**Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment**

**Child Safeguarding Statement**

Redwood NS 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](http://www.irishstatutebook.ie/eli/2015/act/36/enacted/en/pdf), [Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children 2017](https://assets.gov.ie/25844/b90aafa55804462f84d05f87f0ca2bf6.pdf), [the Addendum to Children First (2019)](https://assets.gov.ie/25819/c9744b64dfd6447985eeffa5c0d71bbb.pdf), the [Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools 2017](https://www.gov.ie/pdf/?file=https://assets.gov.ie/45063/2d4b5b3d781e4ec1ab4f3e5d198717d9.pdf#page=1) and [Tusla Guidance on the preparation of Child Safeguarding Statements](https://www.tusla.ie/uploads/content/4214-TUSLA_Guidance_on_Developing_a_CSS_LR.PDF), the Board of Management of Redwood NS 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: **Michelle Hogan**
3. The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is: **Marie Holmes**
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.

1. 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)](https://revisedacts.lawreform.ie/eli/2012/act/47/revised/en/pdf) 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 above named 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.

1. This statement has been published on the school’s website and has been provided to all members of school personnel, the Parents’ Association 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.
2. 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 01/02/2022

This Child Safeguarding Statement was reviewed by the Board of Management on 01/02/2022

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Signed: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Chairperson of Board of Management Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_­­­­­­­\_

**Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment**

**Written Assessment of Risk of Redwood NS (17244W)**

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 2017*, the following is the Written Risk Assessment of Redwood NS.

1. **List of school activities**

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| 1. Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils 2. One-to-one learning support and teaching 3. Class instruction – children leaving the classroom unsupervised   for a variety of reasons   1. Care of children with special educational needs including intimate care 2. Use of ICT 3. Online teaching and learning remotely 4. Outdoor playtime and recreation breaks for pupils 5. External teachers/coaches visiting the school to give instruction to   the children   1. Swimming lessons and school outings 2. Recruitment of school personnel 3. Use of video/photography/other media to record school events 4. A critical incident |

1. **The school has identified the following risk of harm in respect of its activities –**

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| 1. Risk of harm not being recognised by school personnel 2. Risk of child being harmed in the school by a member of school personnel 3. Risk of child being harmed in the school by another child or by a visitor to the school 4. Risk of harm to child while a child is receiving intimate care 5. Risk of harm due to children inappropriately accessing/using computers, social media, phones and other devices while at school 6. Risk of harm due to inappropriate use of online remote teaching and learning communication platforms such as an uninvited person accessing the lesson link. 7. Risk of harm not being reported properly and promptly by school personnel 8. Risk of child being harmed in the school by volunteer or visitor to the school 9. 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 10. Risk of harm caused by member of school personnel 11. Risk of harm caused by member of school personnel accessing/circulating inappropriate material via social media, texting, digital device or other manner 12. Risk of a critical incident |

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

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| 1. 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 made available to all school personnel 2. 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* and its Addendum (2019) 3. (i)The school front and back doors are locked to the public during school hours.   Visitors may ring the front door bell to access the school and are greeted by the Principal or  member of staff.  (ii)The school implements in full the Stay Safe Programme and the SPHE curriculum. 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*   1. The school has an intimate care policy in respect of students who require such care and an SNA Policy/Guidelines, the school also has a Special Educational Needs policy 2. The school has an ICT, Mobile Phone and Acceptable Use Policy in place in respect of usage   of ICT by pupils and a code of behaviour. The school also has level 3 filtering in place. The  school has in place a policy governing the use of smart phones and tablet devices in the school  by pupils as per circular 38/2018   1. The school has an Acceptable Use Policy in place, to include provision for online teaching and learning remotely, and has communicated this policy to parents. 2. A supervision timetable is in place with a teacher and SNA on duty for all outdoor play   and children are supervised at all times indoors. The school has in place a Code of Behaviour  for pupils and an Anti-Bullying Policy and Health & Safety Policy. The school implements in  full the Stay Safe Programme and SPHE curriculum.   1. The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation and relevant DE circulars in relation to recruitment and Garda vetting. All non-school personnel are accompanied at all times by a teacher and are provided with a copy of the school’s Child Safety Statement. 2. The school –    * 1. Has provided each member of school staff with a copy of the school’s Child Safeguarding Statement      2. Ensures all new staff are provided with a copy of the school’s Child Safeguarding Statement      3. Encourages staff to avail of relevant training      4. Encourages board of management members to avail of relevant training      5. Maintains records of all staff and board member training 3. The school has a codes of conduct for school personnel (teaching and non-teaching staff) 4. The school complies with the agreed disciplinary procedures for teaching staff 5. The school has in place a Critical Incident Management Plan and a Defibrillator Policy. |

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| **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.