
Child Safeguarding Statement



Rathlee Primary School

Rathlee,
Easkey,
Co. Sligo..

Principal: An tuas James Rafter

Deputy Principal: Ms. Siobhan Lavelle

Mandatory Template 1

Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment

Rathlee National School 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 Rathlee National School 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 **James Rafter**.
3. The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is **Siobhan Lavelle**.
4. The Relevant Person is James Rafter. The relevant person is the person who can provide information in respect of how the Child Safeguarding Statement was developed and can provide the statement on request. In a school setting, the relevant person shall be the DLP.
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. 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, Rathlee National School adheres to the relevant procedures set out in Chapter 7 of the Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools (revised 2023) and to the relevant agreed disciplinary procedures for school staff.
- 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 relevant Department of Education Garda vetting and recruitment requirements.
- Each member of school staff is provided with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement; all new staff are provided with a copy; staff and Board members are encouraged to avail of relevant child protection training; and the Board maintains records of staff and Board member training.
- All school personnel are required to adhere to the reporting procedures set out in the Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools (revised 2023), including, in the case of registered teachers, the requirements relating to mandated reporting under the Children First Act 2015.
- All registered teachers employed by the school are mandated persons under 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. The written assessment setting out the areas of risk identified and the school's procedures for managing those risks is included in this document.
- Rathlee National School implements the Stay Safe Programme and the SPHE curriculum, and has procedures addressing supervision, bullying behaviour, online safety and acceptable use, one-to-one teaching/support, intimate care where required, school outings, external personnel, administration of medication/first aid, recruitment and Garda vetting, and the management of visitors and contractors.
- The various procedures referred to in this Statement can be accessed through the school, through the school website where published, or through the relevant Department/Tusla sources.

7. 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 of Education if requested.

8. 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 October 14th 2019.

This Child Safeguarding Statement was reviewed by the Board of Management on December 1st 2025.

Signed: _____

Signed: _____

Chairperson of Board of Management

Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Date: _____

Date: _____

Appendix 1 - Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment

Written Assessment of Risk of Rathlee National School

In accordance with section 11 of the Children First Act 2015 and with the requirements of Chapter 8 of the Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools (revised 2023), the following is the Written Risk Assessment of Rathlee National School.

Important: In this assessment, “risk” means the risk of “harm” as defined in the Children First Act 2015, not general health and safety risk. The Board has considered both lower-risk and higher-risk school activities and the procedures in place to manage and reduce any potential for harm.

1. List of school activities:

- Training of school personnel in Child Protection matters
- One to one teaching, including support teaching
- One to one counselling
- On-line teaching and learning remotely
- Care of children with special needs including intimate care needs
- Children with medical needs
- Children from a minority religion
- 1. Toilet areas
 - Curriculum provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe
 - LGBT children/pupils perceived to be LGBT
 - Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils
 - Managing of challenging behaviour amongst pupils, including appropriate use of restraint
 - Sports coaches
 - Pupils participating in work experience
 - Mid morning/lunch breaks or movement breaks for pupils

- Classroom teaching
- Outdoor teaching activities
- Sporting activities/school outings/trips
- Annual sports day
- Fundraising events involving children
- Use of off-site facilities for school activities
- Administration of medicine/first aid
- Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst pupils
- 1. Use of external personnel to supplement curriculum
 - Recruitment of school personnel including - teachers, snas, caretaker, secretary cleaner,sports coaches, external tutors, guest speakers, volunteers/parents in school activities, visitors/contractors present in school during school hours
 - Use of ICT by pupils in school
 - Student teachers undertaking training in school
 - Use of video/photography/other media to record school events
 - School bus - transport to and from school
 - Swimming
 - Piano lessons
 - Use of church
 - Visiting speakers
 - Use of mobile phones by pupils
 - School access

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

- Harm not recognised or reported promptly
- Harm by school personnel/adults
 1. Inappropriate behaviour
 2. Recruitment of new staff
- Non teaching of SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe
- Bullying
- Harm from older pupils, unknown adults on the playground
 1. Injury to pupils and staff
- Harm to pupils
- Harm by work experience pupil
- Harm by pupil
- Harm by adult unknown to children
- Inadequate supervision

1. Risk of harm caused by member of school personnel communicating with pupils in appropriate manner via social media, texting, digital device or other manner
 2. Risk of harm caused by member of school personnel accessing/circulating inappropriate material via social media, texting, digital device or other manner
- Harm by adult on bus

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

- Child Safeguarding Statement & DES procedures made available to all staff
- DLP & DDLP to attend PDST training
- All Staff viewed Túsla training module & any other online training offered by PDST
- BOM retains all records of staff and board training
- BOM encouraged to avail of relevant training
- Visiting staff and part time teachers comply with garda vetting and to be familiar with child safeguarding statement
- Open doors
- Table between teacher/SNA and pupil
- Glass in window
- Any pupil requiring intimate care needs will have two staff members present at all times
- Supervision policy

- Pupils only go one at a time to the bathroom
- School implements SPHE, RSE and Stay Safe curricula in full
- Anti-bullying policy, Code of Behaviour
- Arrival and dismissal supervised by teachers
- Health and safety policy
- Garda vetting procedures in place
- Work experience policy in place. All students over 16 must be garda vetted
- Letter of agreement completed with 3rd level college
- Parent/volunteers supervised by staff
- Child Safeguarding Statement
- Yard and classrooms supervised by teacher and SNA
- Professional code of conduct for teachers
- School complies with agreed disciplinary procedures for staff
- Children supervised at all times by teachers/sna/parents
- Administration of medicines and first aid policy
- Vetting procedures during recruitment process
- ICT and Acceptable Use policies, internet safety lessons, internet content filtering provided by Broadband service
- Parental consent sought to use pupil photos - see admissions policy and enrolment form
- Swimming - coaches garda vetted. Teachers enter changing rooms to supervise as necessary. Staff do not help with drying/dressing except with children with additional needs who are assisted by an SNA in view of the accompanying teacher. No child to be left alone with an adult.
- Piano - Glass panel in door of teaching room. Garda vetting
- Church - Supervision policy

- Visiting speakers - teachers remain in class
- Use of mobile phones by pupils - mobile phone policy, not permitted to be used without authorisation
- **School access** - Front door will be accessed by bell. Access during school day through the front door only. Gates closed while children outside. Visitors must sign the visitors' book in the porch. Access to classrooms during the school day is restricted and monitored.

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 Rathlee National 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 assessment to manage and reduce risk to the greatest possible extent.