

Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment

Ramsgrange Community School

Child Safeguarding Statement

Ramsgrange Community School a post-primary school providing post-primary education to pupils from First Year to Leaving Certificate Year.

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 Ramsgrange Community 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 Tracey Edwards
- 3 The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is Sinead Kehoe
- 4 The Relevant Person is Tracey Edwards
(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 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 which are published on the gov.ie 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 gov.ie 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 (revised 2023)*, including in the case of registered teachers, those in relation 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.
- 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 gov.ie 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.

- 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 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 14th March 2017.

This Child Safeguarding Statement was reviewed by the Board of Management on 2nd April 2025

Signed: Wayne Coffey

Chairperson of Board of Management

Date: 2/4/25

Signed: [Signature]

Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Date: 2/4/25

Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment

Written Assessment of Risk of Ramsgrange Community 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 Ramsgrange Community School.

1. List of school activities

(insert list of school activities in this section)

Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils

Recreation breaks for pupils

Classroom teaching

Remote Teaching and Learning

One-to-one teaching

One-to-one counselling

Outdoor teaching activities

Sporting Activities

School outings

School trips involving overnight stay

School trips involving foreign travel

Use of toilet/changing/shower areas in schools

Annual Sports Day

Activity Week and associated activities

Seachtain na Gaeilge and associated activities

Mentoring programme personnel

Fundraising events involving pupils

Use of off-site facilities for school activities

School transport arrangements including use of bus escorts

Care of children with special educational needs, including intimate care where needed, (including over 18s)

Care of any vulnerable adult students, including intimate care where needed (Including over 18s)

Management of challenging behaviour amongst pupils, including appropriate use of restraint where required Administration of Medicine

Administration of First Aid

Curricular provision in respect of SPHE and RSE

Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst pupils

Training of school personnel in child protection matters

Use of external personnel to supplement curriculum

Use of external personnel to support sports and other extra-curricular activities 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 — including Foster Care, Residential Care
 Children enrolled with refugee status
 Children on CPNS
 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
 Participation by pupils in religious ceremonies/religious instruction external to the school
 Use of Information and Communication Technology by pupils in school
 Application of sanctions under the school's Code of Behaviour including detention of
 pupils, confiscation of phones etc.
 Students participating in work experience in the school
 Students from the school participating in work experience elsewhere
 Student teachers undertaking training placement in school
 Use of video/photography/other media to record school events
 After school use of school premises by other organisations
 Use of school premises by other organisation during school day
 Breakfast club
 Homework club/evening study
 Student overnights at the school i.e 1st year & TY Sleepover

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

Risk of harm not being recognised by school personnel
 Risk of harm not being reported properly and promptly by school personnel
 Risk of child being harmed in the school by a member of school personnel
 Risk of child being harmed in the school by another child
 Risk of child being harmed in the school by volunteer or visitor to the school
 Risk of child being harmed 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 tri swimming lessons
 Risk of harm due to bullying of child
 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
 adult
 Risk of harm due to children inappropriately accessing/using computers, social media, phones and
 other devices while at school
 Risk of harm to children with SEN who have vulnerabilities
 Risk of harm to child while a child is receiving intimate care
 Risk of harm due to inadequate code of behaviour
 Risk of harm in one-to-one teaching, counselling, coaching situation
 Risk of harm caused by member of school personnel communicating with pupils in appropriate

manner via social media, texting, digital device or other manner
 Risk of harm caused by member of school personnel accessing/circulating inappropriate materials via social media, texting, digital device or other manner

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

All school personnel are provided with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement The Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017 and 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 2017 & 2023 and all registered teaching staff are required to adhere to the Children First Act 2015
 The school implements in full the SPHE curriculum
 The school implements in full the Wellbeing Programme at Junior Cycle
 The school has an Anti-Bullying Policy which fully adheres to the requirements of the Department's Anti-Bullying Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools

The school has a yard/playground supervision policy to ensure appropriate supervision of children during, assembly, dismissal and breaks and in respect of specific areas such as toilets, changing rooms etc.
 The school has in place a policy and clear procedures in respect of school outings
 The school has a Health and safety policy
 The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation and relevant DES circular in relation to recruitment and Garda vetting
 The school has a code of conduct for school personnel (teaching and non-teaching staff)
 The school complies with the agreed disciplinary procedures for teaching staff
 The school has a Special Educational Needs policy
 The school has an intimate care policy/plan in respect of students who require such care
 The school has provided each member of school staff with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement
 The school ensures all new staff are provided with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement
 The school Encourages staff to avail of relevant training
 The board of management members to avail of relevant training o Maintains records of all staff and board member training
 The school has in place procedures for the administration of First Aid
 The school has in place a code of behaviour for pupils
 The school has in place an AUP policy in respect of usage of ICT by pupils
 The school has in place guidelines for Remote Teaching and Learning
 The school has in place a mobile phone policy in respect of usage of mobile phones by pupils
 The school has in place a Critical Incident Management Plan
 The school has in place a Home School Liaison procedures
 The school has in place a policy and clear procedures for one-to-one teaching activities

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 (revised 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 greatest possible extent.