

Scoil Náisiúnta Ros Eó,  
Ros Eó,  
Co. Bhaile Átha Cliath.  
K56 VK88  
Guthán: 01 843 7095  
Facs. 01 843 7095  
Email: [office@rushnationalschool.ie](mailto:office@rushnationalschool.ie)  
Website: [www.rushnationalschool.ie](http://www.rushnationalschool.ie)  
R.C.N: 20119270



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## Rush National School Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment

Rush National 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 (revised 2023) and Tusla Guidance on the preparation of Child Safeguarding Statements, the Board of Management of Rush National 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: **Morgan Doran**
- 3 The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is: **Norma McElligott**
- 4 The Relevant Person is **Morgan Doran**  
(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;

Principal: Morgan Doran

Deputy Principal: Norma McElligott

- 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](http://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](http://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](http://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 \_\_\_\_\_.

This Child Safeguarding Statement was reviewed by the Board of Management on \_\_\_\_\_.

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

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

Chairperson of Board of Management

Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

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

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

# Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment

## Written Assessment of Risk of Rush National 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 (revised 2023)*, the following is the Written Risk Assessment of Rush National School.

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 -
Training of school personnel in Child Protection matters	Risk of harm not being reported properly and promptly by school personnel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Child Safeguarding Statement &amp; DES procedures made available to all staff</li> <li>● DLP&amp; DDLP to attend PDST face to face training</li> <li>● All Staff to view Tusla training module &amp; any other online training offered by PDST</li> <li>● B.O.M notes all records of staff and board training</li> </ul>
One to one teaching	Risk of harm by school personnel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Child Safeguarding Statement &amp; DES procedures made available to all staff</li> <li>● Special Educational Needs Policy</li> <li>● Open doors</li> <li>● Table between teacher and pupil</li> <li>● Glass in window</li> </ul>
Daily arrival of pupils at 8:50 am	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children in school	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Yard Supervision and Procedures Policy</li> </ul>
Collection and dismissal of pupils	Risk of child being harmed in the school by visitor to the school	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Collection and Dismissal procedures in place**</li> <li>● Enrolment/Contact Forms to identify 'Known Adults'</li> </ul>
Children going on an errand within the school	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children in school	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Health and Safety Policy*</li> <li>● Two children must be sent on an errand</li> </ul>

Care of children with special needs, including intimate care needs	Risk of harm by school personnel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Intimate Care Policy**</li> </ul>
Teachers using personal devices to take photographs and recordings	Risk of harm caused by member of school personnel accessing/circulating inappropriate material via social media, texting, digital device or other manner	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● School cameras/Ipads to be used for photography/recording purposes</li> <li>● Data Protection Policy in line with GDPR*</li> </ul>
Bullying by pupils	Risk of child being harmed in the school by another child	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Anti-Bullying Policy</li> <li>● Anti-Cyber Bullying Policy</li> <li>● Stay Safe Programme</li> <li>● Code of Behaviour</li> </ul>
PAC Facebook	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"> <li>● Anti-Bullying Policy</li> <li>● Anti-Cyber Bullying Policy</li> <li>● Communication procedures in place**</li> </ul>
Use of Information and Communication Technology by pupils in school to cyberbully	Risk of child being harmed in the school by another child	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Anti-Cyber Bullying Policy</li> <li>● Code of Behaviour</li> <li>● Stay Safe Programme</li> <li>● ICT Policy /Acceptable Use Policy</li> </ul>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● ICT Policy /Acceptable Use Policy</li> <li>● NCTE firewall in place</li> </ul>
Administration of medicine	Risk of harm due to inappropriate guidance on the administration of medicine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Administration of Medicine Policy</li> </ul>
School outings to the library and church	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children on outing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● School Tour/Outings Policy*</li> </ul>

Shopping trip	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children on outing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● School Tour/Outings Policy*</li> </ul>
Adult with a barring order	Risk of child being harmed/abducted.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Collection and Dismissal procedures in place**</li> </ul>
Toileting areas	Risk of harm to child due to inappropriate behaviour	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Toileting procedures in place **</li> </ul>
Curricular provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe.	Risk of harm to child due to non-teaching of specific curricular areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● School implements SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe in full as per Department Guidelines</li> </ul>
LGBT children/pupils perceived to be LGBT	Risk of child being harmed in the school by another child	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Anti-Bullying Policy</li> <li>● Code of Behaviour</li> <li>● Anti-Cyber Bullying Policy</li> <li>● Stay Safe Programme</li> <li>● RSE Programme</li> </ul>
Managing of challenging behaviour amongst pupils, including appropriate use of restraint	Risk of injury to pupils and staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Restraint Policy**</li> <li>● Code of Behaviour</li> <li>● Special Needs Assistant Policy*</li> </ul>
Flight Risk	Risk of injury to pupils	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Yard Supervision and Procedures Policy</li> </ul>
Sports coaches visiting the school	Risk of child being harmed in the school by volunteer or visitor to the school	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Vetting requirements of the National Vetting Bureau in place</li> </ul>
Students participating in Transition Year work experience	Risk of child being harmed in the school by volunteer or visitor to the school	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Vetting requirements of the National Vetting Bureau in place</li> <li>● Child Safeguarding Statement &amp; DES procedures made available to all staff</li> </ul>

Recreation breaks for pupils	<p>Risk of child being harmed in the school by another child</p> <p>Risk of child being harmed in the school by volunteer or visitor to the school</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Yard Supervision and Procedures Policy</li> <li>● Vetting requirements of the National Vetting Bureau in place</li> <li>● Collection and Dismissal procedures in place**</li> </ul>
Classroom teaching	Risk of harm by school personnel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Child Safeguarding Statement &amp; DES procedures made available to all staff</li> <li>● Vetting requirements of the National Vetting Bureau in place</li> </ul>
Movement breaks for pupils	<p>Risk of harm by school personnel</p> <p>Risk of child being harmed in the school by volunteer or visitor to the school</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Child Safeguarding Statement &amp; DES procedures made available to all staff</li> <li>● Vetting requirements of the National Vetting Bureau in place</li> <li>● Special Educational Needs Policy*</li> <li>● Special Needs Assistant Policy*</li> </ul>
Sporting activities	Risk of child being harmed in the school by volunteer or visitor to the school	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Child Safeguarding Statement &amp; DES procedures made available to all staff</li> <li>● Vetting requirements of the National Vetting Bureau in place</li> </ul>
School outings e.g. school tour.	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children on outing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● School Tour/Outings Policy*</li> </ul>
Annual Sports Day	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children during Sports Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● School Tour/Outings Policy*</li> <li>● Health &amp; Safety Policy</li> </ul>
Fundraising events involving pupils e.g. school walk and school run	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children on outing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● School Tour/Outings Policy*</li> </ul>

Use of off-site facilities for school activities e.g. trip to Millbank Theatre, trip to St. Joseph's Secondary School	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children on outing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● School Tour/Outings Policy*</li> </ul>
School transport arrangements including use of bus escorts	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children on outing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● School Tour/Outings Policy*</li> </ul>
Administration of first aid	Risk of injury to pupils if appropriate care is not provided	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Health &amp; Safety Policy</li> <li>● Administration of Medicine Policy</li> </ul>
Use of external personnel to supplement curriculum	Risk of child being harmed in the school by volunteer or visitor to the school	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Vetting requirements of the National Vetting Bureau in place</li> </ul>
<p>Care of pupils with specific vulnerabilities/ needs such as</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Pupils from ethnic minorities/migrants</li> <li>● Pupils with special educational needs</li> <li>● Members of the traveller community</li> <li>● Pupils of minority religious faiths</li> </ul>	Risk of child being harmed in the school by another child/adult	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Anti-Bullying Policy</li> <li>● Code of Behaviour</li> <li>● Anti-Cyber Bullying Policy</li> <li>● Special Educational Needs Policy</li> <li>● Special Needs Assistant Policy</li> </ul>
<p>Recruitment of school personnel including -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Teachers</li> <li>● Special Needs Assistants</li> <li>● Caretaker/Secretary/Cleaners</li> <li>● Sports coaches</li> <li>● External Tutors/Guest Speakers</li> <li>● Volunteers/Parents in school activities</li> <li>● Visitors/contractors present in school during school hours</li> <li>● Visitors/contractors present during after school activities</li> </ul>	<p>Risk of harm not recognised or properly or promptly reported</p> <p>Risk of child being harmed in the school by volunteer or visitor to the school</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment &amp; DES procedures made available to all staff</li> <li>● Staff to view Tusla training module &amp; any other online training offered by PDST</li> <li>● Vetting requirements of the National Vetting Bureau in place</li> </ul>



Use of school premises by other organisation during school day	Risk of child being harmed in the school by volunteer or visitor to the school	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Child Safeguarding Statement &amp; DES procedures made available to all staff</li> <li>● Vetting requirements of the National Vetting Bureau in place</li> <li>● Use of Premises Policy</li> </ul>
Student teachers undertaking training placement in school	Risk of child being harmed in the school by volunteer or visitor to the school	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Vetting requirements of the National Vetting Bureau in place</li> </ul>
After school use of school premises by other organisations	Risk of child being harmed in the school by volunteer or visitor to the school	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Vetting requirements of the National Vetting Bureau in place</li> <li>● Use of Premises Policy</li> </ul>
Remote Learning	Risk of harm due to children inappropriately accessing/using computers, social media, phones and other devices while engaged in remote learning.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Anti-Bullying Policy</li> <li>● Anti-Cyber Bullying Policy</li> <li>● Remote Learning Policy</li> <li>● Code of Behaviour</li> <li>● Communication procedures in place**</li> </ul>

**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.

\*Amendment to current policy required

\*\*Procedure in place, policy pending