

Child Safeguarding Statement

S.N. Réalt na Mara is a primary school providing primary education to pupils from Junior Infants to Sixth Class.

In accordance with the requirements of the [Children First Act 2015](#), [Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children 2017](#), [the Addendum to Children First \(2019\)](#), the [Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools 2017](#) and [Tusla Guidance on the preparation of Child Safeguarding Statements](#), the Board of Management of S.N. Réalt na Mara 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 2017 as part of this overall Child Safeguarding Statement
- 2 The Designated Liaison Person (DLP) is **Ms. Dearbhla Gill (Principal)**
- 3 The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is **Ms. Fiona Hannon (Acting Deputy Principal)**
- 4 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;
- 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 pupil with a special vulnerability.

5 The following procedures/measures are in place:

- In relation to any member of staff who is the subject of any investigation (howsoever described) in respect of any act, omission or circumstance in respect of a child attending the school, the school adheres to the relevant procedures set out in Chapter 7 of the Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017 and to the relevant agreed disciplinary procedures for school staff which are published on the DE website.
- In relation to the selection or recruitment of staff and their suitability to work with children, the school adheres to the statutory vetting requirements of the [National Vetting Bureau \(Children and Vulnerable Persons\) Acts 2012 to 2016](#) and to the wider duty of care guidance set out in relevant Garda vetting and recruitment circulars published by the Department of Education and available on the DE website.
- In relation to the provision of information and, where necessary, instruction and training, to staff in respect of the identification of the occurrence of harm (as defined in the 2015 Act) the school-
 - Has provided each member of staff with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement
 - Ensures all new staff are provided with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement
 - Encourages staff to avail of relevant training
 - 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 2017, including in the case of registered teachers, those in relation to mandated reporting under the Children First Act 2015.
- In this school the Board has appointed the abovenamed DLP as the "relevant person" (as defined in the Children First Act 2015) to be the first point of contact in respect of the schools child safeguarding statement.
- 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 DE website or will be made available on request by the school.

- 6 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.
- 7 This Child Safeguarding Statement will be reviewed annually or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which this statement refers.

This Child Safeguarding Statement was adopted by the Board of Management on 6th March 2018

This Child Safeguarding Statement was reviewed by the Board of Management on 7th May 2024

The Board of Management will review this statement in April - May 2025

Signed: Michael Donnan

Chairperson of Board of Management

Date: 7/5/2024

Signed: Dearbhla Gull

Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Date: 7/05/2024

Child Safety Requirements – Risk Assessment – S.N. Réalt na Mara, Rosses Point, Co. Sligo. Roll No. 17641J.

Written Assessment of Risk of S.N. Réalt na Mara.

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 2017*, the following is the Written Risk Assessment of S.N. Réalt na Mara, Rosses Point, Co. Sligo, Roll No. 17641J.

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 2017*

Section 11(1) (a) of the Children First Act 2015 defines risk as “any potential for harm to a child while availing of the service.”

Section 2 of the Act defines harm as follows:

“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.”

| 1. List of School Activities | 2. The school has identified the following risk of harm in respect of its activities – | 3. The school has the following procedures in place to address the risks of harm identified in this assessment - |
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| Training of school personnel in Child Protection matters | <p>Risk of school personnel not being aware of their responsibilities under the legislation.</p> <p>Risk that harm to pupils is not recognised or reported to the appropriate authorities promptly.</p> | <p>Our school's Child Safeguarding Statement & DES Children First procedures are made available to all staff. School Personnel are required to adhere to the <i>Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017</i> and all registered teachers are required to adhere to the <i>Children First Act 2015</i>.</p> <p>All staff are required to sign a receipt indicating that they have familiarised themselves with the school's Child Safeguarding Statement and that they are aware that the Designated Liaison Person (DLP) is Dearbhla Gill (Principal) and the Deputy Designated Liaison Person (DDLDP) is Aveen McHugh (Acting Deputy Principal).</p> |
| Training of school personnel in Child Protection matters. | <p>School personnel not aware of their responsibilities under the legislation.</p> <p>Harm to pupils not recognised or reported to the appropriate authorities promptly.</p> | <p>DLP & DDLDP have attend PDST face to face training on Child Safeguarding.</p> <p>All Staff have engaged with Túsla Children First training module & shall engage with any other online training offered by the Professional Development Service for Teachers (PDST).</p> <p>BOM records all instances of Staff and Board training.</p> |
| Recruitment of new staff | Risk of harm to pupils by school personnel | All vetting procedures are strictly adhered to as per the terms of legislation - National Vetting Bureau (Children and Vulnerable Persons) Acts 2012-2016, Department of Education & Skills Circular 31/2016 and any directives issued by |

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| | <p>Harm of pupils not recognised or properly reported to the appropriate authorities promptly.</p> | <p>Department of Education. Copies of documentation relating to vetting are retained securely.</p> <p>Child Safeguarding Statement & Dept. of Ed. procedures are made available to all staff. School Personnel are required to adhere to the <i>Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017</i> and all registered teachers are required to adhere to the <i>Children First Act 2015</i>.</p> <p>All staff are required to sign a receipt indicating that they have familiarised themselves with the school's Child Safeguarding Statement and that are aware that Designated Liaison Person (DLP) is Dearbhla Gill (Principal) ratified by Board of Management 20/3/2018 and the Deputy Liaison Person (DDL) is Ms Aveen McHugh (Acting Deputy Principal) ratified 17/06/2021</p> <p>Staff have undertaken Túsla Children First training module & shall avail of any other online training offered by PDST.</p> |
| <p>School personnel engaged in one to one teaching</p> | <p>Risk of harm by school personnel</p> | <p>All school personnel have received training in Child Protection.</p> <p>Open door policy.</p> <p>All classrooms have glass panels in doors at both sides of room.</p> <p>Written parental consent is obtained before any child receives 1 : 1 support teaching</p> <p>SEN Policy.</p> |

| 1. List of School Activities | 2. The school has identified the following risk of harm in respect of its activities – | 3. The school has the following procedures in place to address the risks of harm identified in this assessment - |
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| School Personnel engaged in classroom teaching | Risk of harm by school personnel | All school personnel have received training in Child Protection. Open door policy. All classrooms have glass panels in doors at both sides of room. SEN Policy. |
| Care of children with special needs, including intimate care needs, care of Junior pupils following a toileting accident. | Risk of harm to children with SEN who have particular vulnerabilities by school personnel. Risk of harm to child while a child is receiving intimate care. | School has policy on intimate care |
| Curricular Provision in respect of Social, Personal and Health Education (SPHE), Relationships and Sexuality Education (RSE), Stay Safe. | Risk of harm due to curricular provision not being fully implemented. | Our school implements SPHE, RSE and Stay Safe programme in full. Teachers record topics taught in Cuntas Míósúil (Monthly progress report) which are given to Principal and filed. |
| Use of Information & Communication Technology by pupils in schools. | Risk of harm due to children inappropriately accessing/using computers, social media, phones and other devices while at school. Bullying. | Pupils are prohibited from bringing and using mobile phones in school. School has the following policies: Code of Behaviour & Discipline. Anti-Bullying Policy. Internet Acceptable Use policy. |
| Use of video/photography/other media to record school events | Risk of harm due to: Identification of pupils, Geo-tagging of pupils' images. Inappropriate use of pupils' images. | School has an Internet Acceptable Use policy which includes policy on remote learning (updated 2021) Parental consent is required before pupils are included in still images or videos. Still or video |

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| | Inappropriate relationship/communications between child and another child or adult Cyber-bullying. | Images of individual pupils are not posted online. Individual pupils are not named under photographs. Topic of cyber bullying is covered by teachers through the Stay Safe programme for 3 rd 4 th , 5 th & 6 th Classes and on annual Safer Internet Day. |
| 1. List of School Activities | 2. The school has identified the following risk of harm in respect of its activities – | 3. The school has the following procedures in place to address the risks of harm identified in this assessment - |
| Playground activities at break times | Risk of harm due to: Inadequate supervision Bullying. Inappropriate behaviour. | Supervision Rota - yard is supervised by two teachers at each break time. The school has a Health and Safety policy. |
| Arrival and dismissal of pupils | Risk of harm due to: Inadequate supervision Inappropriate behaviour by fellow pupils Bullying | Supervised by teachers. |
| Pupils using toilet and cloakroom areas | Risk of harm to child due to inappropriate behaviour by fellow pupils/member of school personnel. | Controlled usage and supervision |
| Managing of challenging behaviour amongst pupils, (including appropriate use of restraint) | Risk of Injury to pupils and staff. | School has a Code of Behaviour & Discipline |
| Administration of First Aid | Risk of child being harmed by a member of school personnel when administering First Aid | School has a policy on administration of First Aid. |
| Administration of Medication | Risk of child being harmed by a member of school personnel when administering medication. | School has a policy on administration of medication |
| Sports coaches working in school. | Risk of child being harmed by a member of staff of another organisation while child is participating in sporting activities. | Vetting procedures followed - joint vetting agreement with relevant sporting organisation/body. |

| | 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 - |
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| Volunteers/ parents assisting with school activities. | Risk of child being harmed in the school by volunteer or visitor to the school | Vetting procedures. Policy for Volunteers/parents No unsupervised access. |
| School Tours/ School outings | Risk of child being harmed by a member of school personnel, a member of staff of another organisation or other person while child participating in out of school activities e.g. school trip/outing | Adequate supervision of pupils. School to check that personnel who are directly involved with or have access to pupils on the tour/outing have been Garda Vetted. Teachers to research tour venue and activities in order to ensure that activities are safe and age-appropriate. |
| After school use of school premises by other organisations | Risk of child being harmed by: a member of staff of another organisation or other person while child participating in after school activities. Bullying by other pupils participating in after school activities. | Organisations are required to enter into a Licence agreement with our school Board of Management before being permitted to use school premises. Copies of public liability insurance and details of the organisation’s Child Protection Officer must be furnished to the BoM. |
| | | No unsupervised access – a teacher is always present. |
| Students participating in TY work experience | Risk of child being harmed by older students. | Vetting of TY students (over 16 years of age) through their secondary school. Provision of vetting letter and copy of insurance from secondary school. TY students remain under direct supervision of classroom teacher and do not have unsupervised access to pupils. |

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 2017*.

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.

This risk assessment has been updated by the Board of Management on 7th May 2024. It shall be reviewed as part of the school's review of its Child Safeguarding Statement. Proposed date of next review April -May 2025.