

Child Safeguarding Statement

Waterpark National School 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 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 Waterpark National 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 Orla Collins
- 3 The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is Aileen Moriarty
- 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 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 made aware 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 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 this statement.
- 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.

- 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 on February, 10th 2021.

Signed: Fr Thomas Rodgers P.P.

Acting Chairperson of Board of Management

Date: 10/02/2021

Signed: Mrs. Orla Collins

Secretary to the Board of Management

Date: 10/02/2021

Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment (of any potential harm)

Risk/School Activity	The School has identified the following Risk of Harm	The School has the following Procedures in place to manage the risk identified in this assessment
Training of school personnel in Child Protection matters	Harm not recognised or reported properly and promptly	<p>All school personnel are provided with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement</p> <p>The Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017 are made available to all school personnel</p> <p>DLP & DDLP to attend relevant training</p> <p>All Staff to view Túsla training module and/or any other online training offered by PDST</p> <p>The school encourages its Board of Management members to avail of relevant training</p> <p>Board of Management minutes all records of staff and board training</p> <p>The school ensures all new staff have access to a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement</p> <p>The school has a Covid-19 Response Plan and Policy Statement in place for the school community</p>
Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils	Harm from other pupils, unknown adults in the playground	<p>Procedures in place for Arrival and Dismissal of Pupils</p> <p>The school has in place a Code of Behaviour for pupils</p> <p>The school has a Supervision Policy to ensure appropriate supervision of children</p> <p>The school has a Covid-19 Response Plan and Policy Statement in place for the school community</p>

Recreation breaks for pupils	Harm from older pupils, unknown adults on the playground Harm due to bullying of child	<p>The school has a Supervision Policy to ensure appropriate supervision of children</p> <p>The school has in place a Code of Behaviour for pupils</p> <p>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</p> <p>The school has an Accident/Injury Policy in place</p> <p>The school has procedures in place for the administration of First Aid</p> <p>The school has a Covid-19 Response Plan and Policy Statement in place for the school community</p>
Classroom teaching	Harm by a member of school personnel and/or another child	<p>The school has it's Child Safeguarding Statement on display</p> <p>The school has in place a Code of Behaviour for pupils</p> <p>The school has a Covid-19 Response Plan and Policy Statement in place for the school community</p>
Remote Teaching and Learning	Harm by a member of school personnel and/or another child Harm to pupils due to inadequate supervision Inappropriate behaviour	The school has in place a Remote teaching and Learning Plan.
Working alone with children/ One to one teaching	Harm by a member of school personnel and/or another child	The school has a Special Educational Needs policy
Care of Children with special needs, including intimate care needs	Harm to children with SEN who have particular vulnerabilities	<p>The school has an Intimate Care Policy in respect of students who require such care</p> <p>The school has a Special Educational Needs policy</p>

		The school has a Covid-19 Response Plan and Policy Statement in place for the school community
Toilet areas	Inappropriate behaviour	The school has a Supervision Policy to ensure appropriate supervision of children in respect of specific areas such as toilets The school has a Covid-19 Response Plan and Policy Statement in place for the school community
Outdoor Teaching Activities	Harm by school personnel, unknown adults Harm to pupils due to inadequate supervision	The school has in place a Code of Behaviour for pupils The school has a Supervision Policy to ensure appropriate supervision of children The school has a Covid-19 Response Plan and Policy Statement in place for the school community
Sporting Activities / After School Sporting Activities	Inappropriate behaviour Harm to pupils by a member of school personnel, a member of staff of another organisation or other person while child participating in sporting activities e.g. swimming lessons	The school adheres to Garda Vetting Legislation & DES circulars & Procedures The school has the Child Safeguarding Statement on display The school has a Supervision Policy to ensure appropriate supervision of children The school has in place a Code of Behaviour for pupils The school has a Covid-19 Response Plan and Policy Statement in place for the school community
School outings/ Tours	Harm to pupils by member of staff of another organisation or other person while child participating in school outings Inappropriate behaviour Risk of harm due to bullying	The school has in place an Educational Tours Policy and clear procedures in respect of school outings The school has in place a Code of Behaviour for pupils

		<p>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</p> <p>The school has a Supervision Policy to ensure appropriate supervision of children</p> <p>The school has a Covid-19 Response Plan and Policy Statement in place for the school community</p>
Fundraising events involving pupils	Inappropriate behaviour Harm to pupils by a member of staff of another organisation or other person, a volunteer or visitor to the school	<p>The school has a policy on Visitors to the school</p> <p>The school has the Child Safeguarding Statement on display</p>
Use of off-site facilities for school activities	Harm to pupils by member of staff of another organisation or other person while child participating in off-site school activities	The school has a Supervision Policy to ensure appropriate supervision of children
School transport arrangements	Harm to pupils	<p>The school has in place a Code of Behaviour for pupils</p> <p>The school has a Covid-19 Response Plan and Policy Statement in place for the school community</p>
Curricular Provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay safe.	Harm due to non-teaching of same	The school implements SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe in full Curricular Policies in respect of same
Managing of challenging behaviour amongst pupils	Harm due to injury to pupils and staff	<p>The school has a Health & Safety Policy</p> <p>The school has in place a Code of Behaviour for pupils</p>
Administration of Medicine and Administration of First Aid	Harm due to injury to pupils	<p>The school has in place a policy for the administration of medication to pupils</p> <p>The school devises Individual Pupil Emergency Plans for students who require them</p>

		<p>The school has an Accident/Injury Policy</p> <p>The school has a Health and Safety Statement</p> <p>The school has procedures in place for the administration of First Aid</p>
Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst pupils	Harm due to bullying of child	<p>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</p> <p>The school has in place a Code of Behaviour for pupils</p> <p>The school has in place an Acceptable Use of the Internet Policy</p> <p>The school implements in full the SPHE curriculum</p>
Use of external personnel to supplement curriculum	<p>Harm to pupils by member of staff of another organisation or other person while child participating in out of school activities</p> <p>Harm to pupils in the school by volunteer or visitor to the school</p>	<p>The school adheres to Garda Vetting Legislation & DES circulars & Procedures</p> <p>The school has the Child Safeguarding Statement on display</p> <p>The school has a Covid-19 Response Plan and Policy Statement in place for the school community</p>
Use of external personnel to support sports and other extra-curricular activities	<p>Inappropriate behaviour</p> <p>Harm to pupils by a member of staff of another organisation or other person, a volunteer or visitor to the school</p>	<p>The school has the Child Safeguarding Statement on display</p> <p>The school has a Supervision Policy to ensure appropriate supervision of children</p> <p>The school has in place a Code of Behaviour for pupils</p> <p>The school has a Covid-19 Response Plan and Policy Statement in place for the school community</p>
Care of pupils with specific vulnerabilities/ needs such as	Harm due to bullying of child	<p>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</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 		<p>The school has in place a Code of Behaviour for pupils</p> <p>The school has a Covid-19 Response Plan and Policy Statement in place for the school community</p>
Care of pupils following a critical incident	Risk of a critical incident	The school has in place a Critical Incident Management Plan
<p>Recruitment of school personnel including -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teachers • SNA's • Caretaker/Secretary/Cleaners 	Harm not recognised or properly or promptly reported	<p>Child Safeguarding Statement & DES procedures made available to all staff</p> <p>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</p> <p>The school adheres to Garda Vetting Legislation & DES circulars & Procedures</p> <p>The school has a Covid-19 Response Plan and Policy Statement in place for the school community</p>
Volunteers/Parents in school activities	Harm to child in the school by volunteer or visitor to the school	<p>The school has a policy on Visitors to the School</p> <p>The school has the Child Safeguarding Statement on display</p> <p>The school has a Covid-19 Response Plan and Policy Statement in place for the school community</p>
Visitors/contractors present in school during school hours and/or during after school activities	Harm to child in the school by volunteer or visitor to the school	<p>Policy on Visiting Contractors</p> <p>The school has the Child Safeguarding Statement on display</p>

		The school has a Covid-19 Response Plan and Policy Statement in place for the school community
Use of Information and Communication Technology by pupils in school	Harm due to bullying of child Harm due to children inappropriately accessing/using computers, social media, phones and other devices while at school	Acceptable Use of the Internet policy The school has in place an ICT policy in respect of usage of ICT by pupils 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 in place a Code of Behaviour for pupils The school has in place a Remote teaching and Learning Plan.
Application of sanctions under the school's Code of Behaviour including detention of pupils, confiscation of phones etc.	Risk of harm due to inadequate code of behaviour	The school uses Restorative Practices The school has in place a Code of Behaviour for pupils
Students participating in work experience in the school	Harm to pupils	The school has Guidelines for Student Teachers and Others Working in Waterpark National School Garda procedures in respect of students undertaking work experience in the school The school has the Child Safeguarding Statement on display The school has a Covid-19 Response Plan and Policy Statement in place for the school community
Student teachers undertaking training placement in school	Harm to pupils	The school has Guidelines for Student Teachers and Others Working in Waterpark National School Garda procedures in respect of students undertaking placement in the school

The school has the Child Safeguarding Statement on display
The school has a Covid-19 Response Plan and Policy Statement in place for the school community

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 was first reviewed by the Board of Management on March 7th 2018, re-reviewed on April 11th 2018, 5th February 2019, 5th February 2020 and again on 10th February 2021. It will be reviewed as part of the school’s annual review of its Child Safeguarding Statement.

Signed: Fr Thomas Rodgers P.P.

Acting Chairperson of Board of Management

Date: 10/02/2021

Signed: Mrs. Orla Collins

Secretary to the Board of Management

Date: 10/02/2021