Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment 2026-27 for Rushall National School at Pike of Rushall, Mountrath, Co Laois R32CK15

This school is a primary 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 of Rushall National School has adopted the Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment set out in this document.
The Board of Management of Rushall National School 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.

The Designated Liaison Person (DLP) is Andrew Monaghan (Principal)

The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (DDLP) is Eamhair Conroy (Deputy Principal)

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

Name of Relevant Person

Andrew Monaghan

(In schools this person is the DLP)

Relevant Person can be contacted on:

085 7877660	**principal@rushallns.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:

Danny Reddin

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 of Rushall National School 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

Rushall National 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**

Rushall National 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 of Rushall National School 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.

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 from unknown adults or unsupervised interactions. Risk of inadequate supervision during arrival or collection.	Staff supervision is provided during arrival and dismissal. School supervision and collection procedures are in place and communicated to relevant personnel.
2.	Recreation breaks / yard time	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision. Risk of injury, bullying, peer conflict or inappropriate behaviour.	Yard supervision rota in place. One teacher together with appropriate SNA support. Serious injuries are reported and First Aid Procedures are followed. The school has a yard monitor policy whereby senior children assist with children who need to use the bathroom during breaktime.
3.	Classroom teaching	Risk of a child being harmed by a member of school personnel. Risk of harm not being recognised or reported promptly.	All school personnel are provided with the Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment. Staff are required to follow relevant safeguarding procedures and reporting requirements.
4.	One-to-one teaching / SET support	Risk of a child being alone with an adult or lack of appropriate visibility. Risk of harm in one-to-one teaching, counselling, coaching situations	SET Policy is followed. One-to-one teaching takes place in rooms with appropriate visibility. Staff follow safeguarding procedures and professional boundaries.
5.	One-to-one counselling / psychological support	Risk of inappropriate interaction or lack of visibility between pupil and practitioner. Risk of harm in one-to-one teaching,	Sessions take place in approved locations. Appropriate visibility arrangements are maintained where possible.

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
		counselling, coaching situations	
6.	Transition between classrooms and to external activities	Risk of a child being left behind, injured, pushed or otherwise harmed during transitions.	Staff supervision during transitions. Agreed transition procedures are followed. Visual checks are undertaken to ensure all pupils are accounted for.
7.	Online teaching and remote learning	Risk of inappropriate online communication, harmful content, unauthorised access to lessons or pupils being left unsupervised online.	Acceptable Use Policy applies to online teaching and learning. Filtering and appropriate supervision are used. Staff follow communication procedures. Parents/guardians are informed of relevant online-safety expectations.
8.	Use of computers, phones, social media and digital devices	Risk of inappropriate access to content, cyberbullying, inappropriate communication or misuse of technology. Inappropriate use of the internet and apps	Acceptable Use Policy in place. Appropriate supervision and filtering are provided. Staff and pupils are made aware of expectations regarding appropriate use of devices. Mobile phones banned in school.
9.	Outdoor teaching activities	Risk of inadequate supervision, pupils becoming separated from the group or harm occurring outside the classroom environment.	Appropriate staff supervision. Clear boundaries and procedures for movement and supervision are established.
10.	PE, sporting activities and Annual Sports Day	Risk of physical injury, inappropriate contact or inadequate supervision. Unfamiliar surroundings Inappropriate behaviour Harm by outside coaches Privacy of children not respected	Appropriate safeguarding procedures are followed. Suitable facilities, equipment and supervision arrangements are provided. PE Policy Swimming Policy Code of Behaviour

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
			Anti Bullying Policy / Bí Cineálta Proper vetting procedures in place Personnel in charge of school teams do not enter the changing rooms until all children are in their games attire. Personnel will remain outside the dressing room door within easy reach should they be required.
11.	Fundraising events involving pupils	Harm to pupils due to unknown adults Inappropriate behaviour	Proper supervision by staff/Parents Association Code of Behaviour
12.	Parents collecting children early	Risk to pupils	Checkout system with secretary/ class teacher.
13.	School outings	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision, injury, bullying, inappropriate contact or harm from adults or other pupils outside the school.	School outings are subject to appropriate planning. Supervision arrangements are established. Parental consent is obtained. Appropriate adult/pupil ratios are maintained.
14.	Swimming and use of changing rooms	Risk of harm by an adult or another child, particularly during changing or periods of reduced visibility.	Appropriate supervision arrangements are in place. School staff avoid undressing support where possible. Appropriate private changing facilities are used by older pupils.
15.	Use of toilets	Risk of harm to a child by a member of staff or another pupil.	Appropriate supervision procedures are in place. Pupils use agreed arrangements appropriate to their age and needs (one at a time from a classroom). Staff maintain appropriate oversight while respecting pupil privacy.
17.	Peer-to-peer interaction / bullying / cyberbullying	Risk of emotional or physical harm by	Bí Cineálta procedures. Code of Behaviour. SPHE

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
		another pupil, including bullying, cyberbullying, racism or discriminatory behaviour.	and Stay Safe programmes. Acceptable Use Policy. Incidents are addressed and reported in accordance with school procedures and policies.
18.	Management of challenging behaviour.	Risk of injury or harm to child or others; inappropriate use of restraint.	Code of Behaviour; Staff training if required; incidents recorded and reviewed.
19.	Training of school personnel in child protection matters	Risk of a child being harmed by a member of school personnel. Risk of harm not being recognised or reported promptly. Risk of inadequate or training missed by staff	The school – Has provided each member of school 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 (Tusla e-learning module bi-annually) Encourages board of management members to avail of relevant training Maintains records of all staff and board member training. DLP & DDLP attended Oide face to face training in New Procedures 2025
20.	Substitute teachers, SNAs and temporary staff	Risk arising from unfamiliarity with school procedures, pupils or safeguarding responsibilities.	Appropriate supervision duties assigned. Relevant safeguarding information and procedures are made available. Garda vetting requirements are confirmed.
22.	External personnel supporting the curriculum/ sports coaches/ extracurricular activities	Risk of inappropriate contact, communication or activity involving pupils. Risk of inappropriate contact, inadequate supervision or injury.	Policy and procedures for external personnel. Appropriate vetting and safeguarding checks where required. School staff supervision.

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
23.	Recruitment of school personnel including: Caretaker/Secretary/Cleaners, External Tutors/Guest Speakers, Volunteers/Parents in school activities, Visitors/contractors present in school during school hours or after school activities	Risk of inappropriate contact, communication or activity involving pupils. Risk of inappropriate contact, inadequate supervision or injury.	Policy and procedures for external personnel. Appropriate vetting and safeguarding checks where required. School staff supervision.
24.	Participation by pupils in religious ceremonies/religious instruction external to the school	Risk of inappropriate contact, communication or activity involving pupils. Risk of inappropriate contact, inadequate supervision or injury.	Policy and procedures for external personnel. Appropriate vetting and safeguarding checks where required. School staff supervision.
26.	Student teachers undertaking training placements	Risk of inappropriate contact with pupils or unfamiliarity with school safeguarding procedures.	Student teacher placement procedures are followed. Appropriate supervision is provided. Safeguarding requirements are communicated and Garda vetting requirements are complied with.
27.	Pupils undertaking work experience in the school	Risk of inappropriate contact with pupils or unclear safeguarding responsibilities.	Work-experience policy and procedures. Appropriate supervision. Safeguarding expectations communicated to participants. Vetting requirements addressed where applicable.
28.	Pupils from ethnic minority, migrant, Traveller, LGBT or minority religious backgrounds; children in care or on Tusla's CPNS; pupils with medical needs	Risk of discrimination, bullying, social exclusion or increased vulnerability to harm; individual safeguarding or medical needs may not be recognised. Risk of harm due to racism.	Inclusive practices; Bí Cineálta and Code of Behaviour procedures; individual support arrangements; appropriate safeguarding, medical, medication and First Aid procedures; confidential information sharing on a need-to-know basis. Right to withdraw or not participate in religious instruction

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
29.	Use of photographs / social media	Risk of unauthorised sharing or inappropriate use of images.	Permission for the use of photographs/images on the school website, social media platforms and publications must be received from parents; Data Protection Policy. Reminder at events about not sharing on social media
30.	One-to-one SNA support	Risk of inappropriate boundaries, dependency or lack of appropriate oversight.	Open communication between SNA and class teacher. Appropriate visibility is maintained. Safe and designated areas are used where required.
31.	Individual sensory breaks outside the classroom	Risk of a pupil leaving the building or designated area unsupervised, becoming dysregulated or coming to harm.	Supervised access only. Designated areas are used. Individual arrangements are based on the pupil's needs and appropriate supervision is maintained.
32.	Participation in Active Schools/Green Schools/Creative Schools/Amber Flag activities	Risk of inadequate supervision, pupils becoming separated from the group or harm occurring outside the classroom environment.	Appropriate staff supervision. Clear boundaries and procedures for movement and supervision are established.
33.	Administration of medicine	Risk of incorrect administration, failure to administer medication appropriately or failure to respond to a medical emergency.	School policy and procedures for administration of medication. Appropriate consent/information. Relevant records maintained. Staff follow agreed procedures.
34.	Administration of First Aid	Risk of harm where an injury or medical emergency is not recognised or dealt with appropriately.	First Aid policy and procedures. Appropriately trained personnel. Appropriate recording and reporting of incidents. Emergency procedures followed.

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
35.	SPHE, RSE and Stay Safe curriculum	Risk that sensitive issues are not addressed appropriately or safeguarding concerns disclosed by pupils are not recognised or reported.	School implements the SPHE, Stay Safe and RSE programmes. Staff follow safeguarding and reporting procedures when concerns arise.
36.	Application of sanctions under the school's Code of Behaviour including detention of pupils, confiscation of phones etc.	Harm by school personnel Fair procedures not being followed	Code of Discipline Supervision Policy Mobile phones banned Parental Complaints Procedure

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 7th October 2026.

Signed:*		**Date: Wednesday 07th October 2026**

Chairperson of the board of management

Signed:*		**Date: Wednesday 07th October 2026**

Principal/Secretary to the board of management

This Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment is expected to be reviewed again at the first Board meeting of the next school year (September 2027)

Appendix - Location of copies of the Child Protection Procedures and Children First Guidance

Child Protection Procedures are available online from the Department of Education and Youth website: www.gov.ie/childprotectionschools
Children First National Guidance 2017 is available at:
Children_First_National_Guidance_2017.pdf
There is one hard copy of the Child Protection Procedures in the School located in the Office.

Contact numbers:
Mountrath Garda Station:
Tusla: General Enquiries **01 7718500** Midlands Office: **044 9353999**