Review of the Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment

The Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025 require that the board of management must undertake a review of its Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment. The following template must be used for this purpose. The review must be completed every calendar year or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which the Child Safeguarding Statement refers. Undertaking an annual review will ensure that a school also meets its statutory obligation under section 11(8) of the Children First Act 2015, to review its Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment every two years.

As part of the overall review process, boards of management should also assess relevant school policies, procedures, practices and activities and their adherence to the principles of best practice in child protection and welfare as set out in the school's Child Safeguarding Statement, the Children First Act 2015 and Children First National Guidance 2017, the Addendum to Children First (2019) and 2025, Children First National Guidance 2017, the Addendum to Children First (2019) and (2025), and the Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025.

Designated Liaison Person

Name:	Denis Ring
Date Appointed:	September 2003

Relevant Person

(In schools this is the DLP)

Name:	Denis Ring
Contact details:	denis.ring@blackwatercs.com
Date Appointed:	September 2003

Deputy Designated Liaison Person

Name:	Maria O'Brien
Date Appointed:	September 2017

Contact details for Tusla

Contact Name

Tusla Child & Family Agency

Address

Waterford Community Services Cork Road Waterford

Contact Number
051 301450

Contact details for An Garda Síochána

Contact Name

School Liaison Officer

Address

Dungarvan Garda Station Youghal Road Dungarvan Co. Cork

Contact Number

058 48600

Checklist for review of the Child Safeguarding Statement

1. When did the board first formally adopt a Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment in accordance with the Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025? For most schools this will be March 2018, as outlined in Section 9.9 of the procedures.

Date first Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment adopted by the school:

March 2018

2(a) Where is the Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment displayed in the school? For example, in a prominent place near the main entrance to the school.

The Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment is displayed on a notice board at the 2 main entrances of the school. The noticeboard is in a prominent position close to the entrance door.

(b) Is there a student-friendly version, with a photograph of the Designated Liaison Person, displayed beside the Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment?

☒ Yes

(c) Other than displaying in a prominent place near the main entrance to the school, how have students been made aware of the student-friendly version?

☒ Displayed at all student entrances

☒ On school website

☐ School journal

☐ Other: (please state)

Year Induction Programme SPHE Classes Electronic noticeboards throughout the school

3. Has the board used the most recent Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment Template and formally adopted, without modification, the Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025?

☒ Yes

What is the date of the previous review of the Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment?

Date: September 2025

4. Has the Board included a written assessment of risk as required under the Children First Act 2015? (This includes considering the specific issue of online safety as required by the Addendum to Children First (2019)?

☒ Yes

5. Is there a written protocol in place authorising immediate action for cases which require an employee to be immediately absented from school for child safeguarding reasons in line with Appendix C of the Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025?

☒ Yes

6. Has the Board reviewed and updated the written assessment of risk as part of this overall review (for example, to include shower facilities, changing rooms, swimming, online engagements to facilitate learning). Boards should refer to the Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment Template for examples.

☒ Yes

Date of this review: September 22nd 2026

7. How has the Board ensured that the Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment is provided to the patron, the parents' association and all parents of children in the school? Give dates of emails/letters/texts/links provided.

BCS Website has an updated and ratified copy of the Child Safeguarding Statement & Risk Assessment and there is a hardcopy visible on all entrances to the school building.

8. How has the Board sought the feedback of parents, students and school personnel (teaching and non-teaching) on the Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment?

Has the school engaged with each of the above through, for example, a meeting or survey. The support documents CSS 5, CSS 6 and CSS 7 can be used to support this engagement. Details of how feedback was sought should be outlined below.

(a) Parents

All updated and current documentation is available on our school website and / or

upon Request from the school office.

Our annual school survey to parents asks parents for feedback on our current Child safeguarding & Risk Assessment

(b) Students

Our Student Council is provided with an annual updated version of the Child Safeguarding & Risk Assessment documentation and provides relevant feedback.

BCS annual student survey

(c) School Personnel

Annual training on Child Protection Procedures is outlined at staff meetings, and a CSS checklist is undertaken by all staff members at periodic meetings throughout the year. Opportunity to provide feedback is given at the meetings and with the completion of the Staff End of year surveys

All staff are provided with training and receive certification regarding Child Protection Procedures.

New staff induction outlines the key areas of Child Protection Procedures and allows clarification if required.

9. Outline any aspects of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment and/or its implementation that require further improvement, including any complaints or suggestions for improvements, which the Board has identified:

Increased use of AI on social media platforms.

10. Outline details of how areas for improvement have been adequately addressed including whether an action plan with appropriate timelines has been put in place:

Updated Acceptable usage Policy and increased investment in digital literacy classes in Junior Cycle.

11. Has the template for Notification regarding the board of management's review of the Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment been used to inform the school community and relevant parties that they have fulfilled their statutory obligation to annually review the school's Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment?

☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A

Training

12. Give details of when the DLP and DDLP most recently attended child protection training for DLP/DDLPs:

DLP: Denis Ring	Date: April 2025

DDLP: Maria O'Brien	Date: April 2025

13. Give details of child protection training attended by any members of the Board and dates attended:

Online Child protection training provided by ACCS regarding the Child protection Procedures for schools in October 2025.

14. How has the Board ensured that all school personnel (including new school personnel, temporary staff and substitutes) have been made aware of their responsibilities under the Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025 and the Children First Act 2015? For example, completing e-learning or other training, use of department's supports for school personnel when reviewing the Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment, induction/mentoring system for new personnel, or other measures. How are records of the training completed maintained by the school?

All staff have received training in preparation for the introduction of Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025 by Oide visiting the whole staff and providing a full training day. All copies of certification have been kept by School Management for existing and new personnel in BCS.

Child Protection Oversight Report (CPOR)

15. Has the Board received a Principal's Child Protection Oversight Report (CPOR) at every ordinary meeting of the Board held since the last review of the Child Safeguarding Statement was undertaken which contains all the information required under each of the four headings set out in Section 12.3 of the Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025?

☒ Yes ☐ No

16. Since the Board's last review of the Child Safeguarding Statement, if there have been cases presented for oversight as part of the CPOR, has the Board been provided with and reviewed all records relevant to the CPOR?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☒ N/A

17. Have these cases been anonymised and redacted as necessary?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☒ N/A

18. Since the Board's last review Child Safeguarding Statement, if there have been cases presented for oversight as part of the CPOR, do the minutes of the board meeting:

(a) specify the anonymised documents provided to the board as part of the CPOR

☐ Yes ☐ No ☒ N/A

(b) use unique codes to record child protection matters?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☒ N/A

19. The board has undertaken the review of the Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment and has issued/published notification confirming same.

☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A

Reporting

20. Where are all records relating to child protection filed and stored in a secure manner? For example, stored securely in the principal's office in such as manner as only the DLP and DDLP and the chairperson when acting as DLP will have access to these records.

All documentation relating to Child Protection Procedures are held in a secured filing cabinet in the Principal's office and access is restricted to DLP and DDLP in his absence.

21. How does the Board ensure that child protection procedures in relation to reporting to Tusla /An Garda Síochána are followed in full? The Board should indicate that the DLP follows the procedures outlined in the Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025 for reporting of all child protection concerns.

The DLP follows all procedures as outlined in the Child Protection Procedures for School 2025 for the reporting of all child protection concerns.

Curriculum

22. The Board should outline the steps it has taken to ensure that the SPHE, RSE, and Wellbeing curriculum is appropriately planned for and delivered to the children and young people in the school.

The BOM is satisfied that: The Programme for wellbeing at Junior Cycle is being fully implemented in accordance with DEY guidelines. SPHE and RSE programmes are timetabled and delivered according to DEY guidelines The date of the most recent of the most recent policy review or curriculum implementation is noted.

For primary schools, it should confirm that:

- Aspects of all three strands (SPHE, RSE, Wellbeing) are covered each year.
- The Stay Safe programme is taught in its entirety in one year – at least once during infants, 1st/2nd class, 3rd/4th class, and 5th/6th class. Schools will be informed if, in the future, the Department approves an alternative or replacement to the Stay Safe Programme.
- The school plan outlines provision for RSE across each of the different class levels/stages.
- The date of the most recent policy review or curricular implementation is noted.

For post-primary schools, it should confirm that:

- The Wellbeing Programme for Junior Cycle is being implemented.
- RSE and SPHE are being appropriately delivered.
- The date of the most recent policy review or curricular implementation is noted.

Vetting and Recruitment

The board should be satisfied that procedures to ensure that all statutory requirements in relation to vetting, statutory declarations and forms of undertaking are met. The board should refer to the school's recruitment procedures about how references of all school personnel are checked and how vetting outcomes are managed before appointment or work in the school is undertaken. Schools under the aegis of Education and Training Boards (ETB) should outline how they adhere to ETB recruitment processes.

If joint agreements are used for the visiting coaches or for school placement students, this should be included. If the school is part of teacher sharing arrangements (see section 10.2 of the procedures), the vetting oversight actions taken should be included.

23. The Board should indicate how it is satisfied that:

(a) the statutory requirements for Garda Vetting are met.

ACCS training has been undertaken by Clerical and senior management regarding garda vetting requirements.

All new personnel are required to submit full vetting requirements before they commence employment in BCS.

Existing staff are reminded on a periodic basis to ensure up to date vetting is in their files.

(b) the department's requirements in relation to the provision of a child protection related statutory declaration and associated form of undertaking are met.

Before any person is employed by BCS the following process is carried out and all documentation retained in their personnel file\;

- Garda Vetting is completed.
- A statutory declaration is signed and witnessed.

- The associated undertaking is signed.
- All child protection and safeguarding requirements have been met.

(c) thorough recruitment and selection procedures are applied by the school in relation to all school personnel (employees and volunteers).

Adherence to all vetting compliance is adhered to before employment commences for all new personnel, any volunteers coming to the school are required to submit their Garda Vetting.

All visitors in the school sign in at the reception area and wear a visitor badge for the duration of their stay.

Statement by the Board

The Board should make an overall statement as to its satisfaction that the Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment and child protection procedures are being fully and adequately implemented by the school.

The Board of Management is satisfied that:

The Child Safeguarding Statement remains appropriate.

Risks identified are adequately addressed

Procedures are operating effectively

Staff are aware of their safeguarding responsibilities

The BOM are is satisfied that the school continues to comply with the requirements of the Children First Act 2015 and the Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025

Signed*: Colette Power

Chairperson of the board of management

Date: September 22nd 2026

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