



Rockbrook Child Safeguarding Statement

Rockbrook Park School is a post-primary school providing 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 *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 Rockbrook Park 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 2017* as part of this overall Child Safeguarding Statement.
- 2) The Designated Liaison Person (DLP) is Mr Jude Mulligan
The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is Mr Paul Whinnery.
- 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 by:
 - recognising that the protection and welfare of children is of paramount importance, regardless of all other considerations;
 - fully complying with its statutory obligations under the Children First Act 2015 and other relevant legislation relating to the protection and welfare of children;
 - fully co-operating with the relevant statutory authorities in relation to child protection and welfare matters;
 - adopting 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;
 - developing a practice of openness with parents and encourage parental involvement in the education of their children;
 - fully respecting 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 DES 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 DES and available on the DES 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:
 - i. Has provided each member of staff with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement;
 - ii. Ensures all new staff are provided with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement;
 - iii. Encourages staff to avail of relevant training;
 - iv. Encourages Board of Management members to avail of relevant training;
 - v. 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 above named DLP as the "relevant person" (as defined in the Children First Act 2015) to be the first point of contact in respect of the 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, 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 attached as an appendix to this statement.
- The various procedures referred to in this Statement can be accessed via the school's website, the DES 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 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 30 September 2020

Signed: *Mairtin O' Droma*

Signed: *Jude Mulligan*

Chairperson of Board of Management

Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Date: 30 September 2020

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Appendix 1

Risk Assessment

Written Assessment of Risk of Rockbrook Park 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 Rockbrook Park School.

List of school activities

Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils	Recreation breaks for pupils
Classroom teaching and One-to-one teaching	Fundraising events involving pupils
One-to-one Oral Exams	School transport arrangements including own bus
One to one mentoring & counselling	Care of children with special educational needs, including intimate care where needed
Outdoor teaching activities	Care of any vulnerable adult students
Sporting Activities	Administration of Medicine
School outings	Administration of First Aid
School trips involving foreign travel	Training of school personnel in child protection matters
School trips involving overnight stay	Use of external personnel to support sports and other extra-curricular activities
Evening study	Students participating in work experience in the school
Use of toilet/changing/shower areas in schools	Students from the school participating in work experience elsewhere
Extra-Curricular Activities	Use of video/photography to record school events
Use of offsite facilities for school activities	Use of Information and Communication Technology by pupils in school
Curricular provision	Behaviour Code implementation
Management of challenging behaviour amongst pupils	Student teachers undertaking training placement in school
After school use of school premises by other organisations	Use of external personnel to supplement curriculum
Prevention and dealing with bullying	Use of school premises by other organisations
Care of vulnerable pupils	Recruitment of all school personnel including:

<p>The school has identified the following risks of harm in respect of its activities</p>	<p>The school has the following procedures in place to address the risks of harm identified in this assessment</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Risk of harm not being recognised by school personnel; • Risk of harm not being reported properly and promptly by school; • Risk of child being harmed in the school by a member of school personnel; • 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 trip, swimming lessons; • Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children while attending out of school activities; • Risk of harm in one to one teaching, counselling, coaching situation; • Risk of harm caused by member of school personnel accessing/circulating inappropriate material via social media, texting, digital device or other manner; • Risk of child being harmed in the school by volunteer or visitor to the school; • Risk of harm as a result of significantly increased online interaction between teachers, SNA's and students. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All school personnel are provided with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement; • The <i>Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017</i> 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 and all registered teaching staff are required to adhere to the Children First Act 2015; • The school ensures all new staff are provided with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement; • The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation and relevant DES circulars in relation to recruitment and Garda vetting; • The School ensures all School Personnel avail of relevant training; • The school encourages board of management members to avail of relevant training; • The school maintains records of all staff and board member training; • The school has in place a policy and clear procedures in respect of school outings; • The school complies with the agreed disciplinary procedures for teaching staff; • The school has in place a Critical Incident Management Plan; • The school has a code of conduct for teaching personal: <i>Code of Professional Conduct for Teachers</i>, by the Teaching Council; • The School has a Policy on Professional Behaviour for School Personnel. • The school's E-learning plan provides detailed guidelines for best practice for teachers and SNA's when engaging with students online

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Risk of harm due to bullying of child. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The school has an Anti-bullying policy which fully adheres to the requirements of the Department's <i>Anti-bullying Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools</i>.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children in school. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The school has a supervision policy to ensure appropriate supervision of children during, assembly, dismissal and breaks.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Risk of harm due to inappropriate relationships/communications between the child and another child or adult. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The school implements in full a student Wellbeing curriculum.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Risk of harm due to children inappropriately accessing/using computers, social media, phones and other devices while at school. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The school has in place an ICT policy in respect of usage of ICT by pupils; • The school has in place a mobile phone policy in respect of usage of mobile phones by pupils.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Risk of harm to children with Additional Educational Needs who have particular vulnerabilities; • Risk of harm to child while a child is receiving intimate care. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The school has an Additional Educational Needs policy
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Risk of harm due to inadequate code of behaviour; • Risk of child being harmed in the school by another child. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The school has in place a code of behaviour for pupils; • The school has a Health and safety policy.

Important Note: The 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 2017*.

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 has been completed by the Board of Management on 30th September 2020.

Chairperson of Board of Management

Principal