
Rice College Ennis



Child Safeguarding Statement

CHILD SAFEGUARDING STATEMENT AND RISK ASSESSMENT

Rice College, Ennis is a post-primary school providing education to pupils from First Year to Leaving Certificate Year.

In accordance with the **Children First Act 2015**, **Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children 2017**, **Addendum to Children First (2025)**, **Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025**, and Tusla Guidance, the Board of Management has agreed this Child Safeguarding Statement.

1. ADOPTION OF PROCEDURES

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.

2. KEY PERSONNEL

- Designated Liaison Person (DLP): Mr. Louis Mulqueen
- Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP): Ms. Claire Culligan
- Relevant Person: Mr. Louis Mulqueen. Contact: 065 6822105.
- Chairperson of Board of Management: Mr. John Burns.

3. PRINCIPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

The Board of Management recognises that child protection and welfare considerations permeate all aspects of school life and must be reflected in all policies, procedures, practices and activities.

The school will:

- Recognise that the protection and welfare of children is paramount, regardless of all other considerations.
- Fully comply with statutory obligations under the Children First Act 2015 and other relevant legislation.
- Fully co-operate with relevant statutory authorities in relation to child protection and welfare matters.
- Adopt safe practices to minimise the possibility of harm or accidents and protect workers from unnecessary risks.
- Develop openness with parents and encourage parental involvement in education.
- Fully respect confidentiality requirements in dealing with child protection matters.

The school will adhere to these principles in relation to **any adult pupil with a special vulnerability**.

4. PROCEDURES AND MEASURES IN PLACE

A. Staff Allegations (Chapter 7)

In relation to any member of staff who is the subject of any investigation in respect of any act, omission or circumstance concerning a child, the school adheres to procedures in **Chapter 7 of Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025** and relevant agreed disciplinary procedures published on gov.ie.

B. Recruitment and Vetting (Chapter 10)

The school adheres to statutory vetting requirements of the **National Vetting Bureau (Children and Vulnerable Persons) Acts 2012–2016** and wider duty of care guidance in relevant Department vetting and recruitment circulars.

C. Training (Chapter 11)

- Each staff member has been provided with a copy of the Child Safeguarding Statement.
- All new staff are provided with a copy upon appointment.
- Staff are encouraged to avail of relevant training.
- Board members are encouraged to avail of relevant training.
- The Board maintains records of all staff and Board member training.

Training Record (3-Year Refresh Cycle):

- DLP/DDLP: Completed 03/10/2025 (DLP) ... 06/10/2025 (DDLP)
- Staff: Completed 13/10/2025
- Chairperson: Completed 12/02/2026
- Board of Management: Completed 17/06/2026

D. Reporting to Tusla (Chapter 5)

All school personnel are required to adhere to procedures in **Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025**, including registered teachers regarding mandated reporting under the **Children First Act 2015**.

All registered teachers employed by the school are **mandated persons** under the Children First Act 2015.

E. Risk Assessment (Chapter 9)

In accordance with the **Children First Act 2015** and **Addendum to Children First (2025)**, 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 areas of risk identified and procedures for managing those risks is included with this Child Safeguarding Statement.

F. Access to Procedures (Chapter 5)

The various procedures can be accessed via the school's website, **gov.ie**, or will be made available on request by the school.

5. PUBLICATION AND COMMUNICATION

This statement has been:

- Published on the school's website.(www.ricecollege.ie)
- Provided to all members of school personnel. (on Principal to Staff Drive)
- Provided to the Parents' Association at their meeting
- Provided to the patron (ERST).
- Made readily accessible to parents and guardians on request.
- Available to Tusla and the Department if requested.

6. REVIEW

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.

Adoption: 17th June 2026

Last Review: 27 February 2025

Next Review: June 2027

CHILD SAFEGUARDING RISK ASSESSMENT

Written Assessment of Risk – Rice College, Ennis, Co. Clare

In accordance with **Section 11 of the Children First Act 2015** and **Chapter 9 of Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025**, the following is the Written Risk Assessment of Rice College.

1. LIST OF SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

- Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils
- Recreation breaks for pupils
- Classroom teaching
- One-to-one teaching/Learning Support
- One-to-one counselling
- Individual sessions in the Cubbie
- Outdoor teaching activities (Geography field trips, Biology field trips, Places of artistic interest, National Museum, Newgrange, Lough Derg retreat, Business trips, Walks, Music trips, Choir outings) This list is not exhaustive.

-
- Sporting activities (GAA, Rugby, Soccer, Badminton, Basketball, Athletics/Cross country, Golf, Surfing, Ice Skating) This list is not exhaustive.
 - School outings (Music concerts, recitals, Ploughing Championships, Outdoor Activity Centres) to include school trips involving overnight stays. (Educational outings relating to subjects, TY Modules and Year Groups)
 - School trips involving foreign travel (Ski Tour, Language Exchange, Missionvale)
 - Use of toilet/changing/shower areas
 - Annual Sports Day
 - Fundraising events following FSSU guidelines
 - Use of off-site facilities (Local Leisure Centre, Lees Road, Theatre hire, Outdoor Education Centre, Careers Exhibitions, all external sporting facilities, Fair-green and other areas of Educational Interest.)
 - School transport arrangements (External Bus Company)
 - Care of children with special educational needs, including intimate care where needed
 - Care of vulnerable adult students, including intimate care where needed
 - Management of challenging behaviour, including appropriate use of restraint where required
 - Administration of medicine (parental consent in writing needed)
 - Administration of basic first aid (using guidelines)
 - Management of lunchtime and school events
 - Curricular provision in respect of SPHE, RSE
 - Prevention and dealing with bullying allegations amongst pupils
 - Training of school personnel in child protection matters
 - Use of external vetted personnel to supplement curriculum
 - Use of external vetted personnel to support sports and extra-curricular activities
 - Care of pupils from ethnic minorities/migrants
 - Care of pupils with specific vulnerabilities/medical needs
 - Care of members of the Traveller community
 - Care of LGBTQIA+ children or those perceived to be LGBTQIA+
 - Care of pupils of minority religious faiths
 - Care of children in care
 - Care of children on CPNS
 - Care of children with medical needs
 - Recruitment of vetted school personnel (Teachers, SNAs, Caretaker, Secretary, Bursar, Cleaners, Chaplain, Sports coaches, External tutors, Guest speakers, Volunteers, Parents in school activities, Visitors/contractors during school hours, Visitors/contractors during after-school activities)
 - Participation by pupils in religious ceremonies/instruction external to school
 - Use of ICT, including social media, by pupils in school.

-
- Application of sanctions under Code of Behaviour (detention, confiscation of phones)
 - Students participating in work experience in school programmes
 - Students from school participating in work experience elsewhere
 - Student teachers undertaking training placement
 - 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 organisations during school day
 - Supervised Study after school
 - Use of School for the Breakfast Club.
 - Use of digital technology to enhance teaching and learning (upload of notes, homework)

2. RISKS OF HARM IDENTIFIED

- Risk of harm not being recognised by school personnel
- Risk of harm not being reported properly and promptly
- Risk of child being harmed in school by a member of school personnel
- Risk of child being harmed in school by another child
- Risk of child being harmed by a volunteer or visitor
- Risk of child being harmed by member of school personnel, member of staff of another organisation, or other person during out-of-school activities
- Risk of harm due to bullying and racism
- Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision in school
- Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision during 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 devices at school
- Risk of harm to children with SEN who have particular vulnerabilities, including medical vulnerabilities
- Risk of harm to child while 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 inappropriately via social media, texting, digital device.
- Risk of inappropriate use of AI.
- Risk of harm for school tours and Educational outings.
- Risk of harm due to absence of Social Media/Electronic Device/Mobile Phone policies
- Risk of harm if school policies not updated regularly and approved by BOM

-
- Risk of harm if all staff are not vetted and have not signed Statutory Declaration Forms
 - Risk of harm during/as a result of administration of emergency medication
 - Risk to health, safety, and wellbeing of members of school community
 - Risk of harm due to inappropriate use of remote online teaching and learning communication platforms.
 - Risk of inability to engage with remote teaching and learning due to availability of devices
 - Risk of decreased communication between school and home

3. PROCEDURES IN PLACE TO ADDRESS IDENTIFIED RISKS

- All school personnel provided with copy of Child Safeguarding Statement
- Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025 made available to all school personnel
- School personnel required to adhere to Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025; all registered teaching staff required to adhere to Children First Act 2015 and its Addendum (2025)
- School implements in full SPHE/RSE curriculum
- School implements in full Wellbeing Programmes at Junior and Senior Cycle
- School has Anti-Bullying Policy fully adhering to Department's Bí Cineáltas Procedures
- School has supervision plan to ensure appropriate supervision during assembly, dismissal, breaks, and during class time for specific areas (toilets, changing rooms, etc)
- School has clear procedures for school outings
- School has Health and Safety policy
- School adheres to Garda vetting legislation and relevant DES circulars
- School has code of conduct for school personnel (teaching and non-teaching)
- School complies with agreed disciplinary procedures for teaching staff as per Child Protection Guidelines 2025)
- School has Special Educational Needs policy
- School has intimate care process for students requiring such care
- School has procedures for administration of medication
- School has Acceptable Usage Policy for staff and students
- School staff offered training on use of IT platform
- School has adopted Microsoft 365 and has procedures for online engagements to facilitate learning.
- School has Droichead process to support newly qualified teachers
- School has provided each member of staff with copy of Child Safeguarding Statement
- All new staff provided with copy of Child Safeguarding Statement
- Staff encouraged to avail of relevant training

-
- Board members encouraged to avail of relevant training
 - School maintains records of all staff and board member training
 - School has policy on visitors; sign-in book at reception
 - School has clear policy on engaging with parents of students who are ill
 - School has provided IT devices to staff and students who require same
 - School has distributed leadership model; senior and middle management meet regularly; outcomes communicated to staff and parents/guardians
 - School has policy and procedures for administration of basic first aid
 - School has Critical Incident Management Plan
 - School has ICT policy regarding pupil usage. Particular reference to AI usage.
 - School has procedures for use of external persons to supplement curriculum delivery
 - School has procedures for use of external sports coaches
 - School has clear procedures for one-to-one teaching activities
 - School has clear procedures for one-to-one counselling
 - School has clear procedures regarding student teacher placements
 - School has clear procedures regarding educational outings, TY trips and participating in the school run Breakfast Club.
 - School has clear procedures for students undertaking work experience in school
 - School has clear procedure on dispensing emergency medication
 - School has clear procedures for pupils undertaking work experience in external organisations
 - School has appointed AP11 post holder to wellbeing co-ordinator role
 - School has completed Biennial Review of Posts of responsibility
 - School has purchased new Cubbie unit for Pupil and Staff Wellbeing
 - School has introduced and implemented the new DEY Bí Cineáltas procedures
 - School has trained 2 staff as physical first aid responders
 - School has trained 5 staff in Mental First Aid
 - Upskilling in SPHE/RSE training undertaken
 - School is linking student council with trustees ERST
 - School has broadened mentoring programme
 - School has adopted a Positive Behaviour Reward system in Junior Cycle
 - School has system that reviews policies regularly involving consultation with all relevant parties (Staff, Pupils, Parents, Board)

A box with all relevant referral forms is made available to all staff in the main staffroom.

Important Note: Risk in this context is the risk of "**Harm**" as defined in the **Children First Act 2015**, not general health and safety risk. The definition of harm is set out in **Chapter 4 of Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025**.

The Board has endeavoured to identify risks of harm relevant to this school and ensure 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 to manage and reduce risk to the greatest possible extent.

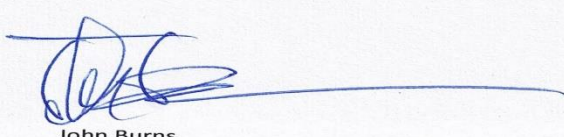
This risk assessment completed: February – June 2026 in consultation with Senior Management, Staff, BOM, Student Council, Parents' Association

Updated: June 2026

Previous reviews: Multiple dates 2017-2025

SIGNED-OFF:


Signed:



John Burns,
Chairperson, Board of Management.

Chairperson of Board of Management

Date: 17th June 2026

Signed: 

Principal/Secretary to Board of Management

Date: 17th June 2026

COMPLIANT WITH CHILD PROTECTION PROCEDURES FOR SCHOOLS 2025 & CIRCULAR 0041/2025

Rice College, New Road, Ennis, Co. Clare V95 FV10