

## Child Safeguarding Statement

Rathmichael School is a primary school providing primary education to pupils from Junior Infants to Sixth Class/First Year to Leaving Certificate Year

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 2017](#) and [Tusla Guidance on the preparation of Child Safeguarding Statements](#), the Board of Management of Rathmichael School 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 2017 as part of this overall Child Safeguarding Statement
- 2 The Designated Liaison Person (DLP) is Naomi Rousseau
- 3 The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is Katie Fox
- 4 The Relevant Person is Naomi Rousseau
- 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 2017 and to the relevant agreed disciplinary procedures for school staff which are published on the DE website.

- In relation to the selection or recruitment of staff and their suitability to work with children, the school adheres to the statutory vetting requirements of the [National Vetting Bureau \(Children and Vulnerable Persons\)](#) Acts 2012 to 2016 and to the wider duty of care guidance set out in relevant Garda vetting and recruitment circulars published by the Department of Education and available on the DE 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 2017, including in the case of registered teachers, those in relation to mandated reporting under the Children First Act 2015.
- In this school the Board has appointed the above named DLP as the “relevant person” (as defined in the Children First Act 2015) to be the first point of contact in respect of the school’s child safeguarding statement.
- 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 DE 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 12th Oct 2022

This Child Safeguarding Statement was reviewed by the Board of Management on 28/5/2024.

This policy is review annually.

Signed:   
 Chairperson of Board of Management  
 Date: 16/5/2023

Signed:   
 Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management  
 Date: 16/5/2023

## Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment Rathmichael Parish National School

In accordance with section 11 of the Children First Act 2015 and with the requirement of Chapter 8 of the *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017*, the following is the Written Risk Assessment of

Rathmichael Parish National School.

List of School Activities:	The school has the following procedures in place to address the risks of harm identified in this assessment”	Risk Level	The School has identified the following risks of harm
One to one teaching	School has glass panels in doors of all classrooms where one to one teaching takes place.	M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Risk of harm not being recognised or reported properly by school personnel</li> <li>• Risk of child being harmed in the school by a member of volunteer/visitor/school personnel/another child or while attending school or participating in a school related activity such as a school tour</li> <li>• Risk of harm due to bullying of child</li> <li>• Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children in school or while attending a school related activity</li> <li>• Risk of harm due to children inappropriately accessing/using computers, social media, phones and other devices while at school</li> <li>• Risk of harm to children with SEN who have particular vulnerabilities</li> <li>• Risk of non-teaching of Curricular Provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe etc</li> </ul>
Care of children with special needs including medical and intimate care needs	School has Intimate Care Needs Policy. Two adults are present for all intimate care needs procedures. This may be SNAs or teachers depending on availability.	M	
Toilet areas	Single use toilets present in all classrooms. Usage and supervision policy in place for yard toilets. Only one child permitted to use the yard toilets at a time. If a parent asks to use the facilities, perhaps with a young child, he/she must use the staff toilet.	M	
Curricular provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe Programme	School implements SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe Programmes and facilitates staff training regularly.	L	
Recruitment of new staff	Child Safeguarding Statement and DES procedures made available to all staff. The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation and relevant circulars in relation to recruitment & Garda vetting Staff are introduced to relevant policies, including Critical Incident Management Plan. Staff to view Tusla training module and any other online training offered by PDST, or provide certificate to prove training as previously been undertaken.	M	
Management of challenging behaviour amongst pupils	Amongst others, the following policies are in place: Health and Safety Policy, Code of Behaviour and SEN Policy.	L	
Visiting Teachers/External Sports Coaches – e.g. Co curricular teachers or speciality workshops or cycle training.	Garda vetting procedures in place. Children remain in the care of the Class Teacher. No one-to-one contact.	L	
Students participating in work experience	Work Experience Policy in place. All students over 16 years of age Garda vetted. Child Safeguarding Statement. No one-to-one access, supervised by Teacher. Students remain under the insurance of their Secondary School.	L	
3 <sup>rd</sup> Level students participating in School Placement	All students must be Garda vetted. Letter of agreement completed with 3 <sup>rd</sup> Level College. Child Safeguarding Statement. Supervised by Teacher. Made aware of the school's policies and procedures.	L	
Volunteers / Parent Helpers/ Library	Garda vetting procedures in place. No one-to-one access permitted. Children remain under supervision of Teacher.	M	
PTA Events (Pancake Party etc)	Garda vetting procedures in place. No personal photographs permitted. Children remain in the care and supervision of the Teacher.	L	
International Interns	Vetting procedures from home country. Selected by college; reference supplied by college. Statutory Declaration and Form of Undertaking provided. Irish Garda Vetting also completed.	L	
Swimming lessons	Coaches have completed Garda vetting. Teachers enter changing rooms to supervise as necessary. Staff do not assist with drying/dressing with the exception of children with special needs who are assisted by an SNA, in view of the accompanying teacher. No child to be alone with a staff member or coach at anytime. No child to be in changing area alone at anytime. Teachers ensure toilets/changing areas are empty before our pupils enter facility.	M	
Use of off-site facilities for school activities (hockey, athletics etc)	Insurance in place. High adult – pupil ratio. Coaches are Garda Vetted. Pupils are supervised at all times. No child to be alone with a staff member or coach at anytime. No child to be in changing/toilet area alone at anytime. Teachers ensure toilets/changing areas are empty before our pupils enter facility.	M	

Sports Day	Supervision by parents and teachers. Detailed information letter to parents outlining roles, responsibilities, safety areas etc. Pupils can only use the toilet facilities accompanied by teacher or own parent.	M	
Supervision of children at playtime, admission & dismissal times.	Yard supervision policy and procedures in place to ensure appropriate supervision of children. Rota maintained by Principal. Children who are unwell must be supervised by a teacher in a classroom, not outside the staffroom.	L	
After-School Activities	Activities organised by teachers who are Garda vetted. External personnel also Garda Vetted.	L	
Use of church	Children are always supervised by teachers when using the church. Children are supervised when using toilets in this location.	L	
Use of ICT by pupils or staff	ICT and Acceptable Use policies in place. Internet Content Filtering Level 4 is provided by the Schools' Broadband Service. Pupils are never left unattended with IT Equipment. Internet Safety lessons taught to all pupils, specific workshops for pupils in senior classrooms	L	
Use of mobile phones by pupils	Mobile phone policy in place for pupils; not permitted to be used without authorisation.	L	
Bullying	Anti-bullying Policy and Procedures in place which fully adheres to the DES requirements. Walk Tall and well-being programmes taught in all classes (linked to SPHE).	L	
School Access	Front door access by security bell & camera. Gates closed during school day. Visitors/parents must sign in at office. Access to classrooms and yard area during the school day is highly restricted and monitored. CCTV cameras in place to monitor access.	L	
Administration of First Aid/Medicine	Administration of Medicine policy. Training provided on specific conditions as necessary (eg: EpiPens). Trained First Aiders on staff (3). First Aid kits available. Defibrillator available in school office.	L	
School trips & coach hire	The school has a policy regarding school tours in place – this is strictly adhered to. Fully supervised by teachers. Venues chosen after careful consideration of safety and educational value. Children are not allowed to use toilet facilities without teacher supervision, toilets are checked to ensure they are empty before entering etc. No pupil left alone with one adult. Gaeltacht/overnight trips have strict procedures in place regarding behaviour. All host families are vetted and have completed a statutory declaration.	M	
Use of school premises by other organisations during the school day or after school hours	If applicable, staff are fully vetted and group must have a Child Protection Policy in place. Their staff do not come into contact with our pupils.	L	
Care of pupils with specific vulnerabilities/ needs such as Pupils from ethnic minorities/migrants Members of the Traveller community Lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender (LGBT) children Pupils perceived to be LGBT Pupils of minority religious faiths Children in care Children on CPNS	Specific policies and procedures are in place, such as the SEN Policy and Anti – Bullying Policy.	L	

Training of school personnel in Child Protection Matters:

- Child Safeguarding Statement and DES procedures made available to all staff. CSS will be reviewed annually. Rathmichael Parish National School personnel are required to adhere to the Child Protection Procedures 2017 and registered teachers are required to adhere to the Children First Act 2015.
- Staff members will complete the Túsla and PDST Child Protection eLearning Programmes.
- DLP and DDLP to attend PDST face to face training. Staff are encouraged to avail of relevant training regularly.
- BOM retains all records of staff, mandated persons, Stay Safe Teaching and Board training. Board members are encouraged to avail of relevant training.
- Health & Safety Policy in place. Annually reviewed.

**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 2017*

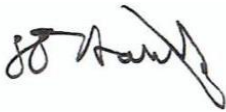
In undertaking this risk assessment, the Board of Management has endeavoured to identify as far as possible the risks of harm that are relevant to this school and to ensure that adequate procedures are in place to manage all risks identified. While it is not possible to foresee and remove all risk of harm, the school has in place the procedures listed in this risk assessment to manage and reduce risk to the greatest possible extent.

This Child Safeguarding Statement was adopted by the Board of Management on 12th Oct 2022

This Child Safeguarding Statement was reviewed by the Board of Management on 28/5/2024.

This policy is review annually.

Signed:



Chairperson of Board of Management

Date: 16/5/2023

Signed:



Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Date: 16/5/2023