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Mr Crean
Principal
Rathcoole Primary School and Nursery Unit
Derrycoole Way
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19 September 2013

Dear Mr Crean

UPDATE ON SAFEGUARDING ARRANGEMENTS

A report of a focused inspection of Rathcoole Primary School and Nursery Unit was published in June 2013. This report stated that, on the basis of the evidence available at the time of the inspection, the school's arrangements for safeguarding children were unsatisfactory and did not adequately reflect the guidance issued by the Department.

In line with the procedures, two inspectors returned to the school on 16 September 2013 as a follow-up to the original focused inspection; the purpose of the visit was to ensure that the safeguarding issues, raised in the original inspection, had been addressed. On the basis of the evidence available the school is not addressing sufficiently the key areas for improvement identified in the original inspection report. Consequently, safeguarding arrangements remain unsatisfactory.

As a matter of urgency the principal, governors and staff need to review and update further the child protection policy and procedures, clarify the child protection reporting arrangements within the nursery unit, review traffic movement near the entrance of the school to minimise risks to children and parents, and ensure all designated staff are provided with enhanced training. In addition, in order to ensure the safety of the children the employing authority needs to keep under review the school's safeguarding arrangements.

A copy of this letter is being forwarded to relevant officials in the Department of Education.

Yours sincerely



ELIZABETH WELLS (MRS)
Inspection Service Branch

cc Chair of Board of Governors,
Rathcoole Primary School and
Nursery Unit
Shane McCurdy,
Chief Executive (NEELB)