



Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment (of any potential harm)

Rathduff NS is a primary school with special classes 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 2017](#) and [Tusla Guidance on the preparation of Child Safeguarding Statements](#), the Board of Management of Rathduff NS 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 _____ Alan Dennehy _____
- 3 The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is ___ Triona O Connor _____
- 4 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;



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- 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 pupil with a special vulnerability.

5 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



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- Encourages Board of Management members to avail of relevant training
 - The Board of Management maintains records of all staff and Board member training
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- 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 abovenamed DLP as the “relevant person” (as defined in the Children First Act 2015) to be the first point of contact in respect of the schools 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.
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- 6 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.



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- 7 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 09/03/2018 .

This Child Safeguarding Statement was reviewed by the Board of Management on 10/03/2021.

Signed: Christopher M. Casey

Chairperson of Board of Management

Signed: Alan Dennehy

Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Date: 10/03/2021

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Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment

Written Assessment of Risk of Rathduff NS

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 Rathduff NS.

1. List of school activities	2. The school has identified the following risk of harm in respect of its activities –	3. The school has the following procedures in place to address the risks of harm identified in this assessment -
Training of school personnel in Child Protection matters.	Harm not recognised or reported promptly.	<p>Child Safeguarding Statement & DES procedures made available to all staff.</p> <p>DLP & DDLP to attend PDST face to face training. All Staff to view Túsla training module & any other online training offered by PDST. BOM members and PA members to avail of on line Tusla Training. BOM records all records of staff, board & PA training.</p>



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One to one teaching	Harm by school personnel.	School has policy in place for one to one teaching. Open doors. Table between teacher and pupils. Glass in window.
Care of Children with special needs, including intimate care needs.	Harm by school personnel.	Policy on intimate care.
Toilet Areas	Inappropriate behaviour.	Usage and supervision policy.
Curricular Provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe.	Non- teaching of same.	School implements SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe in full.
LGBT Children/ Pupils perceived to be LGBT.	Bullying.	Anti- Bullying Policy. Anti-Cyber Bullying Policy. Code of Behaviour.
Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils.	Harm from older pupils, unknown adults in the playground.	Arrival and dismissal supervised by SNA's/ Principal & Deputy Principal. (Teacher from ISM team supervises if Principal/Deputy Principal are unavailable)



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Managing of challenging behaviour amongst pupils, including appropriate use of restraint.	Injury to pupils and staff.	Restraint Policy. Health and Safety Policy. Code of Behaviour.
Sport Coaches	Harm to pupils.	Policy & Procedure in place. Child Safeguarding Statement Garda Vetting Policy
Students participating in work experience.	Harm by student.	Work experience policy. Child safeguarding Statement.
Recreation breaks for pupils.	Unauthorised adults in yards.	Supervision Policy.
Classroom teaching.	Harm by teacher. Policies and procedures not implemented.	Review of safety policies and procedures regularly by staff, in particular new staff. Child Safe guarding statement.
Outdoor teaching activities.	Harm not recognised or reported promptly. Harm by school personnel.	Supervision Policy. Fire Drill & Evacuation Policy. Abuse by school employees- Guidelines. Child safeguarding statement.



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Sporting Activities.	Harm by school personnel & others.	Policies & procedures in place- Bus safety, Health & Safety, School Tours/ Excursions, Supervision, Swimming, First Aid, Administration Of Med.
School Outings.	Harm by school personnel & others.	Policies & procedures in place- Bus safety, Health & Safety, School Tours/ Excursions, Supervision, Swimming, First Aid, Administration of Med.
Use of toilet/ changing/ shower areas in school(swimming)(sporting events).	Harm by school personnel & others. Inappropriate behaviour. Harm not recognised or reported promptly.	Child safeguarding statement. Health & Safety Policy. Supervision Policy. Intimate Care & Toileting Policy. Administration of Medication. First Aid Policy. Swimming Policy.
Annual Sports Day.	Harm by school personnel & others. Unauthorised people around children.	Policy for Sports Day. Supervision Policy. Administration of Medication. First Aid Policy.
Fundraising event involving pupils (e.g. bag packing, choir outing)	Harm by school personnel & others. Activity escorts not aware of safety policies & procedures.	Child Safeguarding Statement. Garda Vetting. Excursions Policy.



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Use of off-site facilities for school activities (E.g. School tours, Cór Fhéile, Cork Pops, Lifetime Lab etc.)	Harm by school personnel & others. Harm not recognised or reported.	Child Safeguarding Statement. Request Safeguarding Statement from off-site facilities. Administration of Medication. First Aid Policy. Excursions Policy.
School transport arrangements including the use of bus escorts (taxi).	Harm by school personnel & others. Policies & Procedures not followed. Harm not recognised or reported.	Child Safeguarding Statement. Personnel training in procedures. Garda Vetting.
Management of challenging behaviour amongst pupils, including appropriate use of restraint where required.	Harm to pupils. Harm not recognised or reported. Lack of training.	Child Safeguarding Statement. Child Protection Policy (Restraint Policy) Procedures & Training made available to all staff (First Aid & Manual Handling)
Administration of Medicine.	Harm to pupils.	Policy on Administration of Medication (Signed by parent/ guardian on enrolment.)
Administration of First Aid.	Harm to pupils.	First Aid Policy.



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Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst pupils.	Harm to pupils.	Anti-Bullying & Anti Cyber Bullying Policy. Staff Training.
Use of external personnel to supplement curriculum.	Harm to pupils. Harm not recognised.	School code of conduct(Staff). Garda Vetting.
Care of pupils with specific vulnerabilities/ needs such as <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☐ Pupils from ethnic minorities/ migrants ☐ Members of the Traveller community ☐ Lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender (LGBT) children ☐ Pupils perceived to be LGBT ☐ Children of minority religious faiths ☐ Children in care ☐ Children on CPNS 	Bullying/ non-inclusion.	Anti- Bullying Policy. Inclusion Policy. Phone Policy. Anti-Cyber Bullying Policy. ICT Policy. Acceptable Usage Policy.
Use of school premises by other organisations during the school day.	Harm to pupils.	Health & Safety Policy. Good Practices & Procedures. Hire of School Premises.



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<p>Students participating in work experience in the school.</p>	<p>Harm by students.</p>	<p>Work Experience Policy Child Safeguarding Statement. Garda Vetting</p>
<p>Use of information and Communication Technology by pupils in school.</p>	<p>Bullying.</p>	<p>ICT Policy. Anti- Bullying Policy. Anti-Cyber Bullying Policy Code of Behaviour. Phone Policy. Acceptable usage policy.</p>
<p>Recruitment of school personnel including-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Teachers <input type="checkbox"/> SNA's <input type="checkbox"/> Caretaker/Secretary/ Cleaners <input type="checkbox"/> Sports Coaches <input type="checkbox"/> External Tutors/ Guest Speakers <input type="checkbox"/> Volunteers / Parents in school activities <input type="checkbox"/> Visitors/ contractors present in school during school hours <input type="checkbox"/> Visitors/ Contractors present during after school activities 	<p>Harm not recognised properly or promptly reported.</p>	<p>Child Safeguarding Statements & DES procedures made available to all staff.</p> <p>Staff to view Túsla training module and any other online training offered by PDST.</p> <p>Policy of Parents/ Volunteers.</p> <p>Policy on Visiting Contractors.</p> <p>Vetting Procedures; The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda Vetting legislation and relevant DES circulars in relation to recruitment & Garda Vetting.</p> <p>The school has a code of conduct for school</p>



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		<p>personnel (teaching and non-teaching staff). The school has a Special Educational Needs Policy.</p>
<p>Application of sanctions under the school's Code of Behaviour including detention of pupils, confiscation of phones etc.</p>	<p>Harm not recognised.</p>	<p>Code of Behaviour. Mobile Phone & Electronic Games Policy. Phone Policy. <u>The school-</u> Has provided each member of staff with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement. Ensures all new staff members are provided with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement. Encourages staff to avail of all relevant training. Maintains records of all staff and board member training. Encourages BOM members to avail of relevant training.</p>
<p>Student teachers undertaking training placement in school.</p>	<p>Harm by student.</p>	<p>Work Experience Policy (Student Teachers). Child Safeguarding Statement.</p>



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Use of video/ photography/ other media to record school events.	Harm not recognised. Harm to Pupils.	Enrolment Form & Consent Form. Information & Communication Technology Policy. Internet Safety Policy.
After school use of school premises by other organisations.	Harm not recognised.	Hire of school premises. Child Safeguarding Statement. Child Protection Procedures for non-teaching staff.

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.



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