



Child Safeguarding Statement

Scoil Náisiúnta Mhuire, Rathpeacon 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 Scoil Náisiúnta Mhuire, Rathpeacon 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 Susanna O'Neill (Principal)
- 3 The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is Niamh Brennan (Deputy Principal)
- 4 The Relevant Person is Susanna O'Neill
- 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 (however 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 reviewed and adopted by the Board of Management on 25th of June 2025.

Signed: 
Chairperson of Board of Management

Signed: 
Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Date: 25/06/2025

Date: 25/06/2025

Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment

Written Assessment of Risk of Scoil Náisiúnta Mhuire, Rathpeacon, Mallow Road, Cork. Roll Number: 17360B

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 (revised 2023)*, the following is the Written Risk Assessment of Scoil Náisiúnta Mhuire, Rathpeacon.

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 (revised 2023)*

In accordance with section 2 of the Children First Act, 2015 the defined threshold of “harm” in relation to a child is as follows:

(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;”

“ill-treatment” means, in relation to a child, to abandon or cruelly treat the child, or to cause or procure or allow the child to be abandoned or cruelly treated;

“neglect” means, in relation to a child, to deprive the child of adequate food, warmth, clothing, hygiene, supervision, safety or medical care;

“welfare” includes, in relation to a child, the moral, intellectual, physical, emotional and social welfare of the child.

- 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* 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*
- All registered teaching staff are required to adhere to the *Children First Act 2015*

List of school activities	The school has identified the following risk of harm in respect of its activities	The school has the following procedures in place to address the risks of harm identified in this assessment:
• Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils	Risk of harm may include: • child being harmed by a member of school personnel • child being harmed by a visitor to the school • child being harmed in the school by another child • child being dropped to school before supervision begins at 9.00a.m • child arriving late and not able to enter the building • inadequate supervision of children in school • bullying of child • child left awaiting collection after school hours	• Supervision Policy • Code of Behaviour for pupils • School rules are published in the school journal and pupils and parents sign up to this on enrolment and annually thereafter • Anti-Bullying Policy • The Board of Management regularly reminds parents/guardians/carers via school notes, texts and at meetings not to leave pupils unattended on the school premises before supervision begins at 9.00 a.m. No supervision arrangements exist for pupils who arrive at the school before this time or who remain after school hours awaiting collection. This includes pupils who are brought to school by bus or who are collected by bus. • Code of Conduct for School Personnel (teaching and non-teaching staff) • Child Safeguarding Statement • Compliance with Garda vetting legislation • Policy and Procedures for Visitors to the School, Sports Coaches and External Persons used to Supplement Delivery of the Curriculum.
• Classroom teaching	Risk of harm may include: • harm due to inadequate supervision of children in school • child being harmed by a member of school personnel • child being harmed by volunteer or visitor to the school • child being harmed in the school by another child	The school has: • Provided each member of staff with a copy of the Supervision Policy to ensure appropriate supervision of children throughout the school day including during assembly and dismissal times, teaching times and break times, in respect of specific areas such as toilets, in respect of external coaches/teachers and in respect of school outings • A Code of Behaviour

		• An Anti-Bullying Policy • Provided each member of school staff with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement • Ensured that all new staff are provided with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement • <u>Required</u> staff to avail of relevant training in Child Protection. • Adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation and relevant DES circulars in relation to recruitment and Garda vetting • Codes of Conduct for School Personnel (teaching and non-teaching staff) • Complies with the agreed Disciplinary Procedures for Teaching Staff • Policy and Procedures for Visitors to the School, Sports Coaches and External Persons used to Supplement Delivery of the Curriculum.
• Online Teaching and Learning Remotely	Risk of harm may include: • child accessing inappropriate online content • child uploading inappropriate content • child sharing personal information online • child 'friending' strangers online • child being harmed due to inadequate supervision online	• School Guidelines for Distance Learning • Codes of Conduct for School Personnel (teaching and non-teaching staff) • Complies with the agreed Disciplinary Procedures for Teaching Staff • Policy on Acceptable Use of Information Technology • Policy on Home Use of Assistive Technology • Code of Behaviour • Code of Conduct for School Personnel • Data Protection and GDPR Policy • Anti-Bullying Policy • Child Safeguarding Statement • Homework Policy

One-to-one teaching and one to one SNA - pupil activities e.g. sensory breaks	Risk of harm may include: - child being harmed by a member of school personnel - child being harmed by visitor to the school	- Policy and Procedures for One-to-One Teaching and School Activities. - Codes of Conduct for School Personnel (teaching and non-teaching staff) - Child Safeguarding Statement - Compliance with Garda vetting legislation
Recreation breaks for pupils	Risk of harm may include: - harm due to inadequate supervision of children in school - child being harmed by a member of school personnel - child being harmed by volunteer or visitor to the school - child being harmed in the school by another child - child being left alone and vulnerable in the classroom, school building or school yard - child left behind and not able to enter the school building - bullying of child	- Supervision Policy - Code of Behaviour - Anti-Bullying Policy - Code of Conduct for School Personnel - Child Safeguarding Statement - Compliance with Garda vetting legislation - Policy and Procedures for Visitors to the School, Sports Coaches and External Persons used to Supplement Delivery of the Curriculum
Outdoor teaching activities	Risk of harm may include: - harm due to inadequate supervision of children in school - child being harmed by a member of school personnel - child being harmed by visitor to the school - child being harmed in the school by another child - child/children being left alone and vulnerable in the classroom, school building or school yard	- Supervision Policy - Code of Conduct for School Personnel (teaching and non-teaching staff) - Child Safeguarding Statement - Compliance with Garda vetting legislation - Policy and Procedures for Visitors to the School, Sports Coaches and External Persons used to Supplement Delivery of the Curriculum.
Sporting Activities	Risk of harm may include: - harm due to inadequate supervision of children in school - child being harmed by a member of school personnel - child being harmed by visitor to the school, volunteer or external coach - child being harmed in the school by another child	- Supervision Policy - Code of Behaviour - Policy and Procedures for School Swimming Lessons - Policy on School Tours and Outings - Policy on After-School Sporting Activities - Code of Conduct for School Personnel (teaching and non-teaching staff)

	- child/children being left alone in the classroom, school building, school yard, bus or sports venue - inappropriate behaviour of a member of school personnel - child being left alone in the classroom, school building or school yard	- Child Safeguarding Statement - Compliance with Garda vetting legislation - Policy and Procedures for Visitors to the School, Sports Coaches and External Persons used to Supplement Delivery of the Curriculum.
- Out of School Activities e.g. after-school training, matches during the school day, Feis etc - Use of off-site facilities for school activities	Risk of harm may include: - harm due to inadequate supervision of children in school - child being harmed by a member of school personnel, visitor to the school, or member of the public who may be present - child being harmed in the school by another child - child/children being left alone in the classroom, school building, school yard, bus or venue	- Supervision Policy - Code of Behaviour - Policy on School Tours and Outings - Policy on After-School Sporting Activities - Code of Conduct for School Personnel - Child Safeguarding Statement - Compliance with Garda vetting legislation - Policy and Procedures for Visitors to the School, Sports Coaches and External Persons used to Supplement Delivery of the Curriculum.
Pupils moving between school buildings, or within the corridors of a building (while rest of class remains with teacher) to go on errands or to SEN rooms for Special Education Teaching.	Risk of harm may include: - harm due to inadequate supervision of children in school - child being harmed by a member of school personnel - harm by authorised or unauthorised visitor on the school premises - child being harmed by member of the public who may be present - child being harmed in the school by another child - child unable to enter a building due to security doors	- Supervision Policy - CCTV monitoring and recording - SEN Policy - Code of Conduct for School Personnel (teaching and non-teaching staff) - Child Safeguarding Statement - Compliance with Garda vetting legislation - Policy and Procedures for Visitors to the School, Sports Coaches and External Persons used to Supplement Delivery of the Curriculum.
School outings/tours	Risk of harm may include: - harm due to inadequate supervision of children - child being harmed by a member of school personnel - harm by authorised or unauthorised visitor on the school premises - child being harmed by member of the public who may be present	- Supervision Policy - Policy and Procedures in Respect of School Tours and Outings - Swimming Policy - Code of Behaviour - Code of Conduct for School Personnel (teaching and non-teaching staff) - Child Safeguarding Statement

	- child being harmed by a member of staff of another organisation or other person while child participating in out of school activities - child being harmed in the school by another child - child/children being left alone in the classroom, school building, school yard, bus, tour venue etc - inadequate code of behaviour	- Compliance with Garda vetting legislation - Policy and Procedures for Visitors to the School, Sports Coaches and External Persons used to Supplement Delivery of the Curriculum.
Use of toilet areas in the school	Risk of harm may include: - harm due to inadequate supervision of children in school - child being harmed by a member of school personnel - child being harmed by authorised or unauthorised visitor on the school premises - child being harmed by member of the public who may be present - child being harmed by a member of staff of another organisation or other person while child participating in out of school activities e.g. school trip, swimming lessons - child being harmed in the school by another child - child/children being left behind and vulnerable in toilet area - children with SEN who have particular vulnerabilities	- Supervision Policy - Code of Behaviour - Intimate Care Policy - Administration of First Aid Policy which includes a section on Toileting - Code of Conduct for School Personnel (teaching and non-teaching staff) - Child Safeguarding Statement - Compliance with Garda vetting legislation - Policy and Procedures for Visitors to the School, Sports Coaches and External Persons used to Supplement Delivery of the Curriculum.
- Care of children with special educational needs, including intimate care where needed - Changing of a pupil's clothing due to soiling	Risk of harm may include: - child being harmed in the school by a member of school personnel while a child is receiving intimate care - harm to child with SEN who has particular vulnerabilities	- Supervision Policy - Special Educational Needs Policy - Intimate Care Policy - Administration of First Aid Policy which includes a section on Toileting - Code of Conduct for School Personnel - Child Safeguarding Statement - Compliance with Garda vetting legislation - Policy and Procedures for Visitors to the School, Sports Coaches and External Persons used to Supplement Delivery of the Curriculum.

• Management of challenging behaviour amongst pupils, including appropriate use of restraint where required	Risk of harm may include: • harm due to inadequate supervision of children in school • child being harmed in the school by another child • or by a member of school personnel	• Supervision Policy • Code of Behaviour • Policy on Restraint and Physical Intervention • Code of Conduct for School Personnel (teaching and non-teaching staff) • Child Safeguarding Statement • Compliance with Garda vetting legislation
• Transport arrangements	Risk of harm may include: • harm due to inadequate supervision of children • child being harmed by a member of staff of another organisation or other person while child participating in out of school activities e.g. school trip, swimming lessons • Child/children left alone and vulnerable • child being harmed by staff of transport company or other individual	• Supervision Policy • Policy and Procedures in Respect of School Tours and Outings • Garda Vetting
• Administration of First Aid	Risk of harm may include: • child being harmed in the school by a member of school personnel	• Policy and Procedures for the Administration of First Aid
• Administration of Medicine	Risk of harm may include: • child being harmed in the school by a member of school personnel	• Policy on Administration of Medication
• Management of pupils who are not well enough to go outside at break times	Risk of harm may include: • harm due to inadequate supervision of children in school • child being harmed by a member of school personnel • harm by authorised or unauthorised visitor on the school premises • child being harmed in the school by another child • child left waiting alone and vulnerable	• Supervision Policy • Policy on Administration First Aid • Code of Conduct for School Personnel (teaching and non-teaching staff) • Child Safeguarding Statement • Compliance with Garda vetting legislation • Policy and Procedures for Visitors to the School, Sports Coaches and External Persons used to Supplement Delivery of the Curriculum.

Curricular provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe	Risk of harm may include: harm to children with SEN who have particular vulnerabilities	The school implements in full the: - Stay Safe Programme - SPHE Curriculum, RSE Programme
Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst pupils	Risk of harm may include: - harm due to inadequate supervision of children in school - child being harmed in the school by another child - inadequate supervision of children in school - bullying of child - children with SEN who have particular vulnerabilities	- Supervision Policy - Code of Behaviour - Anti-Bullying Policy - Child Protection Procedures
Training of school personnel in child protection matters	Risk of harm may include: - child being harmed in the school by a member of school personnel - harm to children with SEN who have particular vulnerabilities - harm not being recognised by school personnel - harm not being reported properly and promptly by school personnel - harm caused by member of school personnel accessing/circulating inappropriate material via social media, texting, digital device or other manner - harm due to inappropriate relationship/communications between child and another child or adult - harm caused by member of school personnel communicating with pupils in appropriate manner via social media, texting, digital device or other manner	The school: - Has provided each member of school 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 - Requires staff to avail of relevant training - Requires all staff to view Tusla training module and any other online training offered by PDST or other such organisation - Encourages board of management members to avail of relevant training - Maintains records of all staff and board Code of Conduct for School Personnel (teaching and non-teaching staff) - Complies with Garda vetting legislation - Has Policy and Procedures for Visitors to the School, Sports Coaches and External Persons used to Supplement Delivery of the Curriculum.

• Use of external personnel to supplement sports, curriculum and extra-curricular activities	Risk of harm may include: • harm due to inadequate supervision of children in school • child being harmed in the school by volunteer or visitor to the school • 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 trip, swimming lessons	• Supervision Policy • Policy and Procedures for Visitors to the School, Sports Coaches and External Persons used to Supplement Delivery of the Curriculum. • Child Safeguarding Statement • Child Safeguarding Statement • Compliance with Garda vetting legislation
○ 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	Risk of harm may include: • harm due to inadequate supervision of children in school • child being harmed by a member of school personnel • harm by authorised or unauthorised visitor on the school premises • child being harmed by a member of staff of another organisation or other person while child participating in out of school activities e.g. school trip, swimming lessons • child being harmed in the school by another child ○ harm due to bullying of child ○ harm to children with SEN who have particular vulnerabilities ○ harm due to inadequate code of behaviour	• Supervision Policy • Anti-Bullying Policy • Code of Behaviour • Codes of Conduct for School Personnel (teaching and non-teaching staff) • SEN Policy • Child Safeguarding Statement • Policy and Procedures for Visitors to the School, Sports Coaches and External Persons used to Supplement Delivery of the Curriculum.

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 and after school activities	Risk of harm may include: - child being harmed by a member of school personnel - harm by authorised or unauthorised visitor on the school premises - child being harmed by member of the public who may be present - child being harmed by a member of staff of another organisation or other person while child participating in out of school activities e.g. school trip, swimming lessons - child being harmed in the school by another child - child being harmed by a sports coach, an external tutor or guest speaker - child being harmed by a parent volunteer - child being harmed by a contractor	The school adheres to - Garda vetting legislation and relevant DES circulars in relation to recruitment and Garda vetting - Codes of Conduct for School Personnel (teaching and non-teaching staff) - Disciplinary Procedures for Teaching Staff Provides staff with: - Child Safeguarding Statement - DES Child Protection Procedures - Policy and Procedures for Visitors to the School, Sports Coaches and External Persons used to Supplement Delivery of the Curriculum. Requires staff to view Tusla training module & any other online training offered by PDST or other such organisation
Participation by pupils in religious ceremonies/religious instruction external to the school	Risk of harm may include: - harm due to inadequate supervision of children in school - harm by authorised or unauthorised visitor on the school premises - child being harmed by member of the public who may be present - child being harmed by a member of staff of another organisation or other person while child participating in out of school activities - child being harmed by external tutor or guest speaker	- Supervision Policy - Policy and Procedures in Respect of School Tours and Outings - Policy and Procedures for Visitors to the School, Sports Coaches and External Persons used to Supplement Delivery of the Curriculum.

• Use of Information and Communication Technology by pupils in school	Risk of: • harm due to inadequate supervision of children in school • child being harmed in the school by another child • harm due to children inappropriately accessing/using computers, social media, phones and other devices while at school • harm due to inadequate code of behaviour • harm due to inappropriate relationship/communications between child and another child or adult	• Supervision Policy • Acceptable Use of ICT Policy • Anti-Bullying Policy • Code of Conduct for School Personnel (teaching and non-teaching staff) • Child Safeguarding Statement • Compliance with Garda vetting legislation
• Online Safety	Risk of: • harm due to inadequate supervision of children in school and/or outside of school • child being harmed in the school by another child • harm due to children inappropriately accessing/using computers, social media, phones and other devices while at school • harm due to inadequate code of behaviour • harm due to inappropriate relationship/communications between child and another child or adult	• Supervision Policy • Acceptable Use of ICT Policy • Anti-Bullying Policy • SPHE Policy • Code of Conduct for School Personnel (teaching and non-teaching staff) • Child Safeguarding Statement • Compliance with Garda vetting legislation • Information/training sessions for pupils, staff and parents/guardians e.g. Zeeko, Community Garda, Trend Micro • How to stay safe online published in pupil's journals • Sessions with teachers/principal in school highlighting dangers when online and what to do when you feel unsafe.
• Application of sanctions under the school's Code of Behaviour	Risk of harm may include: • harm due to inadequate code of behaviour • child being harmed in the school by a member of school personnel	• Code of Behaviour • Code of Conduct for School Personnel

- Students participating in work experience in the school - Student teachers undertaking training placement in school	Risk of harm may include: harm due to inadequate supervision of children in school	- Supervision Policy - Policy and Procedures in respect of Student Teacher Placements and Students Undertaking Work Experience - Compliance with Garda Vetting Legislation
Use of video, photography or other media to record school events	Risk of harm may include: - harm due to inadequate supervision of children in school - Harm caused by member of school personnel/parents of the wider school community accessing/circulating inappropriate material via social media, texting, digital device or other manner	- Supervision Policy - Acceptable Use of ICT Policy - Code of Conduct for School Personnel (teaching and non-teaching staff) - Child Safeguarding Statement - Compliance with Garda vetting legislation - Policy and Procedures for Visitors to the School, Sports Coaches and External Persons used to Supplement Delivery of the Curriculum.
Use of school premises by other organisations during the school day and after school	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children in school	- Supervision Policy - Policy and Procedures for Visitors to the School, Sports Coaches and External Persons used to Supplement Delivery of the Curriculum.

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.

This risk assessment was first completed by the Board of Management on March 5th 2018. It was reviewed, adopted and ratified by the Board of Management at its meetings of February 11th 2019, April 30th 2020 and May 10th 2021 (ratification delayed due to unexpected school closure March to August due to COVID-19), March 8th 2022, April 27th 2023 and 19th June 2024. The new DDLP (Niamh Brennan) was appointed at a BoM meeting on 19th September 2023. It was fully reviewed again and approved by the BoM at its meeting of 25th June 2025.

Signed: 
Chairperson of Board of Management

Signed: 
Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Date:

25/06/2025

