



RAHEEN NATIONAL SCHOOL
Raheen, Clonroche, Enniscorthy, Co. Wexford. Y21 E129
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CSS1: Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment

For:	Raheen National School
At:	Raheen, Clonroche, Enniscorthy, Co. Wexford, Y21E169

This school is a: (tick appropriate) ☒ primary ☐ post-primary ☐ special school

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) and 2025, Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025 and Child Safeguarding: A Guide for Policy, Procedure and Practice, 2nd ed. (Tusla, 2024), the board of management of Raheen NS has adopted the Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment set out in this document.

The board of management has adopted and will implement fully and without modification the department's Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025 as part of this overall Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment.

Name of the Designated Liaison Person (DLP):

Sarah Browne (Principal)

Name of the Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP/DDLP):

Róisín Quigley (Deputy Principal)

In the absence of the DLP, the Deputy DLP shall assume responsibilities of the DLP

Name of Relevant Person

Sarah Browne (Principal)

(In schools this person is the DLP)

Relevant Person can be contacted on:

051428258

childprotectionraheenns@gmail.com

Under the Children First Act 2015 Relevant Person means a person who is appointed by a provider of a relevant service to be the first point of contact in respect of the Child Safeguarding Statement. This person is nominated by the board of management to manage and provide oversight of child protection concerns/allegations of child abuse.

Name of Chairperson of the board of management, or in an ETB school the Chief Executive or their delegate:

Marie Sinnott

> Procedure for the Safe Recruitment and Selection of School Personnel to Work with Children

- ~ The school is required to adhere to the requirements of the Vetting Act. The selection or recruitment of staff and their suitability to work with children, requires the school to adhere 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 Youth and available on the gov.ie website and as outlined in Chapter 10 of the procedures.
- ~ A written protocol is in place authorising immediate action for cases which require an employee to be immediately absented from school for child safeguarding reasons.

> Procedure for Provision of and Access to Child Safeguarding Training and Information, Including the Identification of the Occurrence of Harm

- ~ The school provides information and training to members of school personnel in relation to the identification of the occurrence of harm (as defined in the 2015 Act) as follows:
 - ~ The school has provided each member of school personnel, including any new members of school personnel, (employees and volunteers, board of management members, student teachers and those on work experience) with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment.
 - ~ The school ensures that members of school personnel have availed of relevant training and completed child protection training.
 - ~ The school encourages board of management members to avail of any relevant training and complete child protection training.
 - ~ The board of management ensures that records of all staff and board member child protection training are maintained.

> Procedure for the Reporting of Child Protection or Welfare Concerns to Tusla

- ~ All members of school personnel are required to adhere to the procedures set out in the *Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025*, in relation to reporting of child protection concerns to Tusla. Mandated reporting applies to all registered teachers and any other mandated person who may be employed by the school, for example a chaplain or nurse. A full list of those people who are mandated persons is set out in Appendix 1 procedures.

> Procedure for Maintaining a List of the Persons (if any) in the Relevant Service Who Are Mandated Persons

- ~ There is a procedure in place to maintain a list of mandated persons. Schools may on occasion employ additional staff who are mandated by virtue of their profession. This list will include all registered teachers and identify additional employees that are not registered teachers.

> Procedure for Appointing a Relevant Person (In schools this person is the DLP)

- ~ There is a procedure in place for appointing a relevant person.

Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
1	Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils	• Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children in school. • Risk of child being harmed by another child or other person.	BOM and school personnel are cognisant of the importance of supervision at arrival and dismissal. The 9.10am walk is supervised by SEN and class teachers, as per agreed timetable. An SNA meets pupils arriving by bus and escorts them into the school grounds. Junior and Senior Infant teachers ensure that pupils leave the school corridor only when the teacher sees the parent/guardian at the school gate. Pupils being collected early or for appointments/matches must be signed out through the office/Aladdin and parents clarify whether the pupil will return.
2	Bus Line	• Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision. • Risk of child being harmed by another child or other person.	An SNA meets pupils arriving by bus and escorts them into the school grounds. At dismissal, two members of staff (usually an SNA and SEN teacher) escort pupils to the bus and remain until the final child has boarded. A roll call may be taken to ensure all pupils travelling by bus are present. An SNA will meet and escort the infants returning for the bus from the afterschool at the side gate entrance from the Hall each day at 2.50pm.
3	Recreation breaks for pupils	• Risk of child being harmed by another child. • Risk of harm due to bullying of a child. • Risk of harm due to racism. • Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision.	The school has a policy on yard supervision and a Code of Behaviour. The school implements its Bí Cineálta Policy. Children with additional needs are monitored closely by all staff. The school undertakes anti-racism awareness initiatives through its Bí Cineálta Policy and initiatives such as Give Racism the Red Card. As much as is possible, students are encouraged to play with their own classroom group at break times.
4	Classroom teaching	• 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 by another child or a member of school personnel. • Risk of harm due to bullying or racism.	All school personnel are provided with the Child Safeguarding Statement and have access to the Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025. School personnel are required to adhere to these procedures, and registered teachers are required to comply with their statutory obligations under the Children First Act 2015 and relevant national guidance. The school implements the SPHE curriculum and the Stay Safe Programme. The Bí Cineálta Policy, Code of Behaviour and Code of Conduct for school personnel also apply.
5	One-to-one teaching	• Risk of harm in a one-to-one teaching/support situation.	The school has clear procedures for one-to-one teaching activities. The Child Protection Procedures, Child Safeguarding Statement and Code of Conduct for school personnel apply.

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
		• Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision. • Risk of harm to pupils with particular vulnerabilities.	practicable. Teachers remain aware of pupils leaving and returning to the classroom. Children with additional needs are monitored appropriately and individual arrangements are made where additional support or supervision is required. Pupils' privacy and dignity are respected at all times. The Code of Behaviour, SEN Policy, Child Safeguarding Statement and Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025 apply.
13	Fundraising events involving pupils, including shows/concerts	• Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision. • Risk of child being harmed by another child, volunteer or visitor. • Risk of inappropriate adult/child interaction.	Appropriate supervision arrangements are put in place. Garda vetting requirements apply where relevant. The Child Safeguarding Statement, Code of Behaviour, Code of Conduct and Child Protection Procedures apply.
14	Use of off-site facilities for school activities	• Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision during out-of-school activities. • Risk of child being harmed by school personnel, staff of another organisation or other person.	Adequate supervision is maintained. A ratio of 1:10 is adhered to insofar as is possible for outings. Additional teachers, SNAs and/or vetted adults may attend where appropriate. Parental consent is obtained through Aladdin where pupils leave the school. For swimming classes, an SEN teacher also attends with the class teacher and an SNA if required; currently two teachers travel to each swimming session. Health and Safety and Child Protection Procedures apply.
15	School transport arrangements including use of bus escorts	• Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision. • Risk of child being harmed by another child or adult.	An SNA escorts pupils arriving by bus into the school grounds. Two staff members escort pupils to the bus at dismissal and remain until all pupils have boarded. A roll call may be used. The Child Protection Procedures and Code of Behaviour apply.
16	Care of children with special educational needs, including intimate care where needed	• Risk of harm to children with SEN who have particular vulnerabilities, including medical vulnerabilities. • Risk of harm to a child while receiving intimate care. • Risk of inappropriate relationship/communications between child and adult.	The school has a Special Educational Needs Policy and an Intimate Care Policy/individual care plan in respect of pupils who require such care. Relevant staff working with pupils with complex physical needs receive appropriate training. The Child Safeguarding Statement, Child Protection Procedures and Code of Conduct apply.
17	Management of challenging behaviour amongst pupils	• Risk of child being harmed by another child. • Risk of harm to a child with SEN or other vulnerabilities. • Risk of harm due to inadequate Code of Behaviour.	The school has a Code of Behaviour and SEN Policy. In extreme cases, where a pupil has a Student Support Plan and/or Behaviour Plan in place to address behaviour that may present a risk to the pupil, classmates or staff, staff members follow the agreed plan. Every reasonable effort is made to de-escalate the situation, restore calm and ensure the safety of everyone involved. Restorative practices are used, where appropriate.

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
		• Risk of inappropriate relationship/communications between child and adult. • Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision.	where applicable. Pupils remain appropriately supervised by school personnel. Child Protection Procedures apply.
24	Use of external personnel to support sports and other extra-curricular activities	• Risk of child being harmed by an external coach/volunteer. • Risk of harm in a one-to-one coaching situation. • Risk of inappropriate relationship/communications. • Risk of inadequate supervision.	The school has policy and procedures governing the use of external sports coaches. Garda vetting requirements are followed. Appropriate school supervision is maintained. The Child Protection Procedures and relevant conduct expectations apply.
25	Care of pupils of ethnic minorities	• Risk of harm due to racism. • Risk of harm due to bullying.	The BÍ Cineálta Policy applies. The school undertakes anti-racism awareness initiatives, including Give Racism the Red Card. SPHE, Stay Safe and the Code of Behaviour support inclusion and safeguarding.
26	Care of members of the Traveller community	• Risk of harm due to racism. • Risk of harm due to bullying.	The BÍ Cineálta Policy, anti-racism initiatives, SPHE, Stay Safe and Code of Behaviour apply.
27	Care of lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender (LGBT) children and pupils perceived to be LGBT	• Risk of harm due to bullying. • Risk of harm arising from inappropriate communications or behaviour by another child or adult.	The BÍ Cineálta Policy, SPHE curriculum, Stay Safe Programme, Code of Behaviour and Child Protection Procedures apply.
28	Care of pupils of minority religious faiths	• Risk of harm due to bullying or discriminatory behaviour.	The BÍ Cineálta Policy, Code of Behaviour, SPHE curriculum and Religious Education Opt-Out Policy apply. Where a parent/guardian has formally opted their child out of religious instruction or activities, the arrangements set out in the Religious Education Opt-Out Policy are followed. Pupils are appropriately supervised and suitable alternative activities are provided.
29	Care of children in care	• Risk of harm not being recognised or reported. • Risk of harm due to the child's particular vulnerability.	The Child Safeguarding Statement and Child Protection Procedures apply. School personnel follow reporting requirements and relevant support arrangements for individual pupils.
30	Care of children on Tusla's Child Protection Notification System (CPNS)	• Risk of harm not being recognised. • Risk of harm not being reported properly and promptly. • Risk associated with the particular vulnerability of the child.	The school adheres to the Child Protection Procedures (revised 2023), Children First Act 2015 and its Addendum (2019). Relevant information is managed in accordance with statutory child protection procedures.

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
		• Risk of inadequate supervision.	pupils unless appropriately vetted and authorised. Appropriate access and supervision arrangements apply. Garda vetting requirements are followed where applicable.
39	Community-based activities	• Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision. • Risk of child being harmed by a volunteer, external person or staff of another organisation.	The school has procedures for community volunteers. Garda vetting requirements are followed where applicable. Appropriate supervision is maintained and the Child Protection Procedures apply. Parental consent is obtained through Aladdin where the activity involves pupils leaving the school.
40	Participation by pupils in religious ceremonies/religious instruction external to the school	• Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision during an out-of-school activity. • Risk of child being harmed by another child or adult.	When attending the local church, pupils walk in orderly, supervised lines along the footpath. The main school entrance and main entrance to the church grounds are used and pupils are not led across the church car park. Pupils wait with their teachers and return to school in supervised lines. Children who do not attend church are supervised in school; where this could result in a one-to-one arrangement, further supervision or alternative arrangements are made.
41	Use of Information and Communication Technology by pupils in school	• Risk of harm due to children inappropriately accessing/using computers, social media, phones and other devices while at school. • Risk of harm due to cyberbullying. • Risk of inappropriate communications between child and adult/another child. • Risk of harm caused by school personnel communicating with pupils in an inappropriate manner via social media, texting or digital device. • Risk of harm caused by school personnel accessing/circulating inappropriate material via digital means.	The school has an Acceptable Use Policy, Digital Devices Policy and Social Media Policy, which set out procedures for the safe and appropriate use of digital technologies by pupils and school personnel. Procedures are in place, insofar as practicable, to prevent and address cyberbullying and inappropriate access, use or sharing of digital content. The Bi Cineálta Policy, Code of Behaviour, Child Safeguarding Statement and Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025 also apply.
42	Application of sanctions under the school's Code of Behaviour including detention of pupils, confiscation of phones etc.	• Risk of harm due to inadequate Code of Behaviour. • Risk of harm in a one-to-one situation. • Risk of inappropriate relationship/communications between pupil and adult.	The school has a Code of Behaviour for pupils. The Code of Conduct for school personnel and Child Protection Procedures apply. One-to-one teaching/supervision procedures are observed where relevant.

Examples of Activities, Risks and Procedures

The examples listed in this document are provided to assist schools in undertaking their risk assessment under the Children First Act, 2015. Schools should note that this list of examples is not intended to be exhaustive, and that the inclusion of an example of a policy or procedure on these lists does not make it mandatory. It is the responsibility of each school to ensure, as far as possible, that any other risks and procedures that are relevant to its own particular circumstances are identified and specified in the written risk assessment and that adequate procedures are in place to address all risks identified.

It is acknowledged that schools already have in place a range of policies, practices and procedures to mitigate the risk of harm to children while they are participating in the activities of the school and that some school activities will carry low or minimal risks of harm compared to others. In the context of the risk assessment that must be undertaken by schools, the Children First Act, 2015 refers to risk as 'any potential for harm'.

Therefore, it is important that, as part of its risk assessment process, each school lists and reviews all of its various activities (which shall include identifying those that may carry low risk of harm as well as those that carry higher risks of harm). Doing so will help the school to:

- > Identify, as required under the Children First Act, 2015, any risks of harm that may exist in respect of the school's activities.
- > Identify and assess the adequacy of the various procedures already in place to manage those risks of harm.
- > Identify and put in place any such additional procedures as are considered necessary to manage any risk identified.

Online Safety

The *Addendum to Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children 2017* published in January 2019 clarifies that organisations providing relevant services to children should consider the specific issue of online safety when carrying out their risk assessment and preparing their Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment.

The Guidance on Continuity of Schooling for primary and post-primary schools (April 2020) advises of the importance of teachers maintaining the safe and ethical use of the internet during distance learning and assisting parents and guardians to be aware of their role also. Schools should ensure that their Acceptable Use Policy (AUP) informs and guides remote or distance learning activity.

Risk in the context of this Child Safeguarding Statement and 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 the Children First Act 2015: 'harm' means, in relation to a child— (a) assault, ill-treatment or neglect of the child in a manner that seriously affects or is likely to seriously affect the child's health, development or welfare, or (b) sexual abuse of the child, whether caused by a single act, omission or circumstance or a series or combination of acts, omissions or circumstances, or otherwise.

Appendix - Location of copies of the Child Protection Procedures and Children First Guidance

This may be in the form of specifying the online location for the procedures (Department of Education and Youth website www.gov.ie/childprotectionschools and/or the school website), providing a link to the Children First National Guidance 2017 [Children First National Guidance 2017.pdf](#), and stating the number and location of hard copies of these procedures available in the school.

Three hard copies of the **Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools** and **Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children 2017** are available in Raheen National School. Copies are located in the **staffroom and Principal's office** and are readily accessible to school personnel.

Printable electronic versions of the relevant procedures and guidance are also available online through the [Department of Education and Youth Child Protection in Schools webpage](#) and [Tusla's Children First National Guidance 2017](#).