



## Child Safeguarding Statement

Ransboro 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 2017](#) and [Tusla Guidance on the preparation of Child Safeguarding Statements](#), the Board of Management of Ransboro NS 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 **Mrs Siobhán Buckley**.
- 3 The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is **Ms Caroline Hynes**
3. 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.

4. 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 abovenamed 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 DE 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.

5. 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 if requested.
6. 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 9<sup>th</sup> March 2018.

This Child Safeguarding Statement was reviewed by the Board of Management on 7<sup>th</sup> December 2021.

This Child Safeguarding Statement was reviewed by the Board of management on 25<sup>th</sup> October 2022.

Signed:

Chairperson of Board of Management

Signed:

Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Date: 25<sup>th</sup> October 2022

Date: 25<sup>th</sup> October 2022

## Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment

### Ransboro 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 Ransboro National School..

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 -
Training of school personnel in Child Protection matters	Harm not recognised or reported promptly	<p>Child Safeguarding Statement &amp; DES procedures made available to all staff</p> <p>DLP&amp; DDLP attended PDST face to face training on May 3<sup>rd</sup> 2018</p> <p>All Staff viewed Túsla training module &amp; complete the assessment on March 9<sup>th</sup> 2018.</p> <p>BOM records all records of staff and board training</p>
One to one teaching	Harm by school personnel	Policy on one-to-one teaching is in place.
Toilet areas	Inappropriate behaviour	<p>Toilets are inside the classroom. Child remains in their seat if another child is in the cubicle.</p> <p>Doors opening to the classroom are hooked open. Children leaving the yard to use the toilet at break times are supervised by an SNA (Infant Classes) 1<sup>st</sup> -6<sup>th</sup> class use entrance hall toilets and are supervised by teacher and SNA on duty.</p>

Curricular Provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay safe.	Non-teaching of same	School implements SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe in full If a parent removes a child from these lessons a signed written record of this decision is kept.
Managing of challenging behaviour amongst pupils, including appropriate use of restraint	Children being physically abusive to staff, other children or themselves	Policy on physical restraint of pupils in place. Health & Safety Policy Code Of Behaviour
Sports Coaches	Harm to pupils	Policy & Procedures in place. Teacher present at all times during coaching by a sports coach. Garda Vetting of all coaches.
Students participating in work experience	Harm by student	Students always under teacher's supervision. Child Safeguarding Statement. Garda Vetting requested.
Recreation breaks for pupils	Bullying of children on the playground.	Supervision by staff on all yards. Friendship Squad to aid inclusion. First Aid staff available for accidents.
Classroom teaching	Harm by school personnel.	All staff trained in Child protection.
Swimming Lessons	Harm to children in changing rooms	1 male and 1 female adult present at all times in the changing rooms. 2 Adults remain on the poolside during the swimming lessons. Garda vetting of Parent support
Sporting Activities	Harm by coaches.	Teachers present at sporting activities. Garda Vetting of coaches
School outings Using the toilet on a school trip/outing.	Harm to a child while off the school premises. Harm to children by another person in the toilets.	Teachers : pupil ratio on a school outing 1:15  An Adult will accompany the child to the toilet and wait for the child outside the toilet.
School trips involving overnight stay	Harm by Centre personnel.	2 teachers will travel with the children on the overnight trip.

Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst pupils	Bullying.	School Anti-bullying policy. School Code of Behaviour./ Positive behaviour Policy.
Altar Servers	Harm to the children by an adult in the church.	Children are in a group for serving mass. Written Parental permission has been given The Priest has been Garda vetted and has completed a Child Protection course.
Risk of harm to children with SEN who have particular vulnerabilities, including medical vulnerabilities  Risk of harm to child while a child is receiving intimate care	Harm to a child with special educational and/or care needs.	Intimate care policy in place with care plan for children who require intimate care. Care plan agreed with SNA, Teacher, Parent and if possible the child.  The school has in place a policy and procedures for the administration of medication to pupils  The school has a Special Educational Needs policy
Care of pupils with specific vulnerabilities/ needs such as <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pupils from ethnic minorities/migrants</li> <li>• Members of the Traveller community</li> <li>• Lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender (LGBT) children</li> <li>• Pupils perceived to be LGBT</li> <li>• Pupils of minority religious faiths</li> <li>• Children in care</li> <li>• Children on CPNS</li> </ul>	Bullying of pupils.	Positive Behaviour Policy Anti Bullying Policy. Child Safeguarding Statement.

<p>Recruitment of school personnel including -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Teachers</li> <li>• SNA's</li> <li>• Caretaker/Secretary/Cleaners</li> <li>• Sports coaches</li> <li>• External Tutors/Guest Speakers</li> <li>• Volunteers/Parents in school activities</li> <li>• Visitors/contractors present in school during school hours</li> <li>• Visitors/contractors present during after school activities</li> </ul>	<p>Harm not recognised or promptly reported</p>	<p>Child Safeguarding Statement &amp; DES procedures made available to all staff</p> <p>Staff viewed Tusla training module &amp; any other online training offered by PDST</p> <p>Vetting Procedures</p> <p>All visitors to the school to register in the office and wear a visitors badge.</p> <p>School external doors are closed and all visitors need to contact office to gain entrance to the school.</p> <p>Parent volunteers in school are under the supervision of the class teacher.</p>
<p>Student teachers undertaking training placement in school</p>	<p>Harm by student teacher.</p>	<p>Garda Vetting Documents requested.</p> <p>Policy on Student Teachers in the School.</p>
<p>Use of video/photography/other media to record school events</p>	<p>Childrens named photos posted online to school instagram/twitter/website.</p>	<p>Parental permission sought to allow photos/video to be taken/used.</p> <p>Individual photos are not posted.</p> <p>Children's names and surnames are not posted together on photos.</p>
<p>Use of Information and Communication Technology by pupils in school, including social media</p>	<p>Risk to child on an online platform.</p>	<p>The school has an Acceptable Use Policy and a Home School Communication Policy in place to include provision for online teaching and learning remotely.</p>

		<p>Cyber bullying is identified in our Anti bullying policy.</p> <p>During online learning , teachers will only engage with a child on a zoom call if a parent is present.</p>
<p><b>Important Note:</b> 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 <i>Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post- Primary Schools 2017</i></p>		

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.



