CSS1

Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment

For:	**Rahara National School**
At:	**Athleague rd, Rahara, Co. Roscommon, F42XR20**

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):

Aoife Mc Gowan

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

Niamh Watson

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

Name of Relevant Person

Aoife Mc Gowan

(In schools this person is the DLP)

Relevant Person can be contacted on:

083 1772404	***raharans@gmail.com* or *principalraharans@gmail.com***

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

Fr. Ray Milton

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.

Rahara N.S. Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
1.	Training of school personnel in Child Protection matters	Harm not recognised or reported promptly	Child Safeguarding Statement & DES procedures made available to all staff DLP& DDLP to attend Oide face to face training as soon as it's available. All Staff to view Túsla training module & any other online training offered by Oide. BOM keeps all records of staff and board training
2.	One to one teaching	Harm by school personnel	School has policy in place for one to one teaching Open doors Table between teacher and pupil Glass in window
3.	Toilet areas/ changing areas	Inappropriate behaviour	Agreed usage procedures (e.g. one boy/ girl at a time, classroom door left open until child returns) and procedures to be followed by child e.g. knock, if no response then enter Supervision Policy. Teacher checks if gone longer than expected.
4.	Curricular Provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay safe.	Non-teaching of same	School implements SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe in full. Zippy's friends and Friends for Life as appropriate. Teachers need up to date training in RSE.
5.	Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils	Harm from older pupils, unknown adults on the playground. Arrive at 09:10 & collected at 15:00. Industrial Action: arrive at 9:20 as there will be no supervision before & after school.	Parents and pupils reminded about practices. Morning (9:10-9:20) and afternoon supervision 15:00-15:15) provided by school for those attending Afterschool only. (Croke Park Hours)

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
6.	Sports Coaches GAA/ Football/ Hurling/ Sports Partnership/ Athletics etc	Harm to pupils	Policy & Procedures in place Vetting Child Safeguarding Statement Class teacher present Supervision Policy
7.	Student teachers undertaking teaching placement	Harm to pupils	Class Teacher Present
8.	Students participating in work experience	Harm by student Inappropriate interactions between student and pupil	Child Safeguarding Statement. Never alone with child Class teacher present Meeting with principal/ deputy principal prior to commencement, expectations, roles explained Assurance from Post Primary School
9.	Recreation breaks for pupils	Injury to students through rough play, playground aggression, slips Bullying Inappropriate behaviour	Supervision Policy Stay Safe Rules Bí Cineálta Code of Behaviour
10.	Recreation breaks for pupils on wet days	Injury to student Bullying Inappropriate behaviour (slips falls)	Supervision Policy, procedures and routines in place Children remain in classes. Classroom doors kept open. Pupils must remain seated (on chairs or floor/mats) Permission required for walking in corridors/ No walking on corridors)
11.	Classroom teaching	Harm by school personnel Harm by another student Inappropriate behaviour	Code of Professional Conduct for Teachers as per Teaching Council Supervision Policy Child isolated if deemed necessary Teachers having all school policies Vetting procedures for staff recruitment

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
12.	Outdoor teaching activities	Harm from other pupils (Rough play Playground aggression Slips, trips, falls Absconding)	Health and Safety Policy Extra personnel where required Teacher first and last to enter yard. Gates closed Supervision Policy Code of Behaviour Various Curricular Plans Critical Incidents Management Plan
13.	Sporting Activities Including Annual Sports Day	Harm to pupils (Rough play Playground aggression Slips, trips, falls Absconding)	Junior pupils remain on school grounds where school procedures apply Separation of Junior room and Senior room when required or deemed inappropriate/unsafe to mix Health and Safety Policy Extra personnel where required Teacher first and last to enter yard. Gates locked Supervision Policy Curricular Plans Critical Incidents Management Plan
14.	Child Absconding from the School	Increased risk of harm to pupil when they leave the school grounds (Death/injury by oncoming traffic)	Gates closed Locks on all exit doors Critical Incidents Management Plan
15.	Parents/ visitors to the school during the day	Harm to students and staff personnel due to an adult without appropriate vetting entering the school	Buzzer system on main door See Code of Best Practice Prior arrangements to be made for school visits

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
16.	School outings	Absconding Harm to student	School Tours Policy Appropriate supervision/ Supervision policy Health and Safety Policy Vetting procedures adhered to
17.	Fundraising events involving pupils on school grounds	Harm to pupils/ Misbehaviour/ Bullying Adult without appropriate vetting entering school building	Supervision Policy/ Supervised at all times Anti- Bullying Policy Code of Behaviour Vetting procedures adhered to
18.	Fundraising events involving pupils away from school grounds	Harm to pupils by another pupil or staff personnel injury /danger of traffic Misbehaviour Bullying	Code of Professional Conduct for Teachers as per Teaching Council Supervised at all times/ Supervision Policy Anti- Bullying policy Code of Behaviour Vetting procedures adhered to
19.	Use of off-site facilities for school activities (Sports Day/ GAA Matches/ Soccer/ Athletics? Debates/ Plays/ Workplaces for Aistear/ Visit to organisations? Transporting pupils to all of the above/ walking to church for confession and holy Communion practice, Nature walks, various trails on and off school grounds)	Increased risk when moving to off-site facility Harm to another pupil or staff personnel injury /danger of traffic Misbehaviour Bullying	Code of Professional Conduct for Teachers as per Teaching Council Supervision Policy/ Supervised at all times Bí Cineálta Code of Behaviour Vetting procedures adhered to Extra personnel when and where required Critical Incidents Management Plan

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
20.	School transport arrangements	Harm/injury to student.	Travel to/ from school all pupils must follow the Bus Driver'sTeacher's rules Bus company subject to bus inspections Seat belts to be worn at all times
21.	Swimming	Harm/injury to student. Inappropriate behaviour Bullying	See Appendix B: Code of Best Practic. Supervision Policy Limited numbers allowed attend swimming. Code of Behaviour Volunteers vetted, Bí Cineálta, Substance Use Policy
22.	Sales reps calling to the school	Adult without appropriate vetting entering the school Inappropriate behaviour	See Appendix B: Code of Best Practice Appointments must be made prior to school visit. Buzzer on the main door Never alone with child/ Supervision Policy Always two children sent on messages
23.	Pupils going to the toilet/ on messages/ leaving classroom for any reason	Inappropriate behaviour as students are unsupervised	Pupils always sent on messages in two's See Appendix B: Code of Best Practice… Code of Behaviour
24.	Administration of Medicine Administration of First Aid	Harm/injury to pupils by school personnel	Policy on Accidents and Administration of Medicines First aid kit First aid person Ring home when unsure Critical Incidents Management Plan Accident Report Form Always ring home for any head injuries
25.	Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst pupils	Harm-physical and/or emotional to others	Anti- Bullying Policy Routines and procedures such as Friendship weeks Stay Safe Programme taught in full Zippy's Friends Weaving Wellbeing Friends for Life Zones of Regulation

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
			Regular movement and calming breaks
26.	Training of school personnel in child protection matters	Failure to attend training/ engage with training	Online training and/or in person training for all school personnel, BOM training and training for DLD and Deputy DLP
27.	Use of external personnel to supplement curriculum	Harm to pupils	ICT and Acceptable Use Policy Vetting procedures adhered to Child Safeguarding Statement Appendix B: Code of Best Practice: Recruitment of school personnel
28.	Visitors calling to school when a class are outside at P.E.	Harm to pupils/staff due to adults without appropriate vetting entering school grounds	See Appendix B: Code of Best Practice… Gates closed when all pupils have arrived Parents/ visitors reminded not to interrupt classes including PE. Front door is locked.
29.	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	Inappropriate behaviour Harm/injury to student Emotional harm to student Bullying	Parents to inform school on Admission Form of any special needs child has. Code of Behaviour Supervision Policy Inclusion promoted throughout the school School ethos SNA where available SPHE teachings Code of Best Practice Friendship Weeks Code of Professional Conduct for Teachers as per Teaching Council Child Safeguarding Statement Staff observations and record keeping Actions taken when required

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
	religious faiths • Children in care • Children on CPNS		
30.	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. Visitors/contractors present during after school activities	Harm not recognised or properly or promptly reported. Harm to pupils	Child Safeguarding Statement & DES procedures made available to all staff Staff to view Tusla training and any other online training offered by Oide Vetting Procedures followed for all school personnel DES Circulars followed See Appendix B: Code of Best Practice
31.	Use of school premises by other organisations during school day e.g. Church, IFA, PTG	Harm to student/s	Always in open areas Personnel Garda vetted Parental consent given prior to attending. Front door buzzer. Keep doors closed to access school. Visitors have permission to use staff toilet only
32.	Use of Information and Communication Technology by pupils in school	Bullying Inappropriate behaviour	ICT policy and AUP Anti-Bullying Policy Code of Behaviour SPHE and Stay Safe Policy on Mobile Phones and Electronic Devices (any use of school ICT is under the strict supervision of school personnel)

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
33.	Application of sanctions under the school's Code of Behaviour including detention of pupils, confiscation of phones etc.	Harm to students Failure to apply sanctions Unfair application of sanctions	Code of Behaviour Policy on Mobile Phones and Electronic Devices Teacher discretion School Investigation and record keeping Communication to parents Parental consent
34.	Use of video/photography/other media to record school events	Harm to student Inappropriate behaviour Bullying	Parental consent. Awareness of not publishing names and photographs. Parents given a reminder any recording are for personal use and not to be uploaded to any social media sites. ICT and AUP Policy
35.	After school use of school premises by other organisations e.g. Afterschool	Harm to student/s Inappropriate behaviour	Must adhere to school rules. Confidential information locked away. All classrooms and office are locked and no entry is permitted. Contract of agreement outlining expectations /or what is not permitted during the use of the building. See; Appendix B: Code of Best Practice re visitors
36.	Aspects of curricular subjects e.g. Art, use of scissors and glue Science, mixing, melting, compass etc	Harm to students Inappropriate behaviour	Supervised at all times as per Supervision Policy Classroom management strategies Code of Behaviour Safety instructions advised Care taken
37.	In the event of a fire	Harm to students Inappropriate behaviour	Roll call Supervised/ Supervision Policy Fire Alarm installed

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
38.	Covid 19	Spread of infection (Harm to students)	Hand sanitising stations in every classroom and at every entry door to the school Signage on the signs and symptoms and hand washing Correct sneeze and cough etiquette taught in class Parents, pupils and staff are reminded of the symptoms of Covid 19 and to tell a trusted adult if they feel unwell. Pupils may wear a facemask in the class. Restrictions on visitors to the school Visits must be pre-arranged with the principal and visitors should sanitise their hands on entering the school Pupils, staff and visitors are asked not to attend the school if they are feeling unwell or think they have any Covid 19 symptoms All staff are familiar with the procedures to follow in the event of a suspected or confirmed case of Covid 19 The school cleaner has been informed about the enhanced cleaning regime needed to combat the spread of Covid 19 All staff have watched the DES Covid 19 training A Lead Worker Representative, Niamh Watson and a Deputy Lead Worker Representative, Aoife Mc Gowan have been appointed. Every teacher has access to cleaning products and cleans his/her desk every day
39.	Covid 19 – school closure	Possible exposure to inappropriate on-line content while using the internet to complete assigned school work	Pupils will be taught appropriate online behaviour Pupils will be shown how to use the chosen online platform, Seesaw, for learning activities and communication between the home and the school Parents will be made aware of the resources available on www.webwise.ie Pupils will be reminded and encouraged to talk to a trusted adult if something feels not right A remote learning plan has been put in place.

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
40.	Online Safety	Possible exposure to inappropriate on-line content while using the internet to complete assigned school work	Pupils are only allowed to use Kiddle to research their work. Photos are not allowed to be taken unless there is a project being undertaken. No photos/videos of staff/pupils/visitors. YouTube and social media are not permitted. Pupils may not install or download any apps/games Pupils may only use approved websites/apps Pupils are not permitted to bring in their electronic/Smart devices from home. Relevant Policies Safer Internet Day – Webwise. SHPE lessons Our school broadband is content filter is Level 6 through Oide Technology.
41.	Threatening/Sinister emails	Harm to pupils and staff	Contact emergency services immediately: 999 or 112 and ask to speak with An Garda Síochána to report the matter. Consult with authorities on what to do. Clear/Close the school if visible danger is present. Cooperate fully with instructions from An Garda Síochána. Notify Chairperson of BOM and Department of Education. Refer to Critical Incident Management Plan

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.

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 October 7th 2026

Signed:*		**Date**:

Chairperson of the board of management

Signed:*		**Date**:

Principal/Secretary to the board of management

This Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment is expected to be reviewed again

On the first Board Meeting of the New 27/28 academic year.

Rahara N.S. Child Protection Statement and Risk Assessment