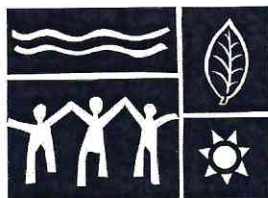


RATHFARNHAM



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Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment Template

Child Safeguarding Statement

Rathfarnham ETNS 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 RETNS 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 **Louise Ledwith**
- 3 The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is **Anna O'Herlihy**
- 4 The Relevant Person is **Louise Ledwith**
(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:

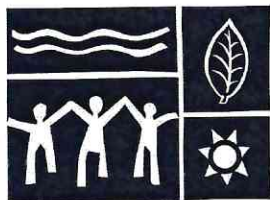
- recognise that the protection and welfare of children is of paramount importance, regardless of all other considerations;
- fully comply with its statutory obligations under the Children First Act 2015 and other relevant legislation relating to the protection and welfare of children;
- fully co-operate 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

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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: _____

Chairperson of Board of Management

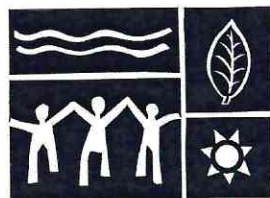
Signed: _____

Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Date: _____

Date: _____

Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment



- Visitors/contractors present during after school activities
- Application of sanctions under the school's Code of Behaviour such as confiscation of phones etc.
- Use of video/photography/other media to record school events

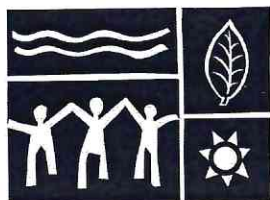
2. The school has identified the following risk of harm in respect of its activities:

- Risk of harm not recognised or reported properly and/ or promptly by school personnel Risk of harm to child by school personnel, other children
- Risk of harm to child by volunteer or visitor to the school
- Risk of harm to child 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
- Risk of harm to child by unknown adults or known adults during remote learning during COVID 19 period
- Risk of harm to child as a result of inappropriate use of Information and Communication Technology in school
- Risk of harm caused by member of school personnel communicating with child 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 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 to child with AEN who has particular vulnerabilities, including medical vulnerabilities
- Risk of harm to child while a child is receiving intimate care Risk of harm due to inappropriate behaviour
- Risk of harm due to bullying
- Risk of harm due to non-teaching of curricular requirements
- Risk of harm in one-to-one teaching situation
- Risk of harm due to injury to children and/or staff

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

- School adheres to statutory vetting requirements of National Vetting Bureau and recruitment circulars published by DE
- The school's Child Safeguarding Statement & DE procedures provided to all staff.
- The Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2023 are made available to all school personnel
- 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 and it's Addendum (2019)
- The school complies with the agreed disciplinary procedures for teaching staff
- DLP & DDLP have attended PDST face to face training
- All Staff complete TUSLA training module & any other online training offered by PDST, and receive certification
- Board of management members encouraged to avail of relevant training BOM records staff and Board training
- Annual review checklist completed by Board of Management
- Regular awareness raising at staff meetings.

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Use of Information and Communication Technology in School

- Children taught about safe internet usage during each academic year before accessing the internet in school.
- Internet safety posters displayed by teachers.
- Outside agencies such as Zeeko and Barnardos deliver Internet Safety sessions to children on a regular basis
- Page on Internet Safety in Homework Journal
- Children, parents and staff are advised to visit websites such as www.webwise.ie for information on the safe usage of the internet.
- Staff receive regular CPD on Internet Safety
- The school's filtering system is used in order to minimise the risk of exposure to inappropriate material in school.
- ICT sessions are supervised by a teacher and children's use of the Internet is monitored.
- Teachers using interactive whiteboards and projectors are particularly vigilant and preview the material being presented in order to ensure that it is age appropriate and adheres to the conditions of the Acceptable Use Policy.
- Students do not upload or download software, music or videos without prior permission from a staff member.
- The use of any form of removal storage (such as memory sticks, CD-ROMs etc.) must be with the permission of a staff member.
- Students observe good 'netiquette' (i.e. etiquette on the internet) at all times and will not undertake any actions that may bring the school into disrepute. Good netiquette will be demonstrated to the children through activities on sites such as www.webwise.ie

Use of Information and Communication Technology including zoom for purposes of remote learning during COVID 19 period

- Emails from teachers sent to parents' email addresses
- Code of Behaviour for Online Classes or Meetings Staff guidance for using zoom securely
- Two staff members act as co-hosts on zoom for group sessions
- Parents expected to be within earshot of zoom sessions
- Education zoom licence with enhanced security settings
- Recording of zoom sessions prohibited
- Updated ICT Acceptable Use Policy for COVID period
- Consent from parents for use of online platforms

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 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 student body.

Mandatory Template 2: Checklist for Review of the Child Safeguarding Statement

The *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools (revised 2023)* require that the Board of Management must undertake a review of its Child Safeguarding Statement and that the following checklist shall be used for this purpose. **The review must be completed every 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 also 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 every two years.

The checklist is designed as an aid to conducting this review and is not intended as an exhaustive list of the issues to be considered. Individual Boards of Management shall include other items in the checklist that are of relevance to the school in question.

As part of the overall review process, Boards of Management should also assess relevant school policies, procedures, practices and activities vis a vis 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, the Addendum to Children First (2019) and the *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools (revised 2023)*.

	Yes/No
1. Has the Board formally adopted a Child Safeguarding Statement in accordance with the <i>Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools (revised 2023)</i> ?	Y
2. Is the Board satisfied that the Child Safeguarding Statement is displayed in a prominent place near the main entrance to the school?	Y
3. As part of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement, has the Board formally adopted, without modification, the <i>Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools (revised 2023)</i> ?	Y
4. Does the school's Child Safeguarding Statement include 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)	Y
5. Has the Board reviewed and updated where necessary the written assessment of risk as part of this overall review?	Y
6. Has the Risk Assessment taken account of the risk of harm relevant to online teaching and learning remotely?	Y
7. Has the DLP attended available child protection training?	Y
8. Has the Deputy DLP attended available child protection training?	Y
9. Have any members of the Board attended child protection training?	Y
10. Has the school appointed a DLP and a Deputy DLP?	Y
11. Are the relevant contact details (Tusla and An Garda Síochána) to hand?	Y
12. Has the Board arrangements in place to communicate the school's Child Safeguarding Statement to new school personnel?	Y
13. Is the Board satisfied that all school personnel have been made aware of their responsibilities under the <i>Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools (revised 2023)</i> and the Children First Act 2015?	Y
14. Has the Board received a Principal's Child Protection Oversight Report (CPOR) at each Board meeting held since the last review was undertaken?	Y
15. Since the Board's last review, did each CPOR contain all of the information required under each of the 4 headings set out in sections 9.5 to 9.8 inclusive of the procedures?	Y
16. Since the Board's last review, has the Board been provided with and reviewed all records relevant to the CPOR?	Y
17. Is the Board satisfied that the records provided are anonymised and redacted as necessary to ensure that the identities of children and any other parties, including school personnel, to whom the concern or report relates are not disclosed?	Y

41. Has the Board ensured that any areas for improvement that were identified in any previous review of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement have been adequately addressed?	Y
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*In schools where the ETB is the employer, the responsibility for meeting the employer's requirements rests with the ETB concerned. In such cases, this question should be completed following consultation with the ETB.

Signed Sharon Byrne Date 6/5/25

Chairperson, Board of Management

Signed Louise Laddell Date 6/5/25

Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Note: Where a school is undertaking its first review, references in this checklist to the "last review" shall be taken to refer to the date on which the Child Safeguarding Statement was first put in place.