



# **Rosmini Community School**

## **CHILD SAFEGUARDING STATEMENT 2018**

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, practices and activities. Accordingly, the Board of Management of Rosmini Community School will fully comply with its statutory obligations under the Children First Act 2015 and other relevant legislation relating to the protection and welfare of children. The Board 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 Protection Policy.

For the purposes of these procedures the Board of Management has nominated the Principal as the Designated Liaison Person (DLP) and the Deputy Principals as the Deputy Designated Liaison Persons (DDLPs) for the college.

*Ratified: March 2018*

*Reviewed: November 2018*

## **Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment**

### **Written Assessment of Risk of Rosmini Community School**

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 Rosmini Community School.

School Name: Rosmini Community School  
Location: Gracepark Road, Drumcondra, Dublin 9  
Number of Staff: 50 Staff

#### **School Context/Services Offered**

Pobalscoil Rosmini is a co-educational, Post Primary school in an urban setting, the school is currently in temporary accommodation. The school has 192 students, 125 boys and 67 girls. The school operates under the trusteeship of Rosminian Order and the ETB. The school offers Junior and Leaving Certificate Programmes, JCSP, TY and LCA. The school is the designated secondary school for students with a Visual Impairment and currently 13% of our students are VI. In total 55% of the student population have an SEN. Please see the next page for a list of school activities.

#### **Mission Statement**

Rosmini Community School aims to provide an inclusive education catering for the physical, intellectual, moral, spiritual and aesthetic development of its students in a caring and friendly atmosphere, which respects the right of all.

## 1. List of school activities

- Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils
- Recreation breaks for pupils
- Classroom teaching
- One-to-one teaching
- One-to-one counselling
- Outdoor teaching activities
- Sporting Activities
- School outings
- School trips involving overnight stay
- School trips involving foreign travel
- Use of toilet/changing/shower areas in schools
- Annual Sports Day
- Fundraising events involving pupils
- Use of off-site facilities for school activities
- School transport arrangements including use of bus escorts
- Care of children with special educational needs
- Care of any vulnerable adult students
- 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 and RSE
- Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst pupils
- Training of school personnel in child protection matters
- Use of external personnel to supplement curriculum
- 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
  - Students with Visual Impairment
- Recruitment of school personnel including -
  - Teachers/SNA's
  - Caretaker/Secretary/Cleaners/bus escorts
  - 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
- Participation by pupils in religious ceremonies/religious instruction external to the school
- 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
- Students from the school participating in work experience elsewhere
- 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
- Use of school premises by other organisation during school day
- Breakfast club
- Homework club/evening study
- Currently in temporary accommodation in a very public environment

**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
- Risk of harm due to bullying of child
- 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, phone 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, counselling, coaching situation
- Risk of harm caused by member of school personnel communicating with pupils in appropriate 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
- Risk of drug use/abuse on school grounds e.g. prescription and illegal drugs, alcohol
- Risk of Pedestrian/traffic accident on school grounds associated with set down/pick up of Students
- Risk of disregards/breach of policy and/or procedures

**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 2017* are available to all school personnel
- School personnel are required to adhere to the *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools 2017* and all registered teaching staff are required to adhere to *The Children First Act 2015*
- The school implements in full the SPHE, RSE curriculum
- The school implements the full wellbeing programme at Junior Cycle
- The school conducts annual workshops on computer use and ICT safety awareness
- SNA's accompany teachers on all outings
- The school has a supervision and substitution procedure in place to ensure appropriate supervision of students throughout the school day
- All visitors must comply with the school's sign in system
- The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation and relevant DES circulars in relation to recruitment and Garda vetting.
- Where visitors to the school are not Garda Vetted they must be accompanied by staff members who are
- Staff have child protection training
- Designated Liaison and DDLP are appointed and details are visible in entrance to the school
- The school has the following policies in place
  - Admission
  - Anti- Bullying
  - Attendance
  - Child Protection Statement
  - Classroom Management
  - Code of Behaviour
  - Complaints made by parents against teachers
  - Computer internet acceptable use
  - Critical Incident
  - Grievance, Discipline and Dismissal
  - Health and Safety Statement
  - Homework
  - Inclusion and Intercultural
  - RSE
  - School Trips
  - SEN
  - Sexual Harassment
  - Smoke-free Workplace
  - Student Council
  - Substance Use

**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 completed by the Board of Management on 15<sup>th</sup> May 2018. It shall be reviewed as part of the school’s annual review of its Child Safeguarding Statement.

## Child Safeguarding Statement

Rosmini Community School is a post-primary school providing post-primary education to pupils from First Year to Leaving Certificate Year.

In accordance with the requirements of the Children First Act 2015, Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children 2017, 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 Rosmini Community School 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 Mr D D'Arcy
- 3 The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is Ms. Karen O Donovan
- 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 adult 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 DES 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 DES and available on the DES 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 s 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, 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 attached as an appendix to these procedures.
  
- The various procedures referred to in this Statement can be accessed via the school’s website, the DES 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.

- 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 in November 2018.