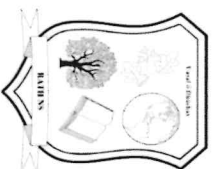


Scoil Náisiúnta an Chroí Ró-Naofa

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An Ráth
Bailebriotáis,
Portlaoise,
Co. Laois
R32Y510

Child Safeguarding Statement

Rath N.S. is a Catholic primary school providing primary education to pupils from Junior Infants to Sixth Class. In addition to its mainstream classes, it has two special classes for children with autism.

In accordance with the requirements of the Children First Act 2015, Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children 2017, the Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools 2023 and Tusla Guidance on the preparation of Child Safeguarding Statements, the Board of Management of Rath 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 2023 as part of this overall Child Safeguarding Statement
- 2 The Designated Liaison Person (DLP) is Tommy Fitzgerald.
- 3 The Deputy Designated Liaison Person is Mairead McCormack.
- 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;

- 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/employee 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 2023 and to the relevant agreed disciplinary procedures for school staff which are published on the gov.ie 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 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 2023, 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 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 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.

- 6 This statement has been published on the school’s website and has been provided to all members of school personnel, the Parents’ Association 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.
- 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 February 6th 2019.

This Child Safeguarding Statement was reviewed by the Board of Management on November 8th 2023.

Signed: <u>Tom Blanche</u>	Signed: <u>Tommy Fitzgerald</u>
Chairperson of Board of Management	Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Date: 8-11-23

Date: 8-11-23

Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment

Written Assessment of Risk of Rath N.S.

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 2023*, the following is the Written Risk Assessment of Rath N.S.

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 -
Opening/Closing Times and Break Times	Access to pupils by strangers or other adults. Risk of harm from other pupils.	Supervision by SNA's from 9.00 a.m. Adequate Supervision at break times with EIGHT adults supervising at any given time.
Visitors/Visiting Tutors	Tutors behaving inappropriately. Tutors lacking awareness of child safety issues.	Visiting tutors from reputable organisations with appropriate vetting. Sign in/Sign out Glass panels in doors.
School Tours/Outings	Access to pupils by strangers. Inappropriate activity by pupils. Dangers posed by unfamiliar environment	Adequate supervision Adequate planning and preparation by staff. School Tour policy followed
Access/Egress	Access to pupils by strangers or other adults. Flight risk for some pupils	Front gates supervised on egress.
Swimming Lessons/Sports Events	Potential for unsupervised times in changing areas. Access to pupils by strangers or other adults.	Adequate supervision provided. Trained lifeguards in pool
Social Media	Potential for bullying. Potential for grooming of pupils	Pupils not allowed mobile phones. Anti-Bullying Policy. Information sessions for pupils, parents and staff.

<p>One-to-one teaching/supervision</p> <p>Use of off-site facilities for school activities</p> <p>School transport/Bus escorts</p> <p>Care of children with special educational needs, including intimate care where needed.</p> <p>Administration of medicine and first aid</p> <p>Curricular provision in respect of SPHE, RSE Stay Safe</p>	<p>Risk of child being harmed in the school by a member of school personnel</p> <p>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</p> <p>Risk of child being harmed outside of the school by a member of school personnel.</p> <p>Risk of harm to children with SEN who have particular vulnerabilities</p> <p>Risk of harm to child while a child is receiving intimate care.</p> <p>Risk of harm to children with SEN who have particular vulnerabilities.</p> <p>Risk of child being harmed in the school by a member of school personnel.</p> <p>Risk of children being ill-informed of safety and protection issues and how best to protect themselves and others</p>	<p>As a school, we try to limit the use of one-to-one teaching/supervision activities. However, this is necessary and most effective at times. When one-to-one does occur, the door will remain open at all times. (See ARC Policy also)</p> <p>School Personnel are required to adhere to the Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2023 and all registered teaching staff are required to adhere to the Children First Act 2015.</p> <p>External persons used to supplement delivery of the curriculum will be made aware of our Child Safeguarding Statement.</p> <p>The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation and relevant DES circulars in relation to recruitment and Garda vetting.</p> <p>A bus escort must accompany the bus/taxi driver at all times.</p> <p>The school has an Intimate Care Policy.</p> <p>The school has in place a policy and procedures for the administration of medication to pupils.</p> <p>The school implements in full the Stay Safe Programme.</p> <p>The school implements in full the SPHE curriculum including the RSE programme.</p>
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<p>Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst pupils.</p> <p>Recruitment of school personnel including teachers, SNA's, secretary, cleaners, sports coaches, external tutors, guest speakers, volunteers, parents in school activities.</p>	<p>Risk of child being harmed in the school by another child. Risk of harm due to bullying of child. Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children in school.</p> <p>Risk of child being harmed in the school by a member of school personnel</p>	<p>The school has an Anti-Bullying Policy which fully adheres to the requirements of the Department's Anti-Bullying Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools. The school has a yard/playground supervision policy to ensure appropriate supervision of children during assembly, dismissal and breaks.</p> <p>All school personnel are provided with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement. School Personnel are required to adhere to the Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2023 and all registered teaching staff are required to adhere to the Children First Act 2015, including staff training The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation and relevant departmental circulars in relation to recruitment and Garda vetting.</p>
<p>Use of Information and Communication Technology by pupils in school.</p> <p>Students participating in work experience in the school.</p>	<p>Risk of harm due to children inappropriately accessing/using computers, social media, phones and other devices while at school.</p> <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. Risk of harm caused by member of school personnel accessing/circulating inappropriate material via social media, texting, digital device or other manner. Risk of child being harmed in the school by volunteer or visitor to the school.</p>	<p>The school has in place an Internet Acceptable Usage policy in respect of usage of ICT. by pupils and school personnel. The school does not allow pupils bring their mobile phones to school. The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation and relevant DE circulars in relation to recruitment and Garda vetting.</p>

<p>Use of video/photography /other media to record school events</p> <p>Critical Incident</p>	<p>The risk of inappropriate use of images</p> <p>Risk of trauma to a child in the event of a critical incident.</p>	<p>The school has a comprehensive policy on the use of images and videos.</p> <p>Permission for the use of photographs/images on the school website, social media platforms and publications must be received from parents.</p> <p>The school has a Critical Incident Policy in place.</p>
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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 2011 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 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.