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Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment

For:	Waterpark National School	(School Name)
At:	Park Road, Waterford X91D540	(School Address)

This school is a: (tick appropriate) ☒ primary ☐ post-primary ☐ special school

In accordance with the requirements of the Children First Act 2015, Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children 2017, the Addendum to Children First (2019) and 2025, Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025 and Child Safeguarding: A Guide for Policy, Procedure and Practice, 2nd ed. (Tusla, 2024), the board of management has adopted the Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment set out in this document.

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 and Risk Assessment.

Name of the Designated Liaison Person (DLP):

Aileen Moriarty

Name of the Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP/DDLP):

Jennifer Kelly

In the absence of the DLP, the Deputy DLP shall assume responsibilities of the DLP

Name of Relevant Person

Aileen Moriarty

(In schools this person is the DLP)

Relevant Person can be contacted on:

051853071

info@waterparkns.com

Under the Children First Act 2015 Relevant Person means a person who is appointed by a provider of a relevant service to be the first point of contact in respect of the Child Safeguarding Statement. This person is nominated by the board of management to manage and provide oversight of child protection concerns/allegations of child abuse.

Name of Chairperson of the board of management, or in an ETB school the Chief Executive or their delegate:

Fr Thomas Rogers

In the event that both DLP and DDLP are absent and unavailable, and where there is no staff member formally acting in their role, the chairperson of the board of management, or in an ETB school the chief executive or their delegate, assumes the role of DLP.



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The board of management recognises that child protection and safeguarding permeate all aspects of school life and must be reflected in all of the school's policies, procedures, practices and activities. In all of these, 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 happening to children and protect members of school personnel from the necessity to take unnecessary risks that may leave themselves open to accusations of child abuse.
- ☒ Develop a practice of openness with parents and encourage parental involvement in the education of their children.
- ☒ Fully respect confidentiality requirements as set out in the Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025 in dealing with child protection matters.
- ☒ Adhere to the above principles in relation to any vulnerable adult.

Procedures and Measures in Place

Our Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment has been developed in line with requirements under the Children First Act 2015, the *Children First: National Guidance 2017*, and *Child Safeguarding: A Guide for Policy, Procedure and Practice, 2nd ed. (Tusla, 2024)*, and the *Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025*. In addition to the procedures listed in our risk assessment, the following procedures support our intention to safeguard children while they are availing of our service:

> Procedure for the Management of Allegations of Abuse or Misconduct against School Personnel Relating to a Child Availing of Our Service

~ Where any member of school personnel is the subject of any investigation in respect of any act, omission or circumstance in relation to a child attending the school, the school is required to adhere to the relevant procedures set out in Chapter 7 of the *Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025* and to the relevant agreed disciplinary procedures for school staff which are published on the gov.ie website.



> Procedure for the Safe Recruitment and Selection of School Personnel to Work With Children

- ~ The school is required to adhere to the requirements of the Vetting Act. The selection or recruitment of staff and their suitability to work with children, requires the school to adhere 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 Department of Education and Youth and available on the gov.ie website and as outlined in Chapter 10 of the procedures.
- ~ A written protocol is in place authorising immediate action for cases which require an employee to be immediately absented from school for child safeguarding reasons.

> Procedure for Provision of and Access to Child Safeguarding Training and Information, Including the Identification of the Occurrence of Harm

- ~ The school provides information and training to members of school personnel in relation to the identification of the occurrence of harm (as defined in the 2015 Act) as follows:
 - ~ The school has provided each member of school personnel, including any new members of school personnel, (employees and volunteers, board of management members, student teachers and those on work experience) with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment.
 - ~ The school ensures that members of school personnel have availed of relevant training and completed child protection training.
 - ~ The school encourages board of management members to avail of any relevant training and complete child protection training.
 - ~ The board of management ensures that records of all staff and board member child protection training are maintained.

> Procedure for the Reporting of Child Protection or Welfare Concerns to Tusla

- ~ All members of school personnel are required to adhere to the procedures set out in the *Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025*, in relation to reporting of child protection concerns to Tusla. Mandated reporting applies to all registered teachers and any other mandated person who may be employed by the school, for example a chaplain or nurse. A full list of those people who are mandated persons is set out in Appendix 1 procedures.

> Procedure for Maintaining a List of the Persons (if any) in the Relevant Service Who Are Mandated Persons

- ~ There is a procedure in place to maintain a list of mandated persons. Schools may on occasion employ additional staff who are mandated by virtue of their profession. This list will include all registered teachers and identify additional employees that are not registered teachers.

> Procedure for Appointing a Relevant Person (In schools this person is the DLP)

- ~ There is a procedure in place for appointing a relevant person.



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The various procedures referred to in this Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment can be accessed via the school's website, the gov.ie website or will be made available on request by the school.

In accordance with the Children First Act 2015, the Addendum to Children First 2019 and 2025, and the *Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025*, the board of management 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.

Note: The procedures and measures in place outlined above, are not intended as an exhaustive list. Individual boards of management shall also include in this section such other procedures and measures that are of relevance to the school.

This statement has been published on the school's website or will be made available on request by the school. It has been provided to all members of school personnel, the parents' association (if any), the patron and parents. A copy of this statement and risk assessment will be made available to Tusla and the department if requested.

This Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment will be reviewed annually or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which this statement refers.



Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
1.	Training of school personnel in Child Protection matters	Harm not recognised or reported properly and promptly	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 2025 are made available to all school personnel DLP & DDLP to attend relevant training All Staff to view Tusla training module and/or any other online training offered by OIDE The school encourages its Board of Management members to avail of relevant training Board of Management minutes all records of staff and board training The school ensures all new staff have access to a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement All staff to attend mandatory child protection training on Child Protection Procedures 2025 with Oide
2.	Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils	Harm from other pupils, unknown adults in the playground	Procedures in place for Arrival and Dismissal of Pupils The school has in place a Code of Behaviour for pupils The school has a Supervision Policy to ensure appropriate supervision of children
3.	Recreation breaks for pupils	Harm from older pupils, unknown adults on the playground Harm due to bullying of child	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 an Anti-Bullying/Bí Cineálta Policy which fully adheres to the requirements of the Department's Anti-Bullying/Bí Cineálta Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools The school has an Accident/Injury Policy in place The school has procedures in place for the administration of First Aid
4.	Classroom teaching	Harm by a member of school personnel and/or another child	The school has it's Child Safeguarding Statement on display The school has in place a Code of Behaviour for pupils The school has Individual Behavioural Plans in place for some pupils



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	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
5.	Online Safety and 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. The school has an Anti-Bullying/Bí Cineálta Policy which fully adheres to the requirements of the Department's Anti-Bullying/Bí Cineálta Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools
6.	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
7.	Care of Children with special needs, including intimate care needs	Harm to children with SEN who have particular vulnerabilities	The school has an Intimate Care Policy in respect of students who require such care The school has a Special Educational Needs policy
8.	Toilet areas	Inappropriate behaviour	The school has a Supervision Policy to ensure appropriate supervision of children in respect of specific areas such as toilets
9.	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
10.	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
11.	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 The school has an Anti-Bullying/Bí Cineálta Policy which fully adheres to the requirements of the Department's Anti-Bullying/Bí Cineálta Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools The school has a Supervision Policy to ensure appropriate supervision of children
12.	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	The school has a policy on Visitors to the school The school has the Child Safeguarding Statement on display



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	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
13.	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
14.	School transport arrangements	Harm to pupils	The school has in place a Code of Behaviour for pupils
15.	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
16.	Managing of challenging behaviour amongst pupils	Harm due to injury to pupils and staff	The school has a Health & Safety Policy The school has in place a Code of Behaviour for pupils
17.	Administration of Medicine and Administration of First Aid Children with medical needs	Harm due to injury to pupils Risk of harm not being reported properly and promptly by members of school personnel Risk of harm due to children with special educational needs who have particular vulnerabilities, including medical vulnerabilities	The school has in place a policy for the administration of medication to pupils The school devises Individual Pupil Emergency Plans for students who require them The school has an Accident/Injury Policy The school has a Health and Safety Statement The school has procedures in place for the administration of First Aid
18.	Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst pupils	Harm due to bullying of child	The school has an Anti-Bullying/Bí Cineálta Policy which fully adheres to the requirements of the Department's Anti-Bullying/Bí Cineálta Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools The school has in place a Code of Behaviour for pupils The school has in place an Acceptable Use of the Internet Policy The school implements in full the SPHE curriculum
19.	Use of external personnel to supplement curriculum	Harm to pupils by member of staff of another organisation or other person while child participating in out of school activities Harm to pupils in the school by volunteer or visitor to the school	The school adheres to Garda Vetting Legislation & DES circulars & Procedures The school has the Child Safeguarding Statement on display
20.	Use of external personnel to support sports and other extra-curricular activities	Inappropriate behaviour Harm to pupils by a member of staff of another organisation or other person, a volunteer or visitor to the school	The school has the Child Safeguarding Statement on display The school has a Supervision Policy to ensure appropriate supervision of children



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	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
			The school has in place a Code of Behaviour for pupils Visitors Policy
21.	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	Harm due to bullying of child	The school has an Anti-Bullying Policy/Bí Cineálta Policy which fully adheres to the requirements of the Department's Anti-Bullying/Bí Cineálta Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools The school has in place a Code of Behaviour for pupils
22.	Care of pupils following a critical incident	Risk of a critical incident	The school has in place a Critical Incident Management Plan
23.	Recruitment of school personnel including - - Teachers - SNA's - Caretaker/Secretary/Cleaners	Harm not recognised or properly or promptly reported	Child Safeguarding Statement & DES procedures made available to all staff School Personnel are required to adhere to the Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2023 and all registered teaching staff are required to adhere to the Children First Act 2015 The school adheres to Garda Vetting Legislation & DES circulars & Procedures
24.	Volunteers/Parents in school activities	Harm to child in the school by volunteer or visitor to the school	The school has a policy on Visitors to the School The school has the Child Safeguarding Statement on display
25.	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	Policy on Visiting Contractors The school has the Child Safeguarding Statement on display
26.	Use of Information and Communication Technology by pupils in the school, including social media	Risk of harm due to children inappropriately accessing/using computers, social media and other devices while at school	The school has an Acceptable Use Policy in place The school has a Code of Behaviour that includes application for mobile phone permission. Phones are stored in office during school day
27.	Students participating in work experience in the school Student Teachers undertaking training placement in the school	Risk of child being harmed in the school by a student on work experience or student teacher on placement	The school has a Work Experience Policy The school has a Supervision Policy to ensure appropriate supervision of children The school adheres to Garda Vetting Legislation & DES circulars & Procedures



Examples of Activities, Risks and Procedures

The examples listed in this document are provided to assist schools in undertaking their risk assessment under the Children First Act, 2015. Schools should note that this list of examples is not intended to be exhaustive, and that the inclusion of an example of a policy or procedure on these lists does not make it mandatory. It is the responsibility of each school to ensure, as far as possible, that any other risks and procedures that are relevant to its own particular circumstances are identified and specified in the written risk assessment and that adequate procedures are in place to address all risks identified.

It is acknowledged that schools already have in place a range of policies, practices and procedures to mitigate the risk of harm to children while they are participating in the activities of the school and that some school activities will carry low or minimal risks of harm compared to others. In the context of the risk assessment that must be undertaken by schools, the Children First Act, 2015 refers to risk as 'any potential for harm'.

Therefore, it is important that, as part of its risk assessment process, each school lists and reviews all of its various activities (which shall include identifying those that may carry low risk of harm as well as those that carry higher risks of harm). Doing so will help the school to:

- > Identify, as required under the Children First Act, 2015, any risks of harm that may exist in respect of the school's activities.
- > Identify and assess the adequacy of the various procedures already in place to manage those risks of harm.
- > Identify and put in place any such additional procedures as are considered necessary to manage any risk identified.

Online Safety

The *Addendum to Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children 2017* published in January 2019 clarifies that organisations providing relevant services to children should consider the specific issue of online safety when carrying out their risk assessment and preparing their Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment.

The Guidance on Continuity of Schooling for primary and post-primary schools (April 2020) advises of the importance of teachers maintaining the safe and ethical use of the internet during distance learning and assisting parents and guardians to be aware of their role also. Schools should ensure that their Acceptable Use Policy (AUP) informs and guides remote or distance learning activity.

Risk in the context of this Child Safeguarding Statement and 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 the Children First Act 2015: 'harm' means, in relation to a child— (a) assault, ill-treatment or neglect of the child in a manner that seriously affects or is likely to seriously affect the child's health, development or welfare, or (b) sexual abuse of the child, whether caused by a single act, omission or circumstance or a series or combination of acts, omissions or circumstances, or otherwise.

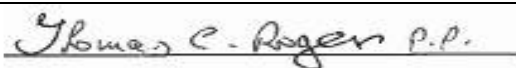


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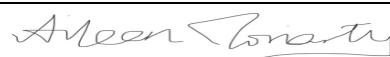
In accordance with Section 11 of the Children First Act 2015 and with the requirements of Chapter 9 of the Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025, the following is the written Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment.

In undertaking this Child Safeguarding Statement and 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 Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment was reviewed by the board of management on 17th June 2026. (*most recent review date*)

Signed:*		Date: 17/6/2026
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Chairperson of the board of management

Signed:*		Date: 17/6/2026
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Principal/Secretary to the board of management

This Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment is expected to be reviewed again in June 2027 (*expected review date*)

Appendix - Location of copies of the Child Protection Procedures and Children First Guidance

Please see location for the Child Protection Procedures on our website under the school policies tab: <https://waterparkns.com/school-policies/> and click on Child Protection Procedures in Schools.

Please see location for the Child Protection Procedures on our website under the school policies tab: <https://waterparkns.com/school-policies/> and click on Children First National Guidance.