Rath Dara Community College
Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment

For:	**Rath Dara Community College**	*(School Name)*
At:	**Blanchardstown Road Nort, Dublin 15.**	*(School Address)*

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 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):

Emily Boyle

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

Cathal Mc Daniel

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

Name of Relevant Person

Emily Boyle

(In schools this person is the DLP)

Relevant Person can be contacted on:

(insert phone) ***01 8201488***	*(insert email)* ***rcc@rathdaracc.ie***

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:

Mark Mc Donald

In the event that both DLP and DDLP are absent and unavailable, and where there is no staff member formally acting in their role, the chairperson of the board of management, or in an ETB school the chief executive or their delegate, assumes the role of DLP.

The board of management recognises that child protection and safeguarding permeate all aspects of school life and must be reflected in all of the school's policies, procedures, practices and activities. In all of these, 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 happening to children and protect members of school personnel from the necessity to take unnecessary risks that may leave themselves open to accusations of child abuse.

☒Develop a practice of openness with parents and encourage parental involvement in the education of their children.

☒Fully respect confidentiality requirements as set out in the Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025 in dealing with child protection matters.

☒Adhere to the above principles in relation to any vulnerable adult.

Procedures and Measures in Place

Our Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment has been developed in line with requirements under the Children First Act 2015, the *Children First: National Guidance 2017*, and *Child Safeguarding: A Guide for Policy, Procedure and Practice, 2nd ed. (Tusla, 2024),* and the *Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025.* In addition to the procedures listed in our risk assessment, the following procedures support our intention to safeguard children while they are availing of our service:

> Procedure for the Management of Allegations of Abuse or Misconduct against School Personnel Relating to a Child Availing of Our Service

~ Where any member of school personnel is the subject of any investigation in respect of any act, omission or circumstance in relation to a child attending the school, the school is required to adhere to the relevant procedures set out in Chapter 7 of *the Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025* and to the relevant agreed disciplinary procedures for school staff which are published on the gov.ie website.

> 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.

The various procedures referred to in this Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment can be accessed via the school's website, the gov.ie website or will be made available on request by the school.

In accordance with the Children First Act 2015, the Addendum to Children First 2019 and 2025, and the *Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025,* the board of management 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.

Note: The procedures and measures in place outlined above, are not intended as exhaustive list. Individual boards of management shall also include in this section such other procedures and measures that are of relevance to the school.

This statement has been published on the school's website or will be made available on request by the school. It has been provided to all members of school personnel, the parents' association (if any), the patron and parents. A copy of this statement and risk assessment will be made available to Tusla and the department if requested.

This Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment will be reviewed annually or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which this statement refers.

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	The school has yard/playground supervision procedures to ensure appropriate supervision of children during assembly, dismissal and breaks.
2.	Recreation breaks for pupils	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children in school	The school has yard/playground supervision procedures to ensure appropriate supervision of children during breaks and in specific areas such as toilets and changing rooms.
3.	Classroom teaching	Risk of child being harmed in the school by another child or member of school personnel	All school personnel are provided with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement and are required to adhere to Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017.
4.	One-to-one teaching	Risk of harm in one-to-one teaching situations, including inappropriate communication or conduct	The school has in place clear procedures for one-to-one teaching activities, including visibility, supervision and safeguarding requirements, with additional supports and communication strategies used where pupils with ASD are involved.

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
5.	One-to-one learning support	Risk of harm in one-to-one teaching situations	The school has in place clear procedures for one-to-one teaching activities and a Special Educational Needs policy.
6.	One-to-one counselling	Risk of harm in one-to-one counselling situations	The school has in place procedures for one-to-one counselling.
7.	Outdoor teaching activities	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision during activities	The school has a Health and Safety Policy and supervision procedures in place.
8.	Online teaching and learning remotely	Risk of harm due to inappropriate use of online remote teaching and learning platforms	The school has an Acceptable Use Policy in place, including provision for online teaching and learning remotely, communicated to parents.
9.	Sporting Activities	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision or inappropriate conduct	The school has procedures for the use of external sports coaches and appropriate supervision arrangements.
10.	School outings	Risk of harm while attending out of school activities, including risks relating to identified medical needs	The school has in place clear procedures in respect of school outings, including appropriate supervision, emergency contact procedures and supports for pupils with identified medical needs and pupils with ASD.
11	School trips involving overnight stay	Risk of harm while participating in out of school activities, including risks relating to identified medical needs	The school has in place clear procedures in respect of school trips, including supervision arrangements, administration of medication, emergency

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
			planning and supports for pupils with identified medical needs and pupils with ASD.
12	School trips involving foreign travel	Risk of harm while participating in out of school activities abroad, including risks relating to identified medical needs	The school has in place clear procedures in respect of foreign travel, including supervision arrangements, administration of medication, emergency planning and supports for pupils with identified medical needs and pupils with ASD, and adheres to Child Safeguarding Procedures.

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	
13.	Use of toilet/changing/shower areas in schools	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision	The school has supervision procedures in place in respect of toilets, changing rooms and shower areas.
14.	Sports Day	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision during sporting events	The school has appropriate supervision procedures and Health and Safety measures in place.
15.	Fundraising events involving pupils	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision or inappropriate contact	Appropriate supervision and Child Safeguarding Procedures are implemented during all fundraising activities.
16.	Use of off-site facilities for school activities	Risk of harm while attending activities off-site	The school has clear procedures in respect of off-site activities and supervision arrangements.

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	
17.	School transport arrangements	Risk of harm during transport to and from school activities	Appropriate supervision and transport safety procedures are implemented.
18.	Bus escorts	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of pupils during transport	Bus escorts are supervised appropriately, adhere to Child Safeguarding Procedures and are subject to Garda vetting requirements where applicable, with additional support arrangements provided for pupils with ASD where required.
19.	Management of challenging behaviour amongst pupils, including appropriate use of restraint where required	Risk of harm due to inadequate code of behaviour or inappropriate restraint	The school has a Code of Positive Behaviour in place and complies with agreed disciplinary procedures.
20.	Management of provision of food and drink	Risk of harm to pupils with medical or dietary needs	The school has procedures for care of children with medical needs and Health and Safety measures in place.
21.	Administration of Medicine	Risk of harm to children with medical vulnerabilities	The school has in place procedures for the administration of medication to pupils.
22.	Administration of First Aid	Risk of harm due to inadequate response to accidents or injury	The school has in place procedures for the administration of First Aid.

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
23.	Curricular provision in respect of SPHE, RSE	Risk of harm due to inadequate safeguarding education	The school implements in full the SPHE curriculum and the Wellbeing Programme at Junior Cycle.
24.	Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst pupils	Risk of harm due to bullying	The school has an Anti-Bullying Policy which fully adheres to Department procedures.
25.	Training of school personnel in child protection matters	Risk of harm not being recognised or reported properly	The school encourages staff and Board members to avail of relevant training and maintains records of all training.
26.	Use of external personnel to supplement curriculum	Risk of harm caused by external personnel	The school has procedures for the use of external persons to supplement delivery of the curriculum and adheres to Garda vetting requirements.
27.	Use of external personnel to support sports and extra-curricular activities	Risk of harm caused by external coaches or tutors	The school has procedures for the use of external sports coaches and Garda vetting requirements are adhered to.
28.	Use of Information and Communication Technology by pupils in school, including social media	Risk of harm due to inappropriate access/use of technology	The school has an Acceptable Use Policy and procedures governing the use of smartphones and tablet devices.
29.	Application of sanctions under the school's Code of Positive Behaviour	Risk of harm due to inadequate code of behaviour	The school has in place a Code of Positive Behaviour for pupils.
30.	Students participating in work experience in the school	Risk of harm caused by inappropriate interaction or supervision	The school has procedures in respect of students undertaking work experience in the school.

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
31.	Students from the school participating in work experience elsewhere	Risk of harm while participating in external work experience	The school has procedures in respect of pupils undertaking work experience in external organisations.
32.	Student teachers undertaking training placement in school	Risk of harm caused by student teachers	The school has procedures in respect of student teacher placements.

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
33	Use of video/photography/other media to record school events	Risk of inappropriate use of images or media	The school implements Acceptable Use and safeguarding procedures regarding media usage.
34.	Breakfast club	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision	Appropriate supervision and safeguarding procedures are in place during breakfast club activities.
35.	Homework club/evening study	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision	Appropriate supervision and safeguarding procedures are implemented during homework club/evening study.
36.	Distance in classrooms, corridors and school grounds	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision or unsafe practices	The school has a Health and Safety Policy and supervision procedures in place.
37.	Students' appropriate use of PPE equipment	Risk of harm due to unsafe or inappropriate use of PPE	Staff supervise and instruct pupils on the correct use of PPE equipment.
38.	Pupils from ethnic minorities/migrants	Risk of harm due to racism or discrimination	The school undertakes anti-racism awareness

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
			initiatives and implements safeguarding procedures equally for all pupils.
39.	Members of the Traveller community	Risk of harm due to discrimination or exclusion	The school undertakes anti-racism and inclusion initiatives.
40.	Lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender (LGBT) children	Risk of harm due to bullying or discrimination	The school implements Anti-Bullying and inclusion policies.
41.	Pupils perceived to be LGBT	Risk of harm due to bullying or discrimination	The school implements Anti-Bullying and inclusion policies.
42.	Pupils of minority religious faiths	Risk of harm due to discrimination	The school promotes inclusion and equality through school policies and procedures.
43	Children in care	Risk of harm due to vulnerability	The school adheres to Child Protection Procedures and liaises appropriately with relevant agencies.
44	Children on CPNS	Risk of harm not being recognised or addressed appropriately	The school adheres to Child Protection Procedures and Children First requirements.
45	Children with medical needs	Risk of harm due to medical vulnerabilities	The school has procedures for administration of medication and First Aid.
46	Pupils with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)	Risk of harm due to communication, sensory, social or behavioural vulnerabilities and additional supervision needs	The school has a Special Educational Needs policy in place and provides appropriate supports, supervision, individual planning and reasonable accommodations for pupils with ASD across all school activities, including

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
			school trips, transport, recreation and one-to-one support settings.
47	Recruitment of teachers/SNAs	Risk of child being harmed by a member of school personnel	The school adheres to Garda vetting legislation and relevant DE circulars.
48	Recruitment of caretaker/secretary/cleaners	Risk of child being harmed by a member of school personnel	The school adheres to Garda vetting legislation and recruitment procedures.
49	Recruitment of sports coaches	Risk of child being harmed by external personnel	The school adheres to Garda vetting legislation and has procedures for external sports coaches.
50	Recruitment of external tutors/guest speakers	Risk of child being harmed by external personnel	The school has procedures for the use of external personnel and adheres to safeguarding requirements.
51	Volunteers/Parents in school activities	Risk of child being harmed by volunteers or visitors	Appropriate supervision and safeguarding procedures are implemented for all volunteers and parents involved in school activities.
52	Visitors/contractors present in school during school hours	Risk of child being harmed by visitors or contractors	The school has visitor management and supervision procedures in place.
53	Visitors/contractors present during after school activities	Risk of child being harmed during after-school activities	Appropriate supervision and safeguarding procedures are implemented.
54	Risk of harm not being recognised by school personnel	Failure to identify safeguarding concerns	All staff receive the Child Safeguarding Statement and Child Protection Procedures.

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
55.	Risk of harm not being reported properly and promptly by school personnel	Failure to report child protection concerns	Staff are required to adhere to Children First Act 2015 and Child Protection Procedures 2017.
56.	Risk of child being harmed in the school by a member of school personnel	Harm caused by staff member	The school complies with Garda vetting legislation, codes of conduct and disciplinary procedures.
57.	Risk of child being harmed in the school by another child	Harm caused by peer abuse or bullying	The school has an Anti-Bullying Policy and Code of Positive Behaviour.
58.	Risk of child being harmed in the school by volunteer or visitor	Harm caused by visitor or volunteer	Appropriate supervision and safeguarding procedures are in place for visitors and volunteers.
59.	Risk of child being harmed while participating in out of school activities	Harm during school trips or external activities	The school has clear procedures in respect of school outings and supervision.
60.	Risk of harm due to bullying of child	Bullying behaviour causing harm	The school has an Anti-Bullying Policy in place.
61.	Risk of harm due to racism	Racist incidents or discrimination	The school undertakes anti-racism awareness initiatives.
62.	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children in school	Children left unsupervised	The school has supervision procedures for classrooms, playgrounds, toilets and corridors.
63.	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision while attending out of school activities	Children inadequately supervised off-site	Appropriate supervision procedures are implemented during all outings and trips.

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
64.	Risk of harm due to inappropriate relationship/communications between child and another child or adult	Inappropriate communication or grooming	Staff adhere to codes of conduct and Child Protection Procedures.
65	Risk of harm due to children inappropriately accessing/using computers, social media, phones and devices	Exposure to inappropriate content or cyberbullying	The school has an Acceptable Use Policy and procedures governing device use.
66	Risk of harm to children with SEN who have particular vulnerabilities	Increased vulnerability of children with SEN	The school has a Special Educational Needs policy and appropriate supports in place.
67	Risk of harm due to inadequate code of behaviour	Unsafe or inappropriate behaviour management	The school has a Code of Positive Behaviour for pupils.
68	Risk of harm in one-to-one teaching, counselling or coaching situations	Potential for inappropriate conduct in one-to-one settings	The school has procedures for one-to-one teaching and counselling activities.
69	Risk of harm caused by inappropriate communication via social media or digital devices	Inappropriate contact between staff and pupils	Staff adhere to codes of conduct and Acceptable Use procedures.
70	Risk of harm caused by accessing/circulating inappropriate material	Exposure to inappropriate material	The school has an Acceptable Use Policy and staff codes of conduct in place.
71	ASD Students	In all activities outlined above, the school recognises the additional vulnerabilities and support needs that may arise for pupils with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). Appropriate supports, supervision, communication strategies, sensory considerations, individual risk assessments and reasonable accommodations will be implemented where required to ensure the safety, wellbeing and inclusion of pupils with ASD in all school-related activitie	

Additional pages may be added as required

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.

In accordance with Section 11 of the Children First Act 2015 and with the requirements of Chapter 9 of the Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025, the following is the written Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment.

In undertaking this Child Safeguarding Statement and 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 Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment was reviewed by the board of management on 23/09/26 *(most recent review date)*

Signed:*	Mary McCamley	**Date:** 23/09/26

Chairperson of the board of management

Signed:*	Emer Byrne	**Date:** 23/09/26

Principal/Secretary to the board of management

This Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment is expected to be reviewed again on December 2026 *(expected review date)*

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.

2 Hard Copies of Child Protection Procedures and Children First Guidance available in the School Office

Links to both are on the school Website