Mandatory Template 1: Rathkeevin N.S Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment

Child Safeguarding Statement

Rathkeevin 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 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 Rathkeevin 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 **Mr. Seán Curran**

3 The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is **Ms. Helen O'Dea**

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 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
  - 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 schools child safeguarding statement.

- All registered teachers employed by the school are mandated persons under the Children First Act 2015.

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- 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.

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 21/03/19.

This Child Safeguarding Statement was reviewed by the Board of Management on 11/2/25 .

Signed: Pádín Ó Leocá

Chairperson of Board of Management

Signed: Seán Curran

Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Date: 11/2/25

Date: 11/2/25

Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment

Written Assessment of Risk of Rathkeevin 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 Rathkeevin National School

Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment (of any potential harm)

List of School Activities		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		• Harm not recognised or reported promptly	• Child Safeguarding Statement & DES procedures made available to all staff • DLP& DDLP to attend PDST face to face training • All Staff to view Túsla training module & any other online training offered by PDST • BOM records all records of staff and board training

Mandatory Template 1: Rathkeevin N.S Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment

One to one teaching		• Harm by school personnel	• School has a system in place for one to one teaching • Glass in door / Window in every door.
Toilet areas		• Inappropriate behaviour	• Usage and supervision system in place. • One girl/boy permitted to go to the bathroom on each occasion. *Outdoor toilets built to facilitate better supervision.*
Curricular Provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay safe.		• Non-teaching of same	• School implements SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe
LGBT Children/Pupils perceived to be LGBT		• Bullying	• Anti-Bullying Policy • Code of Behaviour • SPHE Programme fully implemented.

Mandatory Template 1: Rathkeevin N.S Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment

List of School Activities		The School has identified the following Risk of Harm	The School has the following Procedures in place to address risk identified in this assessment
Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils		• Harm from older pupils, unknown adults on the playground. • Children dropped early.	• Arrival and dismissal supervised by Teachers. • 9.00am -3.00pm • Regular reminders to Parents in School Newsletter.
Sports Coaches		• Harm to pupils	• System & Procedures in place • Supervision by Teachers • Garda vetted
Students participating in work experience		• Harm by student	• Work experience – guided by good practice. • Child Safeguarding Statement. • *Garda vetted in advance by their school*
Recreation breaks for pupils		• Harm by pupils	• Supervised • Wet weather- classroom supervision by Class Teacher
Classroom teaching			• Windows in doors
Sporting Activities		• Harm/Injury to pupils	• No mobile phones – Health & Safety Procedure • Transport not permitted involving Teachers/Parents cars – local arrangements between parents
School outings/Swimming (see notes)		• Harm to pupils	• *Teacher present, along with parents in the dressing rooms.*

Mandatory Template 1: Rathkeevin N.S Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment

List of School Activities		The School has identified the following Risk of Harm	The School has the following Procedures in place to address risk identified in this assessment
Annual Sports Day		• Harm to pupils	• Supervision by adults/teachers in attendance. • Male/Female Supervision • *Outdoor toilets provided to facilitate better supervision.*
Fundraising events involving pupils		• Harm to pupils	• Supervision by Male/Female parents • Staff present.
Use of off-site facilities for school activities			• Supervision by Male/Female staff and Parents as required.
School transport arrangements (including use of bus escorts)			• CIE transport arrangements. • Buses hired where possible. • Teachers/Parents vehicles not permitted for transport of children except where there's prior parental arrangement.
Care of any vulnerable pupils including intimate care where needed			• Special arrangements in place.
Administration of Medicine Administration of First Aid		• Harm to pupils	• Limited use • Not by School Personnel
Curricular provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe			• As per School Policy & Procedures
Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst pupils			• School and Class Rules on display • Anti-bullying Policy/Procedures. • Child Protection Policy/Procedures • Yard Procedure

Mandatory Template 1: Rathkeevin N.S Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment

List of School Activities		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		• Harm/Not • Fully informed ± not • Being recognised ± reported	• Full staff training re: Child Protection matters • Retraining summer term 2021
Use of external personnel to supplement curriculum		• Harm to pupils	• Supervised by Teacher • Garda Vetting • System/ Procedures in place • -Child Safeguarding Statement
Sick Children		• Harm to pupils	• Note of explanation / Permission to stay in Ms. English's room (note) – under review • *Following Review – All children must go outside. Sick children are permitted to sit in the shelter.*
Swimming		• Harm to pupils	• Supervision by vetted adults to and from toilet • Liaison with Pool Staff • Teachers not permitted to dress/undress children. May assist. • No mobile phones in pool areas. • Permission needed to assist another child • Children observed • Non school adults are observed in changing rooms

Mandatory Template 1: Rathkeevin N.S Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment

List of School Activities		The School has identified the following Risk of Harm	The School has the following Procedures in place to address risk identified in this assessment
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		• Harm to pupils	• All treated equally. • School Ethos • Code of Behaviour
Recruitment of school personnel including - • Teachers • SNA's • Caretaker/Secretary/Cleaners • Sports coaches • External Tutors/Guest Speakers • Volunteers/Parents in school activities • Visitors/contractors present in school during school hours • Visitors/contractors present during after school activities		• 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 Procedures • Vetting of Parents / Volunteers where applicable

Mandatory Template 1: Rathkeevin N.S Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment

List of School Activities		The School has identified the following Risk of Harm	The School has the following Procedures in place to address risk identified in this assessment
Use of Information and Communication Technology by pupils in school		• Bullying	• ICT policy • Anti-Bullying Policy • Code of Behaviour • Ban on Mobile Phones in School
Students participating in work experience in the school		Harm to pupils	• Garda vetted in advance of placement. • Responsibility of applicant's school
Student teachers undertaking training placement in school		Harm to Pupils	• Garda vetted in advance of placement • Responsibility of College •
Use of video/photography/other media to record school events		Harm to Pupils	• Under review • Will strictly adhere to Covid 19 Policy • Officially appointed photographer/videographer only
After school use of school premises by other organisations			• Under review • Garda vetting a pre-requisite.

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 no 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.