



## Child Safeguarding Statement

Gaelscoil Raifteirí is a primary school providing primary education to pupils from Junior Infants to Sixth Class.

In accordance with the requirements of the Children First Act 2015, Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children 2017, the Addendum to Children First (2019), the Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools (revised 2023) and Tusla Guidance on the preparation of Child Safeguarding Statements, the Board of Management of Gaelscoil Raifteirí has agreed the Child Safeguarding Statement set out in this document.

1.The Board of Management has adopted and will implement fully and without modification the Department's Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools (revised 2023) as part of this overall Child Safeguarding Statement

2.The Designated Liaison Person (DLP) is **Niamh Uí Raois** (Príomhoide)

3.The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is **Cristín Uí Ghiobúin** (Príomhoide Tánaisteach)

4.The Relevant Person is **Niamh Uí Raois** (Príomhoide)

5.(The relevant person is one who can provide information in respect of how the child safeguarding statement was developed and will be able to provide the statement on request. In a school setting the relevant person shall be the designated liaison person.)

6.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 adult pupil with a special vulnerability.

7. The following procedures/measures are in place:

- a. In relation to any member of staff who is the subject of any investigation (howsoever described) in respect of any act, omission or circumstance in respect of a child attending the school, the school adheres to the relevant procedures set out in Chapter 7 of the Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools (revised 2023) and to the relevant agreed disciplinary procedures for school staff which are published on the gov.ie website.
- b. In relation to the selection or recruitment of staff and their suitability to work with children, the school adheres to the statutory vetting requirements of the National Vetting Bureau (Children and Vulnerable Persons) Acts 2012 to 2016 and to the wider duty of care guidance set out in relevant Garda vetting and recruitment circulars published by the Department of Education and available on the gov.ie website.
- c. 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-
  - i. Has provided each member of staff with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement
  - ii. Ensures all new staff are provided with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement
  - iii. Encourages staff to avail of relevant training
  - iv. Encourages Board of Management members to avail of relevant training
  - v. The Board of Management maintains records of all staff and Board member training
- d. In relation to reporting of child protection concerns to Tusla, all school personnel are required to adhere to the procedures set out in the Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools (revised 2023), including in the case of registered teachers and those in relation to mandated reporting under the Children First Act 2015.
- e. All registered teachers employed by the school are mandated persons under the Children First Act 2015.
- f. 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.
- g. The various procedures referred to in this Statement can be accessed via the school's website, the gov.ie website or will be made available on request by the school.

Note: The above is not intended as an exhaustive list. Individual Boards of Management shall also include in this section such other procedures/measures that are of relevance to the school in question.

8. 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.
9. 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 reviewed and adopted by the Board of Management on October 26<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

## **Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment**

Written Assessment of Risk of Gaelscoil Raifteirí

In accordance with section 11 of the Children First Act 2015 and with the requirements of Chapter 8 of the Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools (revised 2023), the following is the Written Risk Assessment of Gaelscoil Raifteirí.

### 1. List of school activities

Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils  
Recreation breaks for pupils  
Classroom teaching  
One-to-one Teaching  
Outdoor teaching activities  
Online teaching and learning remotely  
Sporting Activities  
Swimming lessons in The Leisure Complex, Castlebar (2<sup>rd</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> class)  
School outings  
Use of toilet areas in school  
Annual Sports Day  
Fundraising events involving pupils (e.g. Carol Singing at Super Valu)  
Use of off-site facilities for school activities (e.g. Town Park, Greenway, Church etc.)  
School transport arrangements (to cross country, matches, swimming, gaeltacht, tours etc.)  
Care of children with special educational needs, including intimate care where needed; management of challenging behaviour amongst pupils, including appropriate use of restraint where required  
Administration of Medicine  
Administration of First Aid  
Curricular provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe  
Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst pupils  
Training of school personnel in child protection matters  
Use of external personnel to supplement curriculum  
Grandparent's Day, First Holy Communion Gathering in school hall, school nurse, members of the clergy visiting the school, parents and visitors visiting the school for school celebrations and events.  
Use of external personnel to support sports and other extra-curricular activities  
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 religious faiths #  
Children in care  
Children on CPNS  
Children with medical needs  
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  
Use of Information and Communication Technology by pupils in school  
Application of sanctions under the school's Code of Behaviour including detention of pupils, confiscation of phones etc.  
Students participating in work experience in the school

List of school activities contd.

Student teachers undertaking training placement in school.  
Use of video/photography/other media to record school events  
After school use of school premises by other organisations

List of school activities continued

Use of school premises by other organisations during school day  
Green School Committee/Student Council/Active Flag and other meetings involving students, staff, other visiting adults/parents  
Movement of pupils around the school e.g. pupils walking to the office, pupils walking to SEN rooms, pupils walking to another classroom / yard etc.  
Students walking to and from local events.

2. The school has identified the following risk of harm in respect of its activities.

Risk of harm not being recognised by school personnel  
Risk of harm not being reported properly and promptly by school personnel  
Risk of child being harmed in the school by a member of school personnel  
Risk of child being harmed in the school by another child  
Risk of child being harmed in the school by volunteer or visitor to the school.  
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, swimming lessons, Gaeltacht.  
Risk of harm due to inappropriate use of online remote teaching and learning communication platform such as an uninvited person accessing the lesson link, students being left unsupervised for long periods of time in breakout rooms  
Risk of harm due to bullying of child  
Risk of harm due to racism  
Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children in school  
Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children while attending out of school activities  
Risk of harm due to inappropriate relationship/communications between child and another child or adult  
Risk of harm due to children inappropriately accessing/using computers, social media, phones and other devices while at school  
Risk of harm to children with SEN who have particular vulnerabilities  
Risk of harm to child while a child is receiving intimate care  
Risk of harm due to inadequate Code of Behaviour  
Risk of harm in one-to-one teaching / coaching/ meeting situation  
Risk of harm to students being dropped off at the school prior to 8.40 a.m. and thus standing in school yard alone.  
Risk of harm due to students of different age groups being present at the same time when using the toilets.  
Risk of harm caused by member of school personnel communicating with pupils in an inappropriate manner via social media, texting, digital device or other manner  
Risk of harm caused by member of school personnel accessing/circulating inappropriate material via social media, texting, digital device or other manner

3. The school has the following procedures in place to address the risks of harm identified in this assessment -

All school personnel are provided with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement  
The Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools (revised 2023) are made available to all school personnel.  
School Personnel are required to adhere to the Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools (revised 2023) and all registered teaching staff are required to adhere to the Children First Act 2015 and it's Addendum (2019).  
The school implements in full the Stay Safe Programme.

The school implements in full the R.S.E. programme

Procedures in place to address the risks of harm identified in this assessment contd.

The school implements in full the R.S.E. programme

The school has an Anti-Bullying Policy which fully adheres to the requirements of the Department's Anti-Bullying Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools

The school has a Supervision Policy to ensure appropriate supervision of children during, assembly, dismissal and breaks and in respect of specific areas such as toilets etc.

The school has a Health and Safety Statement & Policy

The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation and relevant DES circulars in relation to recruitment and Garda vetting

The school complies with the agreed disciplinary procedures for teaching staff

The school has in place a policy and procedures for the Administration of Medication to pupils.

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

Encourages board of management members to avail of relevant training

Maintains records of all staff and board member training

The school has in place a Code of Behaviour for pupils.

The school has in place an ICT / Acceptable Usage Policy in respect of usage of ICT by pupils.

The school has in place a Critical Incident Management Plan.

In one-to-one teaching activities, meetings with the Principal, errands to the secretary's office etc the glass panel of the door is to be free of any obstructions. An keypad system is in place on external doors in the school.

**Important Note: It should be noted that risk in the context of this risk assessment is the risk of "harm" as defined in the Children First Act 2015 and not general health and safety risk. The definition of harm is set out in Chapter 4 of the Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools (revised 2023)**

In undertaking this risk assessment, the board of management has endeavoured to identify as far as possible the risks of harm that are relevant to this school and to ensure that adequate procedures are in place to manage all risks identified. While it is not possible to foresee and remove all risk of harm, the school has in place the procedures listed in this risk assessment to manage and reduce risk to the greatest possible extent.

## Checklist for Review of the Child Safeguarding Statement

The Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools (revised 2023) require that the Board of Management must undertake a review of its Child Safeguarding Statement and that the following checklist shall be used for this purpose. The review must be completed every year or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which the Child Safeguarding Statement refers. Undertaking an annual review will also ensure that a school also meets its statutory obligation under section 11(8) of the Children First Act 2015, to review its Child Safeguarding Statement every two years.

The checklist is designed as an aid to conducting this review and is not intended as an exhaustive list of the issues to be considered. Individual Boards of Management shall include other items in the checklist that are of relevance to the school in question.

As part of the overall review process, Boards of Management should also assess relevant school policies, procedures, practices and activities vis a vis their adherence to the principles of best practice in child protection and welfare as set out in the school's Child Safeguarding Statement, the Children First Act 2015, the Addendum to Children First (2019) and the Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools (revised 2023).

	Yes / No
1. Has the Board formally adopted a Child Safeguarding Statement in accordance with the Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools (revised 2023)?	Yes
2. Is the Board satisfied that the Child Safeguarding Statement is displayed in a prominent place near the main entrance to the school?	Yes
3. As part of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement, has the Board formally adopted, without modification, the Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools (revised 2023)?	Yes
4. Does the school's Child Safeguarding Statement include a written assessment of risk as required under the Children First Act 2015? (This includes considering the specific issue of online safety as required by the Addendum to Children First)	Yes
5. Has the Board reviewed and updated where necessary the written assessment of risk as part of this overall review?	Yes
6. Has the Risk Assessment taken account of the risk of harm relevant to online teaching and learning remotely?	Yes

7. Has the DLP attended available child protection training?	Yes
8. Has the Deputy DLP attended available child protection training?	Yes
9. Have any members of the Board attended child protection training?	Yes
10. Has the school appointed a DLP and a Deputy DLP?	Yes
11. Are the relevant contact details (Tusla and An Garda Síochána) to hand?	Yes
12. Has the Board arrangements in place to communicate the school's Child Safeguarding Statement to new school personnel?	Yes
13. Is the Board satisfied that all school personnel have been made aware of their responsibilities under the Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools (revised 2023) and the Children First Act 2015?	Yes
14. Has the Board received a Principal's Child Protection Oversight Report (CPOR) at each Board meeting held since the last review was undertaken?	Yes
15. Since the Board's last review, did each CPOR contain all of the information required under each of the 4 headings set out in sections 9.5 to 9.8 inclusive of the procedures?	Yes
16. Since the Board's last review, has the Board been provided with and reviewed all records relevant to the CPOR?	Yes
17. Is the Board satisfied that the records provided are anonymised and redacted as necessary to ensure that the identities of children and any other parties, including school personnel, to whom the concern or report relates are not disclosed?	Yes
18. Since the Board's last review, have the minutes of each Board meeting appropriately recorded the records provided to the Board as part of CPOR?	Yes
19. Have the minutes of each Board meeting appropriately recorded the CPOR?	Yes
20. Is the Board satisfied that the child protection procedures in relation to the making of reports to Tusla/An Garda Síochána were appropriately followed in each case reviewed?	Yes

21. Is the Board satisfied that, since the last review, all appropriate actions are being or have been taken in respect of any member of school personnel against whom an allegation of abuse or neglect has been made?*	Yes
22. Where applicable, were unique identifiers used to record child protection matters in the Board minutes?	Yes
23. Is the Board satisfied that all records relating to child protection are appropriately filed and stored securely?	Yes
24. Has the Board been notified by any parent in relation to that parent not receiving the standard notification required under section 5.6 of the Child Protection Procedures for Primary/Post-Primary Schools (revised 2023)?	No

25. In relation to any cases identified at question 20 above, has the Board ensured that any notifications required under section 5.6 of the Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools (revised 2023) were subsequently issued by the DLP?	Yes
26. Has the Board ensured that the Parents' Association (if any), has been provided with the school's Child Safeguarding Statement?	Yes
27. Has the Board ensured that the patron has been provided with the school's Child Safeguarding Statement?	Yes
28. Has the Board ensured that the school's Child Safeguarding Statement is available to parents on request?	Yes
29. Has the Board ensured that the Stay Safe programme is implemented in full in the school? (applies to primary schools)	Yes
30. Has the Board ensured that the Wellbeing Programme for Junior Cycle students is implemented in full in the school? (applies to post-primary schools)	N/A
31. Has the Board ensured that the SPHE curriculum is implemented in full in the school?	Yes
32. Is the Board satisfied that the statutory requirements for Garda Vetting have been met in respect of all school personnel (employees and volunteers)? *	Yes
33. Is the Board satisfied that the Department's requirements in relation to the provision of a child protection related statutory declaration and associated form of undertaking have been met in respect of persons appointed to teaching and non-teaching positions?*	Yes
34. Is the Board satisfied that, from a child protection perspective, thorough recruitment and selection procedures are applied by the school in relation to all school personnel (employees and volunteers)?*	Yes
35. Has the Board considered and addressed any complaints or suggestions for improvements regarding the school's Child Safeguarding Statement?	Yes
36. Has the Board sought the feedback of parents in relation to the school's compliance with the requirements of the child safeguarding requirements of the Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools (revised 2023)?	Yes
37. Has the Board sought the feedback of pupils in relation to the school's child safeguarding arrangements?	Yes
38. Is the Board satisfied that the 'Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools Post-Primary Schools (revised 2023) are being fully and adequately implemented by the school?	Yes
39. Has the Board identified any aspects of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement and/or its implementation that require further improvement?	No
40. Has the Board put in place an action plan containing appropriate timelines to address those aspects of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement and/or its implementation that have been identified as requiring further improvement?	N/A
41. Has the Board ensured that any areas for improvement that were identified in any previous review of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement have been adequately addressed?	Yes

\*In schools where the ETB is the employer, the responsibility for meeting the employer's requirements rests with the ETB concerned. In such cases, this question should be completed following consultation with the ETB. Note: Where a school is undertaking its first review, references in this checklist to the "last review" shall be taken to refer to the date on which the Child Safeguarding Statement was first put in place.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
Chairperson, Board of Management

Date: 26.10.23

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
Principal, Board of Management

Date: 26.10.23



**Fógra maidir le hathbheithniú an Bhoird Bainistíochta ar an Ráiteas um Chosaint Leanai**  
**Notification regarding the Board of Management's review of the Child Safeguarding Statement**

**Do: Gach baill de Phobail Gaelscoil Raifteirí**

Is mian le Bord Bainistíochta Gaelscoil Raifteirí na níthe seo a leanas a chur in iúl duit:

- Críochnaíodh athbheithniú bliantúil an Bhoird Bainistíochta ar Ráiteas um Chosaint Leanai na scoile ag cruinniú Boird ar an **26ú Deireadh Fómhair**
- Rinneadh an t-athbheithniú seo de réir an "Seicliosta le haghaidh Athbheithnithe ar an Ráiteas um Chosaint Leanai" a foilsíodh ar láithreán gréasáin na Roinne [gov.ie](http://gov.ie)

Sínithe: *Seán Ó Murchú* Dáta: 26.10.23  
Cathaoirleach / Bord Bainistíochta

Sínithe *Máire Uí Ráera* Dáta: 26.10.23  
Príomhoide / Rúnaí an Bhoird Bhainistíochta

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**To: All members of the Gaelscoil Raifteirí Community**

The Board of Management of Gaelscoil Raifteirí wishes to inform you that:

- The Board of Management's annual review of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement was completed at the Board meeting of **26<sup>th</sup> of October, 2023**.
- This review was conducted in accordance with the "Checklist for Review of the Child Safeguarding Statement" published on the [gov.ie](http://gov.ie) website.

Signed *Seán Ó Murchú* Date: 26.10.23  
Chairperson / Board of Management

Signed *Máire Uí Ráera* Date: 26.10.23  
Principal / Secretary to the Board of Management