

# Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment Template

## Child Safeguarding Statement

**Rockboro 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 Committee/Board of Management of Rockboro Association Primary School has agreed the Child Safeguarding Statement set out in this document.

- 1 The Rockboro Committee/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 Ms. Aoife Healy
- 3 The Deputy Designated Liaison Persons (DLPs) are Ms. Naoimh Riordan & Ms. Tracy Slattery.
- 4 The Committee/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.
- 5 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
  - Will encourage Committee/ Board of Management members to avail of relevant training
  - The Committee will maintain 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 Committee/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 school's child safeguarding statement.
- All 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 Committee/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, drafted in September 2021, 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 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.

- 6 This statement will be published on the school's website and shall be provided to all members of school personnel, the Parents' Association. 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.

- 7 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 Dec 2021.

This Child Safeguarding Statement will be reviewed by the Board of Management in Sept, 2023

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Kieran Coughlan

Interim Chairperson of Board of Management

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Alan Kelleher

Committee Member.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## **1.RISK ASSESSMENT (Document drafted in Sept 2021 attached.)**

In accordance with the Children First Act 2015, the board of management/Rockboro Primary and Preschool has carried out an assessment of any potential for harm to a child while attending the service or participating in service activities. A written assessment setting out the areas of risk identified and the service procedures for managing those risks is included as an Appendix to this document.

## **2.CHILD SAFEGUARDING POLICIES AND PROCEDURES**

As required by the Children's First Act 2015 and children first national guidance for protection and welfare of children 2017, a number of the following safeguarding policies and procedures are in place, (highlighted in bold) while others are currently being reviewed.

- **Procedure to maintain a list of mandated persons under the Children First Act, 2015.\***
- **A designated liaison person and deputy liaison personnel have been appointed.**
- **Child Protection and Welfare reporting procedure.**
- Policy for dealing with allegations of abuse or neglect against employees.
- **Procedure for managing child protection records.**
- Recruitment policy.
- **Garda Vetting policy**
- **Code of Behaviour for working with children.**
- Induction policy (which includes procedures to inform new staff about the child safeguarding statement and accompanying safeguarding policies and procedures.)
- **All staff have completed a certified Tusla child protection course facilitated by Barnardo's (Modified/ Updated on 20<sup>th</sup> May 2019)**
- Staff have access to regular supervision and support in line with the service policy.
- Complaints policy.
- Policy for managing accidents and incidents

## **3. IMPLEMENTATION AND REVIEW**

- Rockboro Primary school and Pre-school recognise that the implementation is an on-going process. Our service is committed to the implementation of this Child Safeguarding Statement and the accompanying child safeguarding policies and procedures that support our intention to keep children safe from harm while availing of our service.
- This statement will be reviewed every 2 years or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which the statement refers.
- This statement has been published on the school website and is displayed in the school. It has been provided to all staff, volunteers and any other persons involved with the

school. It is readily accessible to parents and guardians on request. A copy of this statement will be made available to Tusla also if requested.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Kieran Coughlan

Interim Chairperson Rockboro School Association

**For further information on this statement, contact the relevant person:**

Ms. Aoife Healy. (021)4314324