



Rathbeggan N.S.

Dunshaughlin, Co. Meath

Tel: 01 8259891 e-mail: office@rathbeggannns.ie

Child Safeguarding Statement

Rathbeggan N.S. 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 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 Rathbeggan 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 2017 as part of this overall Child Safeguarding Statement.
- 2 The Designated Liaison Person (DLP) is: Lisa Callanan
- 3 The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is: Nessa O'Brien
- 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. The school will adhere to the following principles of best practice in child protection and welfare. The school will:
 - a. recognise that the protection and welfare of children is of paramount importance, regardless of all other considerations
 - b. fully comply with its statutory obligations under the Children First Act 2015 and other relevant legislation relating to the protection and welfare of children
 - c. fully co-operate with the relevant statutory authorities in relation to child protection and welfare matters
 - d. 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
 - e. develop a practice of openness with parents and encourage parental involvement in the education of their children; and
 - f. 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.

- 5 The following procedures/measures are in place:

- a. 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 DES website
 - b. 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 DES and available on the DES website
 - c. 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:
 - i. Has provided each member of staff with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement
 - ii. Ensures all new staff are provided with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement
 - iii. Encourages staff to avail of relevant training
 - iv. Encourages Board of Management members to avail of relevant training
 - v. The Board of Management maintains records of all staff and Board member training.
 - d. 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
 - e. 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.
- 6 All registered teachers employed by the school are mandated persons under the Children First Act 2015
- 7 In accordance with the Children First Act 2015, 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 attached as an appendix to these procedures
- 8 The various procedures referred to in this Statement can be accessed via the school's website, the DES website or will be made available on request by the school
- 9 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.

10 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 March 12th 2018.

Signed: Michael Mc Cann

Signed: Lisa Callanan

Chairperson of BoM

Principal/Secretary to the BoM

**Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment of Rathbeggan N.S.
(of any potential harm)**

List of School Activities	Risk Level	The School has identified the following Risk of Harm	The School has the following Procedures in place to address risk identified in this assessment
Training of school personnel in Child Protection matters	High	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 Tusla training module & any other online training offered by PDST</p> <p>BOM records all records of staff and board training</p>
One to one teaching	Med	Harm by school personnel	<p>School has procedures in place for one to one teaching</p> <p>Table between teacher and pupil</p> <p>Glass in window</p> <p>On days when there is only one teacher in the prefab, one to one teaching will occur in the main school building</p>
Care of Children with special needs, including intimate care needs	High	Harm by school personnel	Procedure for intimate care
Toilet areas in classrooms	High	Inappropriate behaviour	Supervision by staff
Toileting during yard	High	Inappropriate behaviour	<p>Emphasise toileting before yard time</p> <p>Children report back to the teacher on yard once they return from the toilet</p>

Curricular Provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay safe.	Med	Non-teaching of same	School implements SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe in full
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 • Pupils of minority religious faiths • Children in care 	Low	Bullying	Anti-Bullying Policy Code of Behaviour Friendship Week Educational awareness – Stay Safe SPHE
Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils	Med	Harm from older pupils Unknown adults on the playground Children crossing to County Club without parental supervision	Arrival and dismissal supervised by Principal. Parents (1 st -6 th) sign written consent at the beginning of the school year for their child(ren) to cross the road independently/walk/cycle home. JI & SI children are always collected by a parent/guardian at the gate.
Managing of challenging behaviour amongst pupils	High	Injury to pupils and staff	Health & Safety Statement Code Of Behaviour
Sports Coaches	Med	Harm to pupils	Vetting Disclosure (Circular 31/2016) for all external coaches. If possible, request safeguarding certificate. Class Teacher supervising at all times. Visitor sign-in/out
Students participating in work experience	Low	Harm by student	Child Safeguarding Statement. Vetting Disclosure (Circular 31/2016) Statutory Declaration Form & signed Form of Undertaking Class Teacher supervising at all times.

Classroom teaching	Med	Harm to pupils Inappropriate behaviour	Code of Professional Conduct Code of Behaviour Anti-bullying policy Safeguarding Statement Vetting Disclosure (Circular 31/2016) Statutory Declaration Form & signed Form of Undertaking Teacher in loco parentis Incidents are documented and retained by class teacher
Outdoor teaching activities	Med	Harm to pupils Inappropriate behaviour Injury to pupils/staff Flight risk	Code of Professional Conduct Code of Behaviour Anti-bullying policy Child Safeguarding Statement. Vetting Disclosure (Circular 31/2016) Statutory Declaration Form & signed Form of Undertaking Teacher in loco parentis Incidents are documented Gates are kept closed
Sporting Activities	High	Harm to pupils Inappropriate behaviour Injury to pupils/staff Flight risk Exposure to other adults	More than one staff member on the premises during any games/training (trainer to check this the day before) Matches during school time only and transport via buses
School outings	High	Harm to pupils Inappropriate behaviour Injury to pupils/staff Flight risk Exposure to other adults	More than one staff member in attendance Code of Behaviour Incidents are documented Parental consent forms (prior to trip) Teacher ensures access to parental contact details No child to be left alone with an external adult
Annual Sports Day	High	Harm to pupils Inappropriate behaviour	Gates closed Code of Behaviour

		Injury to pupils Flight risk Exposure to other adults	Parent sign-in/out
Fundraising events involving pupils	High	Harm to pupils Inappropriate behaviour Injury to pupils/staff Flight risk Exposure to other adults	Code of Behaviour Teachers present at all times Incidents documented Visitor sign-in/out
Administration of Medicine Administration of First Aid	High	Harm to pupils/staff Inappropriate behaviour	No adult to be alone with any child Serious incidents recorded in secretary's office Parents/guardians notified of serious incidents Administration of Medication policy
Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst pupils	Low	Bullying	Anti-Bullying Policy Code of Behaviour Friendship Week Educational awareness – Stay Safe Grow in Love/Alive-O SPHE Buddy benches
Use of external personnel to supplement curriculum	Med	Harm to pupils	Vetting Disclosure (Circular 31/2016), where appropriate. If possible, request safeguarding certificate. Class Teacher supervising at all times. Visitor sign-in/out
Recruitment of school personnel including - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teachers • SNA's • Caretaker/Secretary/Cleaners • Sports coaches • External Tutors/Guest Speakers • Volunteers/Parents in school activities 	High	Harm not recognised or properly or promptly reported	Child Safeguarding Statement & DES procedures made available to all staff Staff to view Tusla training module & any other online training offered by PDST Vetting Disclosure (Circular 31/2016) Statutory Declaration Form & signed Form of

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visitors/contractors present in school during school hours • Visitors/contractors present during after school activities 			<p>Undertaking</p> <p>Code of Professional Conduct</p> <p>Best Practice in RNS distributed</p>
Use of school premises by other organisation during school day	Med	<p>Harm to pupils</p> <p>Inappropriate behaviour</p> <p>Exposure to other adults</p>	<p>Teacher present, where possible.</p> <p>Visitor sign-in/out</p> <p>Vetting procedures (of organisation)</p> <p>Child Safeguarding Statement.</p> <p>Statutory Declaration Form & signed Form of Undertaking</p>
Use of Information and Communication Technology by pupils in school	High	<p>Bullying</p> <p>Exposure to inappropriate content</p> <p>Exposure to other adults</p>	<p>AUP</p> <p>Anti-Bullying Policy</p> <p>Code of Behaviour</p> <p>Teacher present at all times</p> <p>iPad contract</p> <p>SPHE Media Education</p> <p>Parent Workshop in Cyber Safety</p> <p>No access without permission</p> <p>Internet Safety week/demonstrations</p> <p>Community Garda Liaison</p> <p>PDST firewall</p>
Application of sanctions under the school's Code of Behaviour	High	<p>Inappropriate behaviour</p> <p>Harm to pupils/staff</p>	Code of Professional Conduct
Student teachers undertaking training placement in school	Med	Harm to pupils	<p>Vetting Disclosure (Circular 31/2016) (from college)</p> <p>If possible, request safeguarding certificate.</p> <p>Staff supervision except during inspections.</p>
Use of video/photography/other media to record school events	High	Distribution of materials/identifying information to unknown persons	<p>Staff Personnel use school devices</p> <p>Dojo/Edmodo are password protected and photographs</p>

		Harm to pupils/staff	of groups and classwork may be shared on this forum. No child to be named. Website/Facebook – parental consent prior to uploading. Groups and children’s work can be published with no names if consent was given.
After school use of school premises by other organisations	Med	Harm to pupils Exposure to other adults Inappropriate behaviour	Child Safeguarding Statement. Vetting Disclosure (Circular 31/2016) Statutory Declaration Form & signed Form of Undertaking If possible, request safeguarding certificate. Visitor sign-in/out
Changing to play on the field	High	Inappropriate behaviour Harm by school personnel	Up the field in school uniform/tracksuit with a change of footwear <u>OR</u> Each child brings in oversized tracksuit to put on over their uniform with a change of footwear
Changing for matches/training	High	Inappropriate behaviour Harm by school personnel	Children wear tracksuit on training/match days with their shorts and socks underneath.
Swimming lessons	High	Harm to pupils Exposure to other adults Inappropriate behaviour	Three staff in attendance No SNA to be left alone with any child who needs help changing – SNA to remain at the door of the cubicle (unlocked) and the teacher to remain nearby at all times. Segregate boys to one row of cubicles and girls to another One staff member to remain on the swimming deck and escort children to/from the toilet
Bus journeys e.g. Church, matches, library, tours, etc.	High	Harm to pupils Exposure to other adults Inappropriate behaviour	Staff supervision No child left alone Code of Behaviour Vetting procedures for bus driver Every child remain seated and wearing seat belts while the bus is moving

Church visits	High	Harm to pupils Exposure to other adults Inappropriate behaviour	Staff supervision No child left alone Code of Behaviour
---------------	------	---	---

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 risk assessment has been completed by the Board of Management on the 12th of March. It will be reviewed as part of the school’s annual review of its Child Safeguarding Statement.

Signed M.Mc Cann

Chairperson, Board of Management

Signed Lisa Callanan

Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management