regarding participation by pupils in religious ceremonies/religious instruction external to the school	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parents sign an authorisation form giving permission for their child to participate in religious ceremonies external to the school • School personnel will ensure there is effective supervision at all times to, from and in the church.

Administration	The School has in place a Critical Incident Management Plan	Yes Reviewed 11/10/22
	The School has in place a Health and Safety policy	Yes. Reviewed 16/10/23 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refer to Covid 19 Risk Assessment
	Administration of Medication to pupils	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New policy ratified on 12/03/19 • In keeping with CPSMA advice the administration of medicines by staff will only happen in emergency situations. This policy is also published in the School Prospectus • Medicines (e.g. Jext Pens / Epipens/Inhalers) are kept in a locked drawer in the Secretary's office. All children requiring medication are highlighted on the Aladdin school system. All teachers have a master copy of children requiring access to their medication during the school day. A master copy also kept in medicine drawer in the secretary's office. All teachers have access to keys. Substitute teachers are also informed of any children under their care requiring access to medication.
	Administration of First Aid	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Only Basic first Aid is administered by school staff i.e. Teachers, Secretary, SNA Staff completed a basic First Aid Awareness training Course on 19/09/23 • Parents are summoned immediately when basic First Aid is considered inadequate or when uncertainty arises. All parents' contact details are to hand

Bennettsbridge N.S.

Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment

		<p><i>on Aladdin and in each child's file in a filing cabinet in the Secretary's office.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>When warranted, facts relating to injuries are recorded in the Incident Book which is kept in a filing cabinet in the Secretary's office. Details are recorded by the Teacher on yard duty at the time of the incident</i> • <i>Injuries/illness and dealing with a suspected case of Covid 19. Please refer to Bennettsbridge Response Plan and Covid 19 Risk Assessment</i>
ICT	ICT policy in respect of usage of ICT by pupils	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Yes</i> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Acceptable Usage Policy (AUP) 13/10/20</i> 2. <i>Data Protection 13/10/20</i> 3. <i>Remote Teaching and Learning Policy (21/1/21)</i> <i>Above policies communicated to parents</i> • <i>Loaning School Devices: Technology Agreement signed by parents when borrowing a school device</i>
	Use of photography/video/other media to record school events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Yes: Policy for the Safe Use of Photographs and Videos</i> • <i>Consent/ Non consent details stored in individual files and highlighted on the school's Aladdin system</i>
	Mobile Phone policy in respect of usage of mobile phones by pupils	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Yes Personal Mobile Phone and Electronic Games policy Reviewed by BoM 13/10/20</i>
External	Policy and procedures for the use of external persons to supplement delivery of the curriculum	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Such external persons will be under Teacher Supervision at all times</i> 2. <i>Online workshops will be under Teacher Supervision at all times</i> 3. <i>Evidence of Garda Vetting must be presented when applicable</i> 4. <i>Persons administering external programmes (e.g. GAA, Rugby coaches etc.) through another body will provide the school with confirmation of vetting from their relevant organization ((sanctioned by BoM 16/10/18) and a copy of any appropriate insurance</i>

Bennettsbridge N.S.

Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment

	Policy and procedures for the use of external sports coaches (both in school and off site)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Such external persons will be under Teacher Supervision at all times</i> • <i>Evidence of Garda Vetting must be presented when applicable. The BoM have approved the acceptance of garda vetting certificates from the sporting body of individual coaches.</i> • <i>When using external coaches/instructors for off-site activities (school tours etc) the school must receive confirmation in writing form the host organisation that their coaches/instructors have suitable vetting</i>
	Policy and procedures for Visitors/ Contractors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Yes: Health and Safety Policy</i> • <i>All parents & visitors can only access the school via the main front door and must use the intercom system. Upon being granted access they must then report to the secretary's office.</i> <i>Instructions are posted on the front door</i> • <i>See Covid 19 Response Plan</i>
	Policy and procedures in respect of play therapist and /or trainee play therapist	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Therapist /Trainee therapist must produce</i> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Evidence of Garda vetting</i> 2. <i>Evidence of insurance</i> 3. <i>Trainee therapist's own Data Protection Policy</i> • <i>Therapy sessions must have signed parental permission</i> • <i>Play therapy sessions may take place in the small prefab room while another teacher is teaching in the larger prefab classroom</i>
	Policy and procedures in respect of student teacher placements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The student will be under Teacher Supervision at all times</i> • <i>Students must produce evidence of Garda Vetting</i>
	Policy and procedures in respect of students undertaking work experience in the school	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The student will be under Teacher Supervision at all times</i> • <i>Students must produce evidence of Garda Vetting</i>
	Use of school premises by other organisations during the school day. 1. <i>Bennettsbridge N.S. Parents' Association: (Christmas, 6th class graduation)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Copy of CSS and RA given to PA Chairperson</i> • <i>Evidence of Garda Vetting must be presented when applicable</i> • <i>Health & Safety Policy</i>
	Use of School premises by other organisations <i>after school</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Copy of CSS and RA given to PA Chairperson</i>

Bennettsbridge N.S.

Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Parents' Association: (Halloween Disco, Refreshments after Sacraments)</i> 2. <i>Diocesan Sacramental Preparation Programmes</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evidence of Garda Vetting must be presented when applicable • Health & Safety Policy
Covid-19	Policies and procedures in respect of Covid -19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Covid 19 Response Plan b. Covid 19 Risk Assessment c. Acceptable Usage Policy d. Smart Devices & Mobile Phone e. Data Protection f. Code of Behaviour g. Remote Teaching and Learning Plan

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.

Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment

The Addendum to *Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children* 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.

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.